



John Bueno [Follow](#)

Stand Up Comedian. Writer. Natural Beauty. @johnxbueno

Oct 6 · 6 min read



The outside facade of the soon to be open Perfect World Studio (photo via Perfect World Music)

From a garage to a ‘perfect world’ for regional musicians

Grammy award-winning producer, and Pueblo native, Carl Lucero set to open recording studio in downtown Pueblo.

By John Bueno

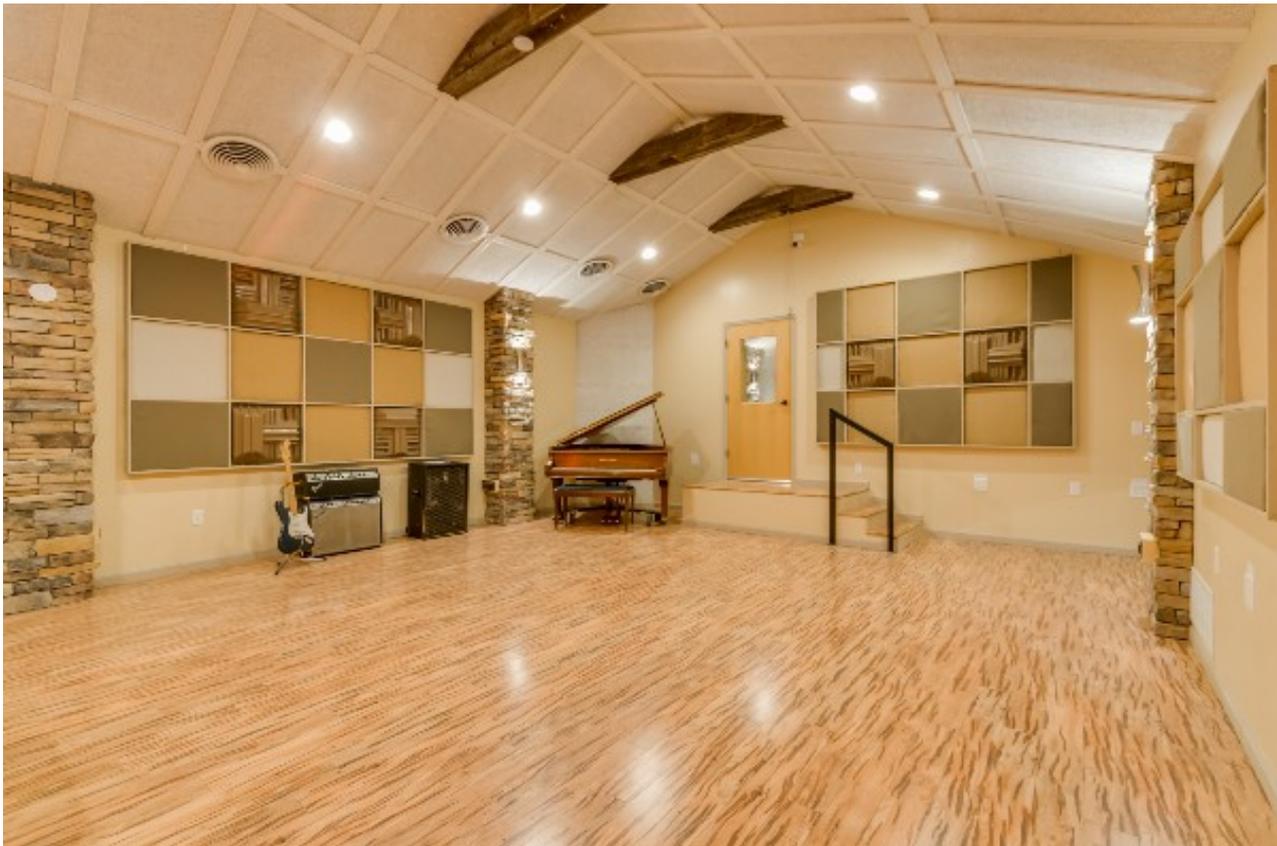
The nuts and bolts of the production of music is an anomaly to me. It shouldn't be, as I've spent the better part of the last 15 years playing in various bands and groups here in town. But whenever it came time to commit

my band's admittedly low-grade songs to tape, there was always someone to help with the endeavor of recording and editing them for us.

These people, these wondrous angels of audio, are known as sound engineers. And they are one of many unsung heroes of modern music. Whether it be live or studio application, your favorite bands would probably sound way worse or unprofessional without an engineer's time and knowledge.

