

Business

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Attorney goes on the record with homemade CD

Croton-on-Hudson attorney Lawrence Savell is pursuing a dream in a way that wasn't possible 10 years ago.

Using specialized computer equipment and software, Savell has converted his home into a recording studio. Savell's hobby is singing and songwriting, and he recently recorded his own tunes featuring whimsical holiday takes on the legal profession.

He paid a company to transfer the results to CDs. Savell has distributed more than 400 so far, with many going to colleagues at work and their clients. He has resigned himself to the likelihood that he won't be selling 1 million copies, but he adds that sales are not the point.

"It's a labor of love," said Savell, 47. "I think it's important that when people have dreams, they make the time to do something like this. ... I think the worst thing would be to put it off so long, it's too late."

An admirer of the Beach Boys, Savell said that as a teen-ager he spent his Regents scholarship on his first guitar.

Years later, when he joined Chadbourne & Parke LLP in Manhattan, he spent his first paycheck on a Rickenbacker electric guitar.

The idea of recording his own music became a reality when he discovered that the technology was affordable. A sophisticated computer that is capable of processing sounds without background hum can be bought for \$2,000 to \$3,000, he said. Software packages that can record music and provide background instrumentation run about \$100 each, he added.

Band in a Box, the instrument program, gives him a backup group that's more amenable to creative control than the flesh-and-blood kind.

"They don't complain. They don't ask for a raise. They don't show up drunk," Savell said with a laugh. "The equipment and software are really not expensive. It's not particularly difficult to learn. ...

What you can put out is phenomenal."

The new \$16.99 CD (\$9.99 cassette tape), "Legal Holidayze," features such tunes as "Billie" on Christmas Eve, "Rainmaker Reindeer" and "North Pole Bar Exam." Savell, who has two young sons, said his next recording will be a collection of children's songs.

"Although I'll never win a Grammy, I'm sure some people will appreciate this," he said.

For more information, e-mail him (mail@lawtunes.com).



Stuart Bayer/The Journal News
Lawrence Savell performs in the music studio he built in his Croton-on-Hudson home.

