

local SPOTlight

NIAGARA RHYTHM SECTION OFFERS LIVE MUSIC, NO COVER



STEVE GOLDBERGER

Every Saturday night at The Anchorage, you can hear many different types of live music for free, such as, jazz, folk, country, blues and pop.

The Saturday Night Showcase Series at The Anchorage, located on Ricardo Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake, features different musicians and vocalists, who play with the Niagara Rhythm Section, including Steve Goldberg. The music begins at 9:30 p.m. and finishes at 12:30 a.m. There is no cover charge.

The type of music played depends on what musician or vocalist is playing with them. "It is different every week. We played with two of the guys from FlatBroke last night," says Goldberg the bass guitarist and vocalist of the Niagara Rhythm Section. Goldberg says, people could come out every week and hear something different every time. On July 10, two guitarists, Ed

Kopala and Eric Mahar, will be featuring for a Guitar Summit. "It is always amazing how their individual styles just meld together so well," says Goldberg.

The Niagara Rhythm Section comprises of Goldberg, bass & vocals; Joe Ingrao, keyboards & vocals; Dave Norris, drums; Penner MacKay, percussion. Goldberg, the founding member, started the group in 1995.

You can hear Goldberg's music in another pub located in Niagara-on-the-Lake as well, The Angle Inn. For almost nine years, Goldberg has played in The Angle Inn. He plays with his band, Steve Goldberg & the Fringe Locals.

Having worked with so many different musicians, he said it is the "interaction with other musicians" that he enjoys the most when performing. To play with other good musicians is what motivates him, says Goldberg. "That's what it is all about."

He has released three albums. Two of the albums are with his band, the Fringe Locals; and one is an instrumental album with various different artists involved. Goldberg describes his music as, a mixture of roots, folk, country, blues and jazz.

The inspiration for his music comes from his life experiences, Goldberg says. In 1971, he started playing professionally and during the 1970s, Goldberg was the founding member of a band called Black Creek and in 1975, Black Creek won a Genie Award for best original score. During this time, Goldberg wrote a lot of his own music but then, for a while, Goldberg didn't write his own music because he felt like "he had nothing to say." However, having open heart surgery in 1988 "changed his perspective" and he began to write again.

"I realized I had something to say," said Goldberg.

While growing up in Toronto, Goldberg started playing the guitar when he was 13 or 14 because his friend was taking guitar lessons and they used to play together.

It was difficult for Goldberg when he first moved to the Niagara region. He "felt spoiled" from having lived in Toronto. However, he has now been living here for more than 10 years and has "found great musicians and tons of places to play. It has worked out really well for me. I am very lucky," he said.

In the future, Goldberg hopes to continue to turn people onto his music, to share his music and to remain healthy enough to maintain his lifestyle. "I want to keep doing this as long as I can," said Goldberg.

He advises all aspiring musicians to "Go for it. They will keep knocking you down but keep getting back up. Its worth it!"

For more information on Goldberg's performances and CDs go to:
<http://www.stevegoldberger.com>.