

Coming 'Home' with music

Stillwater native releases album

By Jessica Jackson
Stillwater NewsPress

While music is Cushing-native Ryan Reid's life now, he tried hard to avoid what he describes as his fate.

"I knew what I wanted to do very early on in my life, but I tried to do anything but that," Reid said. "Everything else that I've ever done brought me back to music anyway."

Reid, a 28-year-old singer songwriter, will release his first EP Jan. 20. The album, titled 'Home,' was recorded by Flatland Recording Studios, of Stillwater.

The EP is composed of six songs, mostly acoustic guitar and vocals. Reid describes his work as simple, which is just how he said he wants it to be.

"There's very little production on this CD," Reid said. "It's very back-to-basics."

His debut EP will be released Jan. 20 and will be available on iTunes or on his Web site, www.RyanReidMusic.com. He said he is excited for people to hear his work.

"My whole heart is in this EP," he said. "It's the first thing that I've actually ever put out that I'm ready for people to listen to, that I love absolutely everything on there."

Reid said his lyrics come from his life experiences, but they can be interpreted by others however they see fit.

"I don't like giving away the meaning of the song because I feel like it's not



Reid

just mine," Reid said. "That's the great thing about music, it never belongs to one person. ... It belongs to everybody that hears it, and we get to share it."

He said he particularly loves performing, sharing his music with his audience.

"It's a privilege to be able to play for people. It's really an honor," Reid said. "So, thank you for listening. Thank you for being a part of this moment with me."

Growing up a fan of all types of music, Reid said there's no one artist he can say inspired him.

"I would kind of say everyone I've ever listened to. You kind of take a little bit from each person you've ever met, from each person you've ever heard," he said. "Life. That's the easiest way to put it."

The young artist grew up in Cushing and said he tried to find a different path because he saw life as a musician as lonely, particularly on the road.

"The more I ran away from it, the more it kind of pulled me in," Reid said. "And that's it. Music makes me happy."

Reid said he lived in New York for a time but didn't like the music scene there because people were always trying to change him. He came back home to Oklahoma, where he com-



Ryan Reid plays in front of a live audience in Oklahoma City. Reid releases his first EP on Jan. 20

Photo provided

pleted his EP.

"I got to come back home and coming back home was, wow, such an experience because there's no place in the world like Oklahoma," he said. "Oklahoma will always be home for me because of the people. ... And that's the title track of the EP, 'Home.'"

Reid said he will be working with a Stillwater record label, Tough Records, but hasn't made any definite plans of what's to come.

"We have a lot of different things in the works as far as different dates. Nothing has firmed up yet, though," he said. "I don't really know what the future holds, but I'm definitely excited about it."



Reid poses for the inside cover of his album titled 'Home.'

Photo provided



Associated Press

Will Smith starred in movies such as 'Hancock' and 'Seven Pounds' this year.

Smith voted '08's top star

NEW YORK (AP) — No name on the marquee was more pleasing to theater owners in 2008 than Will Smith, according to a survey of movie exhibitors.

Smith, star of "Hancock" and "Seven Pounds," was voted the star who generated the most box office revenue for theaters in an annual survey by Quigley Publishing Co.

Smith is only the second black actor to be chosen in the Quigley poll, which since 1932 has asked movie exhibitors to vote on the 10 stars who brought in the most business. Sidney Poitier topped the poll in 1968.

Smith's superhero summer blockbuster, "Hancock," grossed \$228 million. "Seven Pounds," currently in theaters, has pulled in a somewhat lackluster \$39 million in two weeks.

Following Smith, in order, were Robert Downey Jr. ("Iron Man"), "Tropic Thunder," Christian Bale ("The Dark Knight"), Shia LaBeouf ("Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull") and LaBeouf's "Indiana Jones" costar Harrison Ford.

Album sales plunge, digital downloads up

By John Jerome
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Music sales have continued to slump in 2008 as the increased number of downloads of digital tracks failed to make up for a plunge in the sale of compact discs.

Year-end sales figures released Wednesday by The Nielsen Co. show total album sales, including album equivalents made up of single digital tracks, fell to 428.4 million units, down 8.5 percent from 500.5 million in 2007.

Physical album sales fell 20 percent to 362.6 million from 450.5 million, while digital album sales rose 32 percent to a record 65.8 million units.

Digital track sales, such as those conducted in Apple Inc.'s iTunes Music Store, were up 27 percent from last year, breaking the 1 billion mark for the first time at 1.07 billion.

The report continues a troubling trend for the recording industry, which has a harder time maintaining profits when consumers buy single songs instead of albums. The number of transactions rose 10.5 percent to 1.5 billion, although the figure treats single track and whole album purchases the

same.

"You can see the overall unit sales as a positive, but their model is really built on album sales and that just continues to decline," said Silvio Pietroluongo, director of charts for Billboard magazine.

"Music consumption has never been at a higher clip, it's just a matter of trying to turn it into revenue," he added.

Some record labels are making progress. Craig Kallman, chief executive of Warner Music Group Corp.'s Atlantic Records, whose artists include Kid Rock and T.I., said his label passed a milestone in the year to September by having its digital revenue exceed that from physical CD sales.

The label, the top-selling in the U.S. in 2008, has had to become more careful in choosing which artists to promote and more patient in waiting for their songs to break out, he said.

"You have to really be right about your hits. If you're going to invest that amount of time in them and not run as many records, you have to be way more right today than wrong," Kallman said.

Nielsen SoundScan said album sales fell in every genre. Classical music saw

the biggest drop at 26 percent, followed by country at 24 percent and Latin at 21.1 percent.

Taylor Swift was the year's best-selling artist with more than 4 million albums sold, followed by AC/DC, Lil Wayne and Coldplay. Sugarland finished No. 8.

Swift had two albums on Nielsen's Top 10 sales list: her self-titled debut at No. 6 and her sophomore album "Fearless" at No. 3.

"Taylor Swift is a great artist development story that started as organically as you can in the digital age," said Scott Borchetta, president and CEO of her label, Big Machine Records. "It involved online, non-stop radio tours and strategic TV opportunities which led to non-stop touring. But — most importantly — Taylor connected with her fans like no other artist in 2008."

Lil Wayne had the year's top-selling album, "Tha Carter III," with 2.87 million units sold, with Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" (2.14 million) and Swift's "Fearless" (2.11 million) rounding out the top three.

The top selling digital artist was Rihanna with 9.94 million tracks sold, followed by Swift and Kayne West.

Picasso, Matisse prints stolen from gallery in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Thieves stole works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and others from a Berlin gallery over the New Year's holiday, police said Friday.

More than 30 works — worth an estimated euro180,000 (\$250,000) — were stolen, apparently between Wednesday afternoon and lunchtime Thursday, police spokeswoman Claudia Schweiger said. The artwork was taking from the Fasanengalerie, a private gallery near western Berlin's central shopping district.

The etchings, prints and sculptures included "Profil au fond noir," a 1947 work by Picasso; "Nude in a rocking chair," a Matisse print from 1913; and "Le Boupeut," a 1962 color print by Georges Braque.

The gallery's owner discovered the loss New Year's Day, having found signs the door had been pried open, police said. Given the number of works stolen and the weight of the sculptures, two or more people probably were involved, police said in a statement.