

From the heart of Steve Goldberger

By Miguel Topa

Steve Goldberger started his first band at the age of 14. By the time he was 16, he learned to sing and formed a new band that played on the road in Grimsby, Ontario. When Steve finished high school, he decided to get his education on the road as a musician and put together *Black Creek*, a band which evolved into a unique rockin' bluegrass experience that strongly influenced his musical career.

Steve formed many other bands over the years, constantly working as a bass player and backup vocalist. In 1996, Steve made a name for himself in Niagara-on-the-Lake, working with local artists and old friends. One of his new found friends teased him by saying that he and his wife were not really locals yet, but just 'fringe' locals. Steve thought this was a great name and immediately had used it for the musicians that he brought to perform each month.

You can usually find Steve Goldberger performing somewhere in Toronto or in Niagara-on-the-Lake with The Fringe Locals. The group will be performing on December 16 at Feathers Pub at 962 Kingston Rd. Call the pub for info (416) 694-0443. Check out Steve's website <http://stevegoldberger.com>.

REVIEW

*Steve Goldberger and the Fringe Locals
Come From The Heart*

Eric Mahar, Herb Nelson, David Norris and Penner MacKay are The Fringe Locals that played with Steve Goldberger on the evenings when the album was recorded. The album opens with Jerry Jeff Walker's *Getting By*, which Steve usually opens his sets with. Country is

not my sort of thing, unfortunately, so this song had me cringing, but something told me to keep listening. I listened to that little voice and the CD did get better with a few old hits I've heard before. I loved the 80's when I was growing up, so I was really into the Nanci Griffith song *Fly by Night*. I am not a fan of the blues, but I still found Louis Jordan's *Early In The Morning* easy to listen to. There is a significant Jackson Browne influence with the cover of *Doctor My Eyes* and on the outro of Steve Miller's *The Joker*, which is one of those covers that Steve Goldberger likes to play his own way. Steve also covers the likes of Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan. I especially liked the guitar and keyboard solos on *Damn Your Eyes* and the solo on *Willie & The Hand Jive* where

Penner MacKay plays Steve's bass with his drumsticks.

Heard It Through The Grapevine features the vocals of Fringe Local Eric Mahar (who was supposedly singing to his girlfriend). The original song *Weekends With The Local Fringe* features Steve doing a duet with his wife, Dory Karr; they co-wrote this song about life in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and if you know the words, it's a great song to sing along to. My personal favourite is the title song *Come From The Heart* because of such lyrics as "if you want something to hold on to, you've gotta learn

to let go", "there's such a thing as trying too hard", and the main chorus line "it's gotta come from the heart if you want it to work."

I enjoyed this album more than I thought I would; I'm sure you will, too. Two dollars from every album sold is donated to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. *Come From the Heart* is available in The Bluffs Gallery at the Scarborough Arts Council offices at 1859 Kingston Rd.

