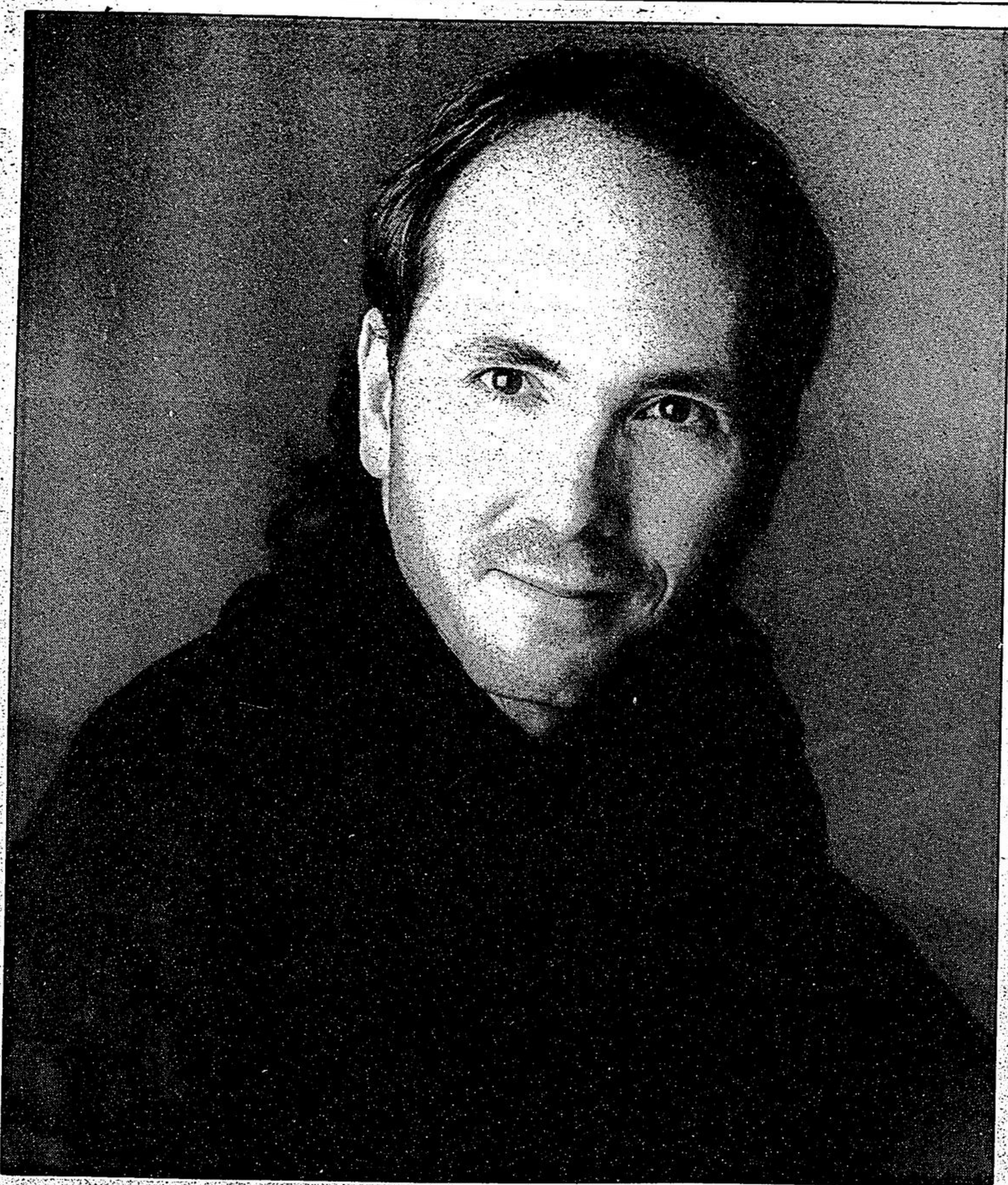


# Arts & Entertainment



David Chester operates Chalet Studio from his home in Claremont.

## Music

# David Chester tops the charts from Claremont

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

A rural location in Claremont may seem an unlikely spot for a sophisticated, 24-track recording facility like Chalet Studio, established in 1986 by musician David Chester.

Yet it was the location which appealed to Chester when he became involved in the business side of the music industry. "Our niche with the studio is the residential aspect," he explained.

"There's a ton of studios out there, but we didn't have a residential facility."

His hunch that other artists would appreciate the setting was a shrewd one, and the studio has since attracted such notable musicians as Rush, Liona Boyd, Bob McGrath and the Bare Naked Ladies, who recorded 'Be My Yoko Ono' at the facility.

"Rush just left last week," said Chester. "They write their album here, so they live here Monday to Friday and go home on weekends to be with their families. They put out an album every two years - they're a pretty well-oiled machine."

After graduating in music from Carleton and York Universities, Chester, a singer, songwriter and keyboardist, began his career with Myles Cohen of Myles and Lenny, and later worked with Ken Tobias,

with whom he co-produced his first independent record in 1984.

He spent the new few years working with a number of different bands and honing his composing skills.

The original score for the movie 'The Tower' is among his writing credits.

In 1990 he joined Toronto band Watertown and played local clubs and concerts with them, appearing at venues such as The Diamond and Ontario Place.

His latest CD, which he completed recently, will be released within the next few weeks.

Although creating and writing music is his first love, Chester was quick to realize he would need to augment his performing career by becoming involved in the business aspect of the industry. "Last year was pretty bad, but this year is looking a lot better," he observed. "It is tough out there, and you have to constantly be looking at extending your market."

Having the studio enables him to work on his own recording projects and jingles, as well as providing facilities for other artists, Chester pointed out. "Trying to be creative and thinking about the bottom line is difficult," he acknowledged, adding that it's nevertheless vital if an artist is to succeed in today's market.

Chester married Sheila-Marie Richardson

in 1989 and they have an eight-month-old son, Drew.

The couple first met when they were students at Uxbridge Secondary School.



Richardson, whose husband has a rich musical background herself, has been named music director of Uxbridge again this year, while Chester will be working with the band, and possibly performing one of his songs during the show.

And doing what he loves for a living more than compensates for the years of "blood, sweat and tears," concluded Chester happily.

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