

Studio: Named Del City Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year

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offer the Oklahoma music scene an amazing place to record, but they want to draw in people from all over the United States by offering a top of the line facility. The studio has also started getting more involved with the careers of the artists and offering more services that will help the artists to market their music after the recording is done. Castle Row now has the connections and abilities to get artists set up on radio tours and multi-city circuits, as well as helping them get things like Spotify accounts set up.

"We've been trying to get a lot more involved with the music that comes through rather than just cycling it out, and that has changed a lot of things for everybody. It really helps the artists out a lot. Most of the people kind of get the gist of making a record, they've seen enough stuff so they get that whole thing but the most elusive part of this whole thing is once they get it, what do they do with it? So that's kind of been our thing, is trying to pull the veil down a little bit and open up some doors so they can feel like they are being seated at some things that they hadn't had access to before," explained Garrett Starks.

Castle Row is connected to a radio DJ organization that specifically targets and pulls music from the studio. The studio sends the artists music out to the djs in that organization in various cities who will put it into the rotation and see how people like it. If it is well received, they are able to set up interviews and gigs in that region. This allows the artists to get more engaged in different regions and get more exposure in other areas.

"We found a way to carve out our own little space in this whole deal, which has been really awesome. I'd say that's one of the biggest things for the artist," said Starks. "Of course we're utilizing all of our connections for distribution and on the A&R side even, if an artist wants to go that direction. We've developed a pretty nice network for putting them in front of the right people to help get the kind of deal that they need. We're expanding on that and

offer more tools to the artists."

In the last year the studio has hosted artists like Lil' Wayne, Lil' Mike, Bone Thugs and Harmony, as well as many other artists from far and wide. They get all genres of music, and have worked on country, jazz, R&B, hip-hop and many other types of albums. The studio also worked on the movie "If I Can Only Imagine" that's coming out in March with Trace Adkins and Dennis Quaid, Amy Grant and the Mercy Me Band.

"We're highly involved with the films that are coming to town, that's a big portion of what we're doing. It's getting these films from California or whatever region they are in to come to Oklahoma to shoot and do their music here, so that has been a really cool and big part of what we are doing," said Starks. "The film office here in town has been a great help in setting up these avenues for these films to come out here, it's a great time for music in film in Oklahoma, everything is just exploding, so it's awesome."

The studio has been branching out of just doing the movie score for films, but has gotten more into the sound design, recording dialogue, post mixing and all of the different pieces of sound production.

"We're just diving deeper into the movie stuff, that's been a big part of what we've been doing, just us being able to do more of the movie things beyond the scoring, that's been a big part of allowing movies to come to the area because there hasn't been anyone else able to do those pieces before," explained Starks. "So you know a movie would come to Oklahoma to shoot to take advantage of the rebates that are in place, but they have to do a substantial portion in music or in audio in order to qualify for the next tier of the rebate and they've been missing out on that often. They would come here to shoot but for audio they would have to go to say California or New York or even overseas to be able to do the audio. And so now that we're able to take that, they have a larger incentive to come here and it's kind of a win-win for everybody."

In addition to adding the marketing and more audio production to the



Castle Row Studios have hosted a variety artists and worked on a score the film "If I can Only Imagine" starring Trace Adkins and Dennis Quad. -Provided Photo

mix, the Studio hopes to start hosting more showcases and events starting in the spring and may even have more expansion and additions in the coming year. They offer free tours of the studio

and many different deals for new customers. There's not a project too big or too small for the studio.

For more information, visit www.castlerowstudios.com

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