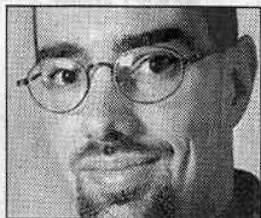


Fringe Locals' CD release party tinged with sadness



Out There

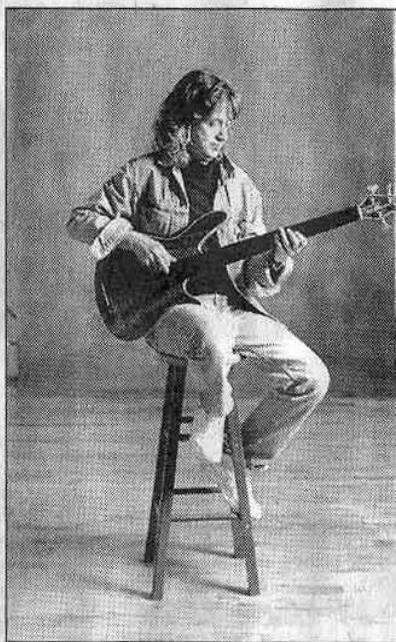
Matthew Van Dongen

Steve Goldberger expects a bitter-sweet party when his Fringe Locals take the stage at the Anchorage Saturday night.

The popular Niagara nine-piece band will be celebrating the release of its fourth album, *Clueless* — and mourning the loss of beloved keyboardist Joe Ingrao, who died suddenly three weeks ago.

“He’s a major loss for us, for everyone,” said Goldberger, the veteran bassist, singer and songwriter who fronts the band.

“It was pretty weird, at first, thinking about the CD release. It just seemed so irrelevant compared to the loss of a friend. But in a way, it’s going to make us play harder in his honour.”



Steve Goldberger on the bass. Goldberger and the Fringe Locals are releasing a new CD, *Clueless*. It features the late Joe Ingrao on keyboards.

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A major fundraiser is being planned to celebrate Ingrao’s life in May, but Goldberger said from now on, every concert the Fringe Locals play is an unofficial tribute to their bandmate, who died shortly before his 50th birthday.

“Our last gig was like that, everyone just came out to be with us, to hang and to hug,” he said.

Ingrao will be missed onstage Saturday night, said Goldberger, espe-

cially since the “monster piano player” was featured so heavily on the new disc, his last recording.

“I think the thing I love best about (the album) is that Joe is on it,” said Goldberger simply. “Everything he did was always amazing. He was inspirational for all of us.”

Like all Fringe Locals albums, the record features musical co-operation between several high-profile local players, including guitarist Ed Kopala, fiddle/mandolin player Conrad Kipling, drummers Penner MacKay and David Norris and multi-instrumentalist Eric Mahar.

“I always feel honoured to play with these guys,” said Goldberger, noting band members are well-known for their own musical projects.

The mellow, folksy feel of the album is occasionally punctuated by straight-up blues like *Blue Shutters Blues* and country-rock numbers like the title track, *Clueless*.

The 14-track album benefits from the diverse range of musician styles, said Goldberger, and the spontaneous nature of the band’s recording sessions.

“We don’t do much rehearsing beforehand,” he said with a laugh.

Saturday night’s performance will also feature some special musical guests, including the Niagara Symphony’s Doug Miller on flute and digeridoo and James Brown on steel drum.

There’s no cover for the 10 p.m. show at the Anchorage, 186 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Call 905-

468-2141 for reservations.