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MUSIC'S BEST KEPT SECRET: LARRY STEVENS



Larry Stevens

One of music's best-kept secrets has been LARRY STEVENS. Over the course of three, now four, CDs, Stevens has successfully maneuvered between rock, pop, folk and country and created a crowd pleasing, radio-friendly sound that's been continually embraced by the music community. On his latest release, Mercer Street, he's joined by some of the best musicians around, including keyboardist George Small (who worked on John & Yoko's Double Fantasy album) and drummer, Liberty Devito, who made his mark with his extensive work with Billy Joel. Says Stevens, "It's definitely the best work I've done; working with musicians of that caliber brought everything to a nice level; they made me work harder and the results speak for themselves. We named the record for the studio we recorded the album at ... Mercer Street."

Stevens has also played at such diverse clubs as Iridium, the Blue Bird Café, the Bitter End, and, NJ Pac, where this Friday he'll open for the legendary Blood, Sweat and Tears. "To open for such a successful group (10 Grammy nominations and three wins) is a huge honor. I've loved them since I first heard them. It'll be a tremendous thrill."

He's performed there previously, with the likes of The Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, Huey Lewis & The News, and Foreigner.

Stevens is tentatively set for a major tour in the fall in support of Mercer Street.