

SORLEY'S SOLUTION

BOTH Sirocco and Ça Va, two prominent Scottish studios are delighted at the growth of the recording industry in their area.

'The Scottish studio scene is getting healthier month by month,' said Sirocco's Clark Sorley, one of the partners in a healthy Kilmarnock 24 track. 'The situation here seems indicative of undercurrents in general.'

However, while professional studios are on the increase in Scotland, (Sorley believed they have tripled to number 30 in the past decade) hourly rates for rental are dropping. 'What was going for £30 an hour three years ago is now going for £17. We go for £25 but it's difficult to make a lot of money.'

Sirocco's reputation is long standing, but increased competition and a genuine



Çava studio

desire to benefit the local community has meant that Sorley has turned his thinking to ways his studio can develop to ensure the Scottish music recording industry will continue to thrive.

'It has to be seen to be more than a recording studio,' he said, 'we should take on areas of production, or become a small record company, or a publishing and live rehearsal area and so extend into the community.'

'I believe that a recording studio could be a focus for a lot of energy and activities — particularly in an area of such high unemployment. If there were a network of studios then we could provide gigging circuits, linking up to provide some kind of national contact list.'

Although such a concept would take considerable financial investment the

Scottish Development Agency has commissioned a study into the state of the recording industry in Glasgow. If it reaches a positive result there's talk of a state of the art studio being built in the city.

'Obviously, if you have any kind of subsidised thing then you can attract cowboys. It has to be run by people with vision and a degree of suss.'

'I just think that as we move on we will not be able to be solely recording studios if we want to survive. We are already doing training courses at the studio and these have proved enormously popular.'

Glasgow's Ça Va — a 24 track, had refurbishment work done last year, and boasts being the studio where John Martyn recorded the world's first compact disc single. Brian Young, as with Sorley, is confident that the Scottish industry will thrive. 'Four studios work around here,' he said, 'all with major acts. Producers find that it's a break working away from London.'

John Ryan, Steve Nye and Liam Henshall have all worked at Ça Va and contributed to its recent success.