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A PASSION FOR THE MUSIC

FOR STEVE GOLDBERGER, THE NEED TO CREATE COMES FROM THE HEART

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When Steve Goldberger sits down to talk music, his passion is palpable.

It's not about selling millions of records or basking in fame and fortune. It's all about the art.

"It's like it is with a painter," Goldberger says. "Why do people paint? You do it because you have to."

Goldberger has just released his seventh album, *The Gentle Spirit*, and will be celebrating the release with a show at the Old Winery Restaurant and Bar on Nov. 9 at 9 p.m. It is a collection of cover songs by some of his favorite well-known artists, as well as some songs written by his musician friends.

"It's all over the map," Goldberger says. "It's just my interpretation of the songs."

The album includes Americana-inspired takes on Crowded House's *Don't Dream It's Over* and offers up a dose of melancholy on a version of the late Tom Petty's *Southern Accents*.

"It's a tribute to him," Goldberger says.

Jackson Browne's *Running On Empty*, came from Goldberger's constantly hearing from others how much he sounds like Browne.

"People are always saying to me that I sound like Jackson, so I thought I should do it."

There was a time that the thought of doing other people's music was hard for Goldberger.

"I used to feel quite guilty about cover songs," he says. "But with the way the industry is right now, people are searching for different versions of songs they like."

Goldberger handles most of

the musical duties himself, along with longtime friend and drummer David Norris.

"I don't play drums," Goldberger says with a chuckle.

To be at this point in his life, the 64-year-old finds himself fortunate to be doing what he loves. He has undergone open heart surgery twice - in 1998 and again in 2013 - that sidetracked his musical pursuits. It was in between the two surgeries that he released his first album, the aptly titled *Come From the Heart*, in 2000. It was recorded live over three nights at the Olde Angel Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Feathers Pub in Toronto.

He also dabbled in commercial work, having written music for an ad selling vodka coolers.

"They wanted something very rootsy," Goldberger recalls.

His career in music dates back to the '70s and the "new grass" group Black Creek, which had the opportunity to share the stage with acts such as Supertramp, Ar-



Richard Hutton/Metroland
Steve Goldberger has released his seventh album, *A Gentle Spirit*, and will be celebrating its release on Nov. 9 with a show at the Old Winery Restaurant and Bar in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Eight days later, he will marking the 15th anniversary of Niagara Rhythm Section at the same location on Nov. 17.

lo Guthrie, Melanie, Lester Flatt and more.

But these days Goldberger's more content to make his own music at his own studio, as well as work on the recordings of other artists.

And then there's the weekly gigs on Friday nights with the Old Winos and on Saturdays with the

Niagara Rhythm Section at the Old Winery. It's a situation the veteran musician really enjoys.

"The point is, I'm so lucky to be playing really great music with great people."

The *Gentle Spirit* is available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and CD Baby. Copies will also be available at the show.