Music production veteran and Pueblo native Carl Lucero has this particular knowledge down pat. He's worked with too many bands to remember in a decades-long career in music.

"There's been so many different artists and projects over the years, you know? I've had the chance to work with Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn and Patty Loveless," Lucero said. "We were fortunate in Nashville to win a Grammy with Quincy Jones and Stevie Wonder which won a Grammy in '92. Which was really a high point for us. And now we want to give back."



Carl Lucero plans to collaborate with A-list talent as well as local musicians to help their sound flourish.

Giving back means A Perfect World, Lucero's new music recording studio.

Set to officially open in October, A Perfect World is quite the sight to behold. The inside of the studio is top-notch and gorgeous, boasting a digital 24-track soundboard, live and isolation recording areas, and lounge facilities for artists

to hang out in until their next take. Both the inside and outside of 301 'C' Street where A Perfect World now stands underwent a complete overhaul from its' former use as a mechanics garage on 'C' St. But it was all a labor of love for Lucero.

"It's been real exciting to see this place come together, but it's also been a big step of faith on our end. We've invested a lot of ourselves in it," he said. "I've always had studios in small office spaces, or in basements. But this is the first real commercial studio facility that was built the way I wanted to have it done. Didn't cut corners."

The producer also hopes the studio will function as a relaxing place for creatives.

"We really want people to feel at home here (in the studio)," Lucero said. "When you're creating music or art or whatever it is, it's important to be in a place where you feel comfortable, and we try to make it that way while people are here."

"I grew up here in Pueblo, just piecing together whatever equipment I could and recording where I could so I could learn as much as possible," he says of his early days of music.

Lucero also has fond memories of Pueblo's music scene from when he was a young man.

"Back then, we used to play a lot of coffee shops. Coffee shops were the place to hang out. We'd play parks a lot. The whole scene was a lot different in the early to mid 80s. There were a few guys out there who were paid gigging dudes, playing jazz clubs, but there was kind of a gap between where guys like them were and where guys like us who were just learning were.

Studios time was also a challenge back then. "At the time, there wasn't really anyone around who had ever done anything in a big studio that I knew of. I moved away at 17, went off to college, touring and getting to work with all sorts of major labels. So when we moved back, that was one of the biggest things I wanted to do was build my own facility that could house A standard projects, and still keep it affordable so that I could work with the community."

Which is a word that Lucero brings back throughout our conversation. To him, community is a driving force.

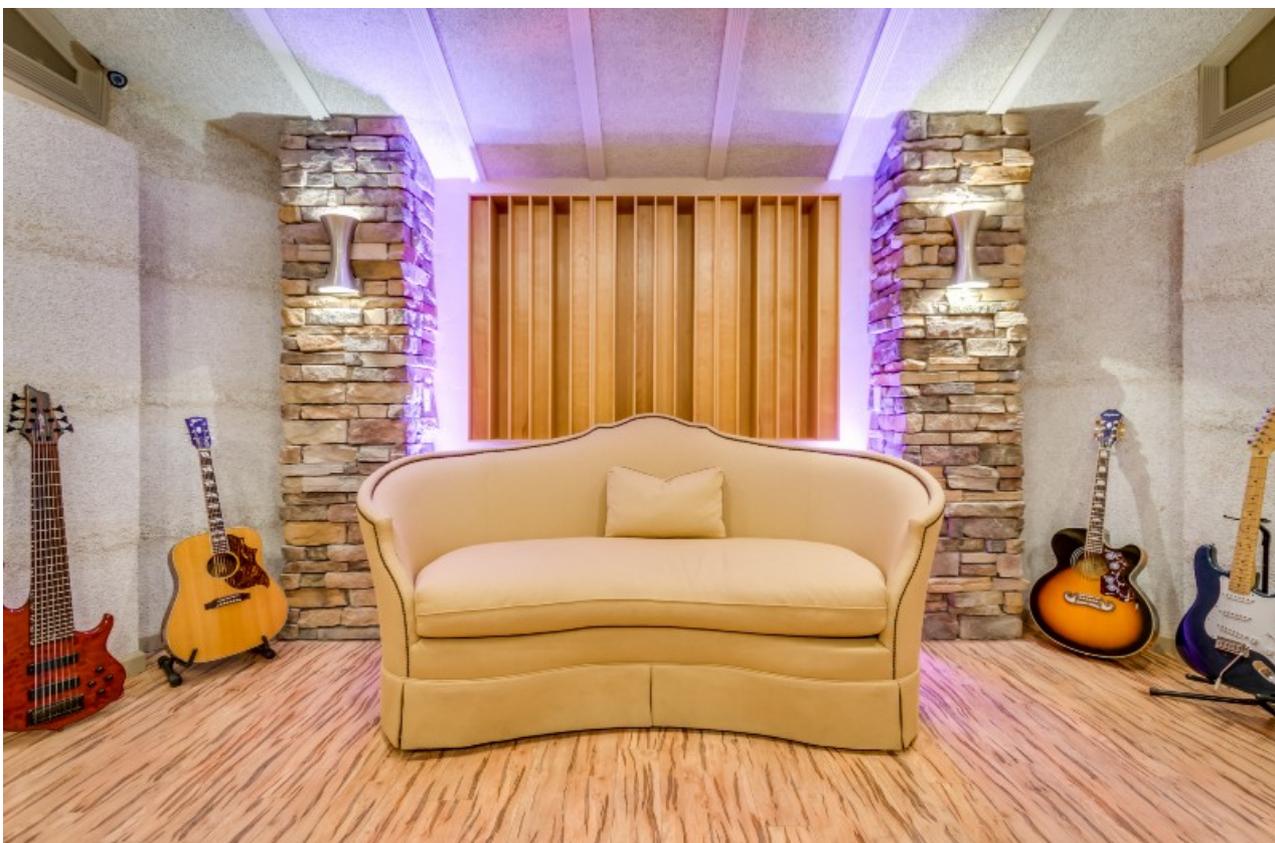
“I’ve worked at several different churches in my lifetime, doing music-related things over the years. For me, it’s a natural bridge for us here. We want to help people, to bring out the best in people, and help everyone grow and be better.”

