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CD Reviews

Roots

**STEVE GOLDBERGER
AND THE FRINGE LOCALS**

Gumbo Dreams (Shed Records/
www.stevegoldberger.com)

Sometimes the sheer love of music outweighs genre and consistency. Goldberger, a bass-playing songwriter who was part of the Toronto folk-rock outfit Black Creek in the 1970s, and his musical buddies clearly revel in mixing things up on this, their second independent album. Bits of acoustic folk, ersatz California country pop, New Orleans swamp rock, Celtic airs and raucous pub rock float up to the surface of this stew, truly an amalgam of alien parts. For all that, an infectious good humour and energetic teamwork lend this record, a collection of mostly Goldberger originals, genuine appeal. GQ