

Mills, Ryan

Young musician starts own label

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A young city musician has started his own independent recording label, working out of his bedroom, to promote and distribute music that is overlooked by major and even "indie" record labels.

Ryan Mills, 21, has played in bands since the age of 11 and has experience in composing, music-related photography and the Internet.

"The record label just seemed to be the next step. I've played in bands, written songs... contributed photography and articles to magazines," said Mills, a former Brockville resident. "I've pretty much dedicated my life to this."

"I started AntiAntenna Recordings to release music that makes me smile. There are a ton of really clever, hard-working bands in Ontario, and I think lots of them are overlooked by even indie labels because they don't follow the current market trends," said Mills.



RYAN MILLS

His company, AntiAntenna Recordings will be launched with the release of a compilation CD of songs from 14 Ontario bands titled "The 20 Year Design Theory" June 1.

"Most of them are touring independent bands," he said of the bands appearing on the CD. "The CD will be distributed and promoted nationally, but internationally orders can be taken on the Internet." The company Sonic Unyon will distribute it within Canada.

The genre swings from one end of the spectrum to the other, said Mills, covering metal rock to ambient music. The tie that binds it together is the "do-it-yourself, kind of independent ethic." One of Mills' main goals is to distribute and promote high-quality recordings made by Ontario musicians.

He already has a second CD in the works called Gaffer that is slated to be released sometime in early summer.

Some of the music on the first CD was recorded in studios worth hundreds of thousands of dollars while others were put down in small rooms using minimal equipment, said Mills.

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