

ENTER ONLINE TO WIN **FREE TICKETS**  
TO ALL THREE SHOWS!



**the MONKEY BUNCH**  
Sunday, Oct. 16  
2:30 p.m.

**AL SIMMONS**  
Sunday, Feb. 5  
2:30 p.m.

**The Ugly Duckling**  
LIGHTWIRE THEATRE  
Sunday, April 1  
2:30 p.m.

**THE WEE ONES WIGGLE SERIES**  
FOR AGES 3 TO 8

Tickets on sale Sept. 6  
Adult \$20 Child \$16

Sponsored by  
**NIAGARA this WEEK**

**HOT TICKET 2012**  
2011

Contest closes Sept. 16!

**Arts.BrockU.ca**  
905 688 5550 x3257 or 1 866 617 3257

Centre for the Arts, Brock University  
More than a performance. It's an *experience*.

# Tea, crumpets and rock music

## STEVE GOLDBERGER AND HIS BANDMATES IN THE NIAGARA RHYTHM SECTION HAVE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN A FRENZY

BY ANDREW BAULCOMB  
STAFF

Coming of age in Toronto during the early 1970s, the notion of playing rock and roll music in a quaint rural town was almost non-existent for Steve Goldberger.

As a developing bass player in one of the country's most active musical centres, Niagara-on-the-Lake was literally worlds apart from the raucous nightclubs spread out along Yonge Street, or the last remaining folk cafes in Yorkville serving coffee to hippie holdouts.

Fast forward nearly 40 years, and Goldberger has managed to turn a community known for live theatre and afternoon tea into a top week-end destination for live music.

"My wife and I used to visit Niagara-on-the-Lake for the Shaw Festival, and always enjoyed our time here. I was reluctant about moving at first because I had major ties in Toronto, but I finally said one day, 'I guess I could live here,'" said Goldberger. "It changed our lives."

Since making the move back in 1995, Goldberger explained that he's slowly discovered a vast network of players throughout the Niagara region - many with a penchant for the same brand of folk, country and hard-driving blues music that first inspired him as a teenager.

Oddly enough, his first paying gig "on the road" was at the old Casablanca Hotel just down the highway in Grimsby - a three-week engagement with his band Algonquin that ultimately laid the foundation for his career.

"Back in those days, every small town in Ontario had 10 taverns you could perform in," recalled Goldberger. "Bands were often booked for six nights in a row, and it really helped solidify your craft. I sort of feel bad for younger groups now, because there doesn't seem to be the same opportunities. There's nothing like a live residency."

Not long after establishing the popular Niagara Rhythm Section in 2003, Goldberger applied the same philosophy to a series of weekly gigs at the Anchorage Motel in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Since 2009, an evolving cast of NRS musicians has performed each and every Saturday night at the Old Winery Restaurant, led by Goldberger and core members such as Steve Grisbrook, Dave Norris, Penner MacKay and Sandra Marynissen. Dozens of others have shared the stage over the years, including the likes of Eric Mahar, Steve Strongman, Blair Packham, Jesse O'Brien, Gayle Ackroyd and



Steve Goldberger lives to play live music.

Maja Bannerman, to name but a few.

"We've been really lucky to play together every week for the past eight or nine years...(the Old Winery) is a different venue, but it's a wonderful space. It's smaller, and much more intimate."

Each week, guests can expect a mixture of blues, jazz, country and rock 'n roll, peppered with the occasional "themed" night where everyone on stage dips into their back catalog of cover songs.

Great success with a Bob Dylan tribute night in late-July led Goldberger and his bandmates to dream up a similar event - an homage to the Rolling Stones slated for October. Details are forthcoming.

"We try to change up the set each week, because we don't want to get bored. Basically, fans can expect something different every Saturday when they come to the bar."

The Old Winery Restaurant is located at 2228 Niagara Stone Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Call 905-468-8900 for more information on upcoming events.

A glamorous spell-binding chanteuse  
with the #1 jazz record in Canada.

**JILL BARBER**  
Oct. 26



**Nikki Yanofsky**  
Oct. 12

The teenage jazz  
vocal sensation.



**ANDREA MARTIN**  
Final Days!  
EVERYTHING  
MUST GO!!  
Oct. 13

"Maybe the funniest  
woman in the world."

Zucchero Oct. 14 Ron Sexsmith Oct. 19  
The Monkey Bunch (for the Wee Ones) Oct. 16  
Classic Albums Live: The Beatles - Let it Be Oct. 20  
Manteca Oct. 27

ALL HOT TICKETS  
ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC  
Sept. 6 at 11 a.m.



**Arts.BrockU.ca**  
905 688 5550 x3257 1 866 617 3257

Centre for the Arts, Brock University  
More than a performance. It's an *experience*.