

All Aboard the Starship



Starship, June 2018
 Left to Right: John Roth (Guitar, Background Vocals), Jeff Adams (Bass, Background Vocals), Stephanie Calvert (Vocals), Mickey Thomas (Vocals), Phil Bennet (Keyboards, Background Vocals) and Darrell Verduco (Drums).

Most ALLPRO members look forward to the annual show as a time to come together to celebrate the year's accomplishments, network with old and new members of the ALLPRO family, and learn about upcoming initiatives and projects. But this year, we have another reason to get excited: For the first time in the event's history, a live musical act will perform at the closing dinner party. Starship—once known as Jefferson Starship, the '80s rock behemoth known for Billboard number-ones such as “We Built This City,” “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now” and “Sara”—will treat ALLPRO members to their catalog of hits.

For those unfamiliar with the band's storied history: They formed in San Francisco as Jefferson Airplane in the 1960s and split into two groups in the early '70s, Hot Tuna and Jefferson Starship, the latter retaining Grace Slick and Paul Kantner from the original lineup. While Jefferson Starship cycled through several members over the years (and dropped “Jefferson” from its moniker in 1984 after founding member Kantner left the band), that did little to slow the band's success. *Knee Deep in the Hoopla* was released in 1985 and went on to become one of the decade's biggest albums, eventually going platinum. Their newest album, *Loveless Fascination*, was released in 2013, the first since 1989's *Love Among the Cannibals*.

Why welcome such an iconic band to ALLPRO's annual event? While attendees at last year's show were treated to a smaller closing party and Disney tickets, that wasn't enough to incentivize most members to attend. ALLPRO executive vice president Mike Beaudoin sees Starship as a game-changing addition to the company's biggest party, a reminder for members to continue reinventing in 2019, and a way to reward the entire ALLPRO family for a stellar 2018. For more details on the event, see page 30.