MUSIC CONNECTION

ANNUAL DIRECTORY
of Producers & Engineers

Getting Started with
Production Music Libraries

7-POINT CHECKLIST
to Investing and Building Wealth
By Bobby Borg and Britt Hastey

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SCOTT STORCH

Sammy Hagar

NEW TOYS P. 10

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Stagg Street Studio

staggstreetstudio.com

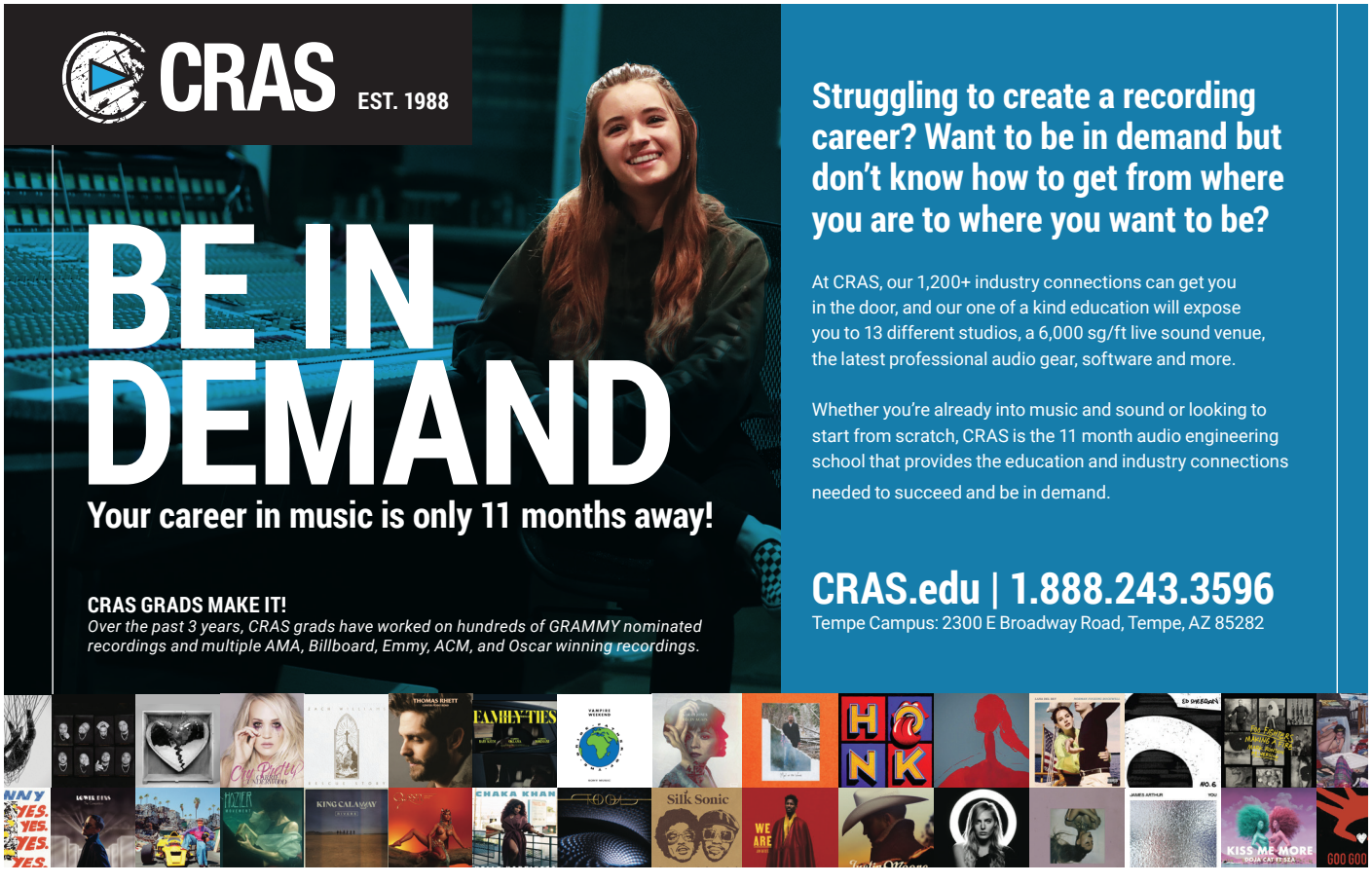
Carrying on the Legacy: Thirty years after becoming a staff engineer at Stagg Street Studios in Van Nuys, CA, under the tutelage of original owners Gary Denton and Melody Carpenter, Trent Slatton (pictured) recently became the sole owner upon Carpenter's passing. Both Slatton and the room he proudly calls "a true mom and pop studio" have fascinating histories. After years of helming the boards there and traveling the world as producer Gavin MacKillop's assistant, Slatton—who has worked with everyone from The Ramones to Rod Stewart—left the business for over 10 years and sold real estate in San Diego. When he returned to L.A. in 2017, his love for "my true calling" was rekindled and he launched his current stint there. This time, he invested in the business, and when Carpenter fell ill, her fondest wish was that Slatton take over and continue to build Stagg Street's legacy. While The Rembrandt's *Friends* theme "I'll Be There For You" is probably the most famous track recorded there, over the years the studio has been the out-of-the-limelight choice for a wide array of superstars and legends—including Johnny Cash, John Mayer, Chaka Khan, Tori Amos, Little Richard, Queens of the Stone Age and Smokey Robinson—and numerous jazz musicians, including Keiko Matsui, Dean Parks and Tigran Hamasyan.

Quote from Trent Slatton: "Gary and Melody developed an amazing workspace out of their love and passion for music," Slatton says. "Whether we're working with big names or upstart indie artists, what's great about it to this day is that we're not genre-specific. We've done rock, jazz, country, bluegrass, film music—even circus music. Stagg Street offers a combination of privacy, a conducive creative environment and overqualified staff, which is dedicated to upkeep and excellent service to our clients. We may not have the history of some of the larger studios in L.A., but we have an incredible array of equipment and a lot of heart. From Gary and Melody to myself, Stagg Street has been run by people

who care about the music. It's like an alchemy lab to create magic and amazing performances."

Vintage Console and Mics: Stagg Street Studios is home to a rare, white, Brent Averil modified mid-'70s vintage API console (originally housed in A&M Studios) consisting of two sections. The original 32 channels section has 554 semi-parametric EQs and the 16 channel fully integrated sidecar is equipped with 550 stepped EQs. Both offer the mega-headroom 312 mic preamps. Clients get a legendary API sound with 32 inputs to Pro Tools. The studio is designed with three isolated areas surrounding the main room, offering an ideal setting for live ensemble tracking. Each room has windows for maximum visual contact—and with 16 channel personal headphone mixers, clients can cue mixes just right. In addition to a '70s Yamaha G7 grand piano, the room also has an extensive mic locker with vintage mics from the '40s through the '80s, in addition to vintage outboard gear.

Contact Stagg Street Studios, 213-949-7957



Luke Ericson

Chief Operating Officer
Gibson Brands Inc.

Gibson Brands, Inc. has confirmed **Luke Ericson** to the permanent role of **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, reporting to Cesar Gueikian, President, and CEO of Gibson Brands. "I am excited to confirm Luke as our permanent Chief Operating Officer," says Cesar Gueikian, President and CEO of Gibson Brands. "Luke's overall experience as an operations expert, successfully serving in multiple leadership roles, uniquely positions him to drive operational excellence for Gibson. I have full confidence in Luke's ability to lead our office of the COO, and Gibson, into the future." For more, contact lcoffey@primeprgroup.com.

Magali Ould

General Manager
Secret City Records

Secret City Records has announced the appointment of **Magali Ould** as **General Manager**. Secret City has seen exponential growