The Laurie Berkner Band

No one could say that Laurie Berkner isn’t a relaxed performer. On Sunday she and her band mates will appear in their pajamas. So will their fans, whose idea of being groupies is to place stuffed animals on their heads. These audience members, mostly under 8, will line up at Town Hall dressed for bed, teddy bears in hand. But don’t expect anyone to nap. At these two “Pajama Party” concerts, kids are more likely to hop up and down than nod off.

“There are movements to almost all the songs,” said Ms. Berkner, 40, above, who started some 17 years ago in indie rock bands (her own was Red Onion) and has since become one of the hottest American children’s entertainers. “Jumping, hand movements, singing parts.”

Susie Lampert, the band’s keyboard player, suggested the pajama fest. (Adam Bernstein plays bass, and Bob Golden, percussion; Ms. Berkner, a guitarist, sings like a sweeter-voiced Liz Phair and writes most of the songs.) No pillow fights are planned, but listeners will rev up to catchy tunes like “We Are the Dinosaurs,” “Victor Vito” and the title track from the band’s fifth album, “Rocketship Run” (Two Tomatoes Records). And no concert is complete without “Pig on Her Head,” derived from Ms. Berkner’s early career as a Manhattan preschool teacher. A boy hadn’t wanted to relinquish his pig toy for circle time, she explained, “so he just left it on his head and stared at me.”

“I thought I could be a real disciplinarian and tell him to put it away, or I could say, ‘You’re doing something fun,’” continued Ms. Berkner, whose band performs regularly on Noggin, Nickelodeon’s preschool channel. “I decided to sing about it.” The song evolved from “Marco Has a Pig on His Head” to its current form.

Although Ms. Berkner no longer teaches — “We Are . . . the Laurie Berkner Band,” the group’s first DVD, had quadruple-platinum sales — she and her husband, Brian Mueller, have a 4-year-old, Lucy, who provides inspiration. At these concerts she’ll also help children who may not be fans have sweeter bedtimes: ticketholders can bring a pair of new p.j.s to benefit the Pajama Program, which provides sleepwear to children entering foster care. (Sunday at 1 and 4 p.m., Town Hall, 123 West 43rd Street, Manhattan, 212-307-4100, ticketmaster.com; $25 and $35.)

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