Jukasa Media

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get their start in the business. That is why he has linked his sizable name and reputation to Arbor Records, based in Winnipeg. After spending most of his life in California he says Winnipeg itself sucks, but he is excited about being a mentor to young Aboriginal artists through that label.

"I'm still way to busy to be a house producer at Jukasa, but I will be coming back here as much as I can to watch how this place grows," he says. "This studio itself is top rate by anyone's standards."

Derek Miller is also closely affiliated with Jukasa and will be finishing his new album there.

"It's an amazing facility," says Miller. "This is going to help bring some unity to our artists here on the rez."

He refers to Jukasa as a "Heaven Research Facility", referring to a line on Jimi Hendrix's Band of Gypsies album jacket which says, "produced by Heaven research."

It's cool to have this here and I'm just proud to have had a part in bringing it here."

Miller had started his next album with the surviving members of Stevie Ray Vaughn's band, Double Trouble, but it would take some major funding to finish it off right. Miller talked to Hill about it and to his surprise Hill suggested building a studio here to-do it in.



Six Nations bluesman Murray Porter

The basic band tracks were recorded in Austin Texas, but Miller's vocals and guitar work will be added at Jukasa.

"I can't wait to hear what kind of music comes out of this place," says Miller. "I can throw a stone anywhere around here and hit someone who can easily do something in the arts if given a chance. It's awesome when our people help our people."

Miller would like to see the studio also used as a teaching lab for young people interested in a career in the music or film industry. The facility also boasts a room for TV or Video production.

Six Nations bluesman Murray Porter and producer Elaine Bomberry were on hand from their present home in Vancouver for the opening as well. They were very impressed with the quality of the facility as well.

"It's world class all the way. You mean Native people can do this?" he joked, feigning surprise.

Porter was scouting out the studio for his next album.

Will he be doing it here at Six Nations?

"You never know," he said with a wry smile.

Porter is ready to start a new recording, has the songs written, and is now looking for ways to get it done.

One song in particular he has been performing and has been getting excellent reaction from his live audiences was a song he and Bomberry collaborated on.

Last year after the federal government's apology to the residential school survivors Porter and Bomberry put their creative heads together and penned a song called, "Is Sorry Enough."

"This first time Murray sang it on stage was at the NAIG games. It brought people to tears and does whenever he performs it," says Bomberry.

Some good work has already been done at Jukasa and the marketing of the facility will be ratcheted up over the next few weeks geared to not only Native artists but towards bigger mainstream names.

"I think the mystique of having a facility like this located on a First Nations reserve will attract some attention within the industry," says Hunter.