

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner

## HALO Live at the Mohawk Studios Part One



What first began as a dream has now become a reality for Shawn Daley with a little help from his friends. Shawn once had a recording studio at his former home in nearby Huron. It was functional and worked for a while but eventually he knew that the further necessities of working with bands, recording and producing where outgrowing their happy home.

"I was growing as the bands were growing," said Shawn. "They wanted to do more but I just didn't have the space. I was starting to get more recognition as a recording engineer and producer. I had bands in my house sleeping on my couch. I started to think about how I could expand the monster I had created to have more space. I had to decide what is realistic and what is a dream. In my normal fashion I always say, go big or go home."

Shawn's dream was to have a big studio. An environment that offered more for the musicians in terms of space as well as additional equipment and even a place to sleep for the night while the music and recording takes it time to

fruition. "I needed to develop a plan and stay with my vision," said Shawn. "I didn't want to just put up a pole barn, give it a paint job and call it a studio. I didn't want it to be like a conveyer belt of production. I wanted to work with the artists. I wanted them to have a place to stay while we worked on their music. I wanted people to have the "wow factor" when they walked through the front door. I had a checklist in my head of what I wanted the place to have. I knew in time I would go some place where the ideas I had in my head would spark."

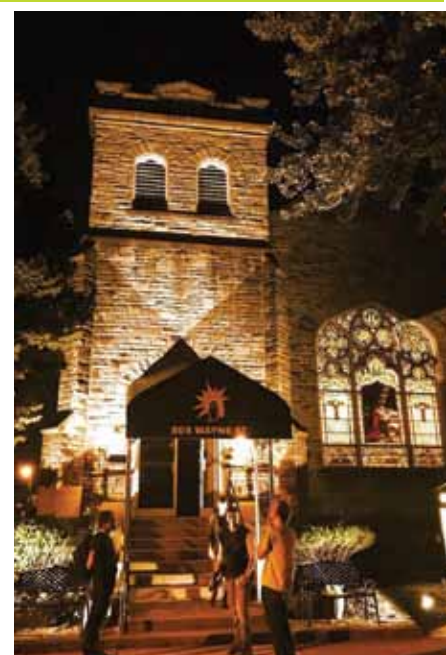
"Low and behold, about four years ago my wife and I went to a wedding in Pennsylvania. We were in a church that seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. I remember looking around the church, going through my mental checklist and thinking that everything fit. I started calling churches when I returned home. I was talking to maintenance people who are actually called, sextons. Sextons is the term given to someone who cares for the upkeep of a church as well as any nearby cemeteries. My goal was to find a church that was ran by one pastor, had a groundskeeper and was between 5000 to 7000 square feet. Once I knew what I was looking for specifically, I started looking at places in Norwalk and Fremont. Eventually a church became available on Wayne Street in Sandusky. I fell in love with the place as soon as I saw it. It looks like a castle on the outside. It isn't, of course, a place where you normally would have bands record."

While Shawn was working on details to obtain the church, a client of his named John Davenport had moved back to the

area from Nashville. He asked Shawn what he could do to help make his dream a reality. "Long story short, John and I took possession of this building on April 17, 2017. I remember we sat on the pastor chairs and talked for about five hours of where to start and what will we do?" remembers Shawn. "We now had the keys to the castle so how do we make the castle work? We had some obstacles. This church is 100 years old. We took our time and started chipping away at each project. Musicians in the area stepped up to help. There was plenty of work to do. We did hire out some contract work but most of it we did ourselves!"

[www.HALOLive.US](http://www.HALOLive.US)

Part Two will be continued in the March issue!






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