

LOCAL NEWS



Steve Goldberger sits at the mixing board at The Shed, his recording studio. His seventh album, *The Goldberger Variations*, will have its CD release party this Saturday night at Corks Restaurant and Wine Bar on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Goldberger Variations a 'labour of love'

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STAFF

Steve Goldberger loves making music.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake musician has been doing it for almost 40 years and he has no intention of stopping any time soon. If his latest album, *The Goldberger Variations*, is any indication, he still has a lot to offer to the music-loving world.

He started work on his latest solo album in 2005, but his work with other projects like Niagara Rhythm Section and producing other people's album at his studio, The Shed, kept him busy.

"I was distracted by work for other people," he said. "It's really the last year or so that I was pushing to finish this."

On *Variations*, his seventh solo album, Goldberger played all of the instruments, except for drums. He got a little help from friends with Dave Norris and father and son drumming team Penner and Andrew McKay, respectively, all taking turns providing percussion for the album.

The songs are a mixture of ones written himself and by some of his favourite songwriters, like Blaire Packham, Bill Colgate, Willy P. Bennett and Bob Dylan. Regardless who wrote the song, Goldberger has taken each one and made it his own and that is

best exemplified by his take on Dylan's *The Times They Are a-Changin'* — a standout track on the album.

"The song was written almost 50 years ago," said Goldberger, explaining his choice. "And the lyrics are still potent today."

Goldberger said while it may have taken him a long time to complete this album, it was a "labour of love."

"When I'm working on someone else's album, I have to incorporate their vision," he said. "When it's your own album, you work with your own vision. It has taken me a while because I had to squeeze it in between other people's stuff, but I'm really happy with how it turned out."

The album is having its CD release party at Corks Restaurant and Wine Bar on Saturday, Dec. 19. The Niagara Rhythm Section, a band Goldberger plays in every Saturday night at the Queen Street bar, will be backing him as he plays songs from his new album.

Joining the band onstage will be guitarist Eric Mahar, Goldberger's longtime friend and original member of The Fringe Locals, a band the two played in together.

Copies of *The Goldberger Variations* will be available at the event or can be purchased off his website, www.stevegoldberger.com, or on www.cdbaby.com, as well as in the iTunes online store.