On that note, Lucero adds that A Perfect World hopes to add more to his neighbors downtown and Pueblo in general.

“Hopefully the studio can bring some attention to Pueblo as far as having a nice facility and our recording. We also want to network with larger cities for training and clinics here. Music seminars and such. There’s so many established artists here in town too that have maybe never had the right person or place to produce or record them. To really try and put them on the map. I don’t claim to know everything, but what I do know I want to offer.”

“I knew there was a real big need here for it,” he said when asked about bands here needing recording facilities.

“There is a lot of great talent here but not a lot of access to doing it with access to the industry. Now that we’ve moved back, it’s been really exciting to meet people. There is so much going on; you’ve got the Pueblo Arts Alliance, the Songbird is doing really cool stuff. But there are all these other little pockets of artists and businesses popping up. To be honest, we’re just honored to be a part of it.”



The control room couch has been called a ‘serene space for creativity’ by Lucero and others.

“We also want to try and teach what we’ve learned along the way. That’s one of the biggest staples of what we’re wanting to do here with our business,” he quickly adds. “Training and education are a big part of it. We’ve invited all of the high schools, the colleges, a lot of churches. We’d like to teach stuff like engineering and advanced engineering classes, songwriting. We’re real excited to team up here with the community.”

One of the more interesting altruistic plans for A Perfect World includes the adoption of a kids music academy based on the Jack Black comedy *School of Rock*.

“We want to piece young drummers together with other young guitar players and bass players and give them personal training and instruction and also training on playing with a group coming together to write original material,” Lucero said. “We then want to record the songs and bring it all together the final week of class for a showcase with all of the parents. Kind of take them from square one to live performance.”

Lucero, his wife Melinda and children were brought back to Colorado almost four years ago after living in the music mecca cities of Los Angeles and Nashville for years. But Lucero appreciates the change of pace in Southern Colorado.

“It’s home for us here, you know? If anything, we’re excited at the idea of being around all of this great creative energy. Pueblo has changed a lot since we lived here years ago.”

At the end of the day, Lucero hopes to repay the city that brought him up musically. “We feel super privileged to be able to do what we do and now have this facility. Everyone who has stopped in so far has had nothing but positive things to say about it and they are wishing us the best.”

“Growing up here,” he adds “the first thing you think is ‘I can’t wait to get outta here,’ but a lot of the professional musicians and people we’ve met since we’ve been back here are telling everyone to move here,” he said. “And why wouldn’t they? Of course this city has its’ share of challenges, but I think that we’re on the right track, and we’re excited to be here right now.”

A Perfect World Studio cuts the ribbon officially on October 7th with a Grand Opening celebration from 6–9PM at 301 C st. More info on this and their work at perfectworldmusic.com

