

Live and in stereo from The Anch

Niagara Rhythm Section releases CD of best of Saturday night gigs

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Before every one of their performances at The Anchorage on Saturday



The Niagara Rhythm Section are: Steve Grisbrook, Dave Norris, Penner MacKay, Steve Goldberger and Herb Nelson. The band have compiled their best performances from The Anchorage for a live album, entitled "Live at The Anchorage 1.0."

nights, members of the Niagara Rhythm Section will meet at bassist Steve Goldberger's house for a pre-performance ritual ... espresso.

"I'd always drink my espresso with a can of Red Bull mixed together," said percussionist Penner MacKay. "It's delicious."

After several cups of espresso and slices of a peach custard dessert made by MacKay's wife, Susan, the Niagara Rhythm Section head off to The Anch where in front of a large crowd they jam to blues, jazz, rock or whatever they feel like performing.

Having performed at the popular eatery for many years, the band has accumulated a catalogue of material enough to record a live album. So on Dec. 8 the Niagara Rhythm will release "Live at The Anchorage 1.0," the first of many live albums.

"We have enough material for at least four albums," Goldberger said proudly of the music. "We've been recording off and on for the last two to three years. When we sell out of first album, we'll mix the next."

MacKay said the "Live at The Anchorage 1.0" features 12 guest musicians, different performers who have "jammed" with the band throughout the years. MacKay said the guests have come from near and far to perform for the love of making music.

Drummer Dave Norris said performing live is a test to whether a band truly sounds good or not. Norris said each performance is unrehearsed, a mentality used by jazz musicians.

"It's like having a conversation with music," Norris said. "With each guest performer, they'd give us a 10 second synopsis of what they're going to perform and we wing it from there. It's the formula of music. It's the way we go."

The 10-track live album is also a fundraiser, with proceeds going to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Live at The Anchorage 1.0 is available at Niagara Rhythm Section's performances at the Anchorage Saturday nights, or at www.stevegoldberger.com.



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