

MULE TRAIN RECORDS

COMMITTED TO BEING DIVERSE AND GREEN

Founded by Ryan Kelly, Mule Train Records started work in Athens in May of 2008. Since opening, Mule Train has started to build a label of diverse artists starting with Athens based jazzy jam band Incredible Sandwich as well as bluegrass influenced Corduroy Road.

Diversity is something that Kelly is committed to. "We want to have as many genres as possible," Kelly says. "If we feel like an artist puts on a great show, we will always entertain the possibility of working with them."

Mule Train has plans to add an office in San Francisco as the label expands, but for now is content with focusing on bands from Athens and around the Southeast. However, since Mule Train makes 360 deals with all of its artists – including merchandizing, publicity, booking and recording – the label should have plenty of work to do.

"We are using our resources to give our artists all the tools they need to be successful," Kelly explains. "In terms of covering production costs, we hire the best producers to give our artists the best exposure. Instead of trying to start off at a lower-tier studio, if you start at a better studio you get a better product."



You need a quality product to be successful."

What makes Mule Train stand out the most is the label's push to be environmentally friendly. Kelly plans to press as few physical copies of albums as possible to reduce waste, instead opting for digital releases. The physical copies that are made will have biodegradable packaging. He's also looking into more fuel-efficient vehicles for the label's artists on the road. Mule Train's office also relies on recycled supplies.

"The only things that aren't recyclable are our desks and the chairs we sit in." Kelly jokes.

-Chris Homer

www.muletrainrecords.com

studio profile

JOHN KEANE STUDIOS

A MUSIC LEGEND IN A LEGENDARY MUSIC TOWN

Venue stats

Gear: Pro Tools HD 24 in, 40 out, Glyph Dual Hot Swap Drive Bay, Pro Tools Digi 002, Trident 80-B 30X24X2 console, Audiomate moving fader, Automation. The studio also can provide a large variety of instruments and, "It is not unusual for a group to come in and make a record without bringing any gear at all."

Engineer Names: John Keane

Clients: R.E.M, Widespread Panic, Vic Chesnutt, Indigo Girls, Cowboy Junkies and Uncle Tupelo are among Keane's long client list



John Keane Studios opened in 1981 in the historic Hillcrest Avenue district of Athens. The studio resides in a 1920s era house and clients claim that the homelike atmosphere of the place is very conducive to making music. Keane's long client list also makes him one of the most experienced producers in Athens.

The studio includes both an open-air studio and a multi-function room good for rehearsing, performing offline Pro Tools editing and overdubbing. In addition, John Keane Studios also has a soundproof ISO room, vocal booth, a piano room and a kitchen and lounge for downtime.

-Chris Homer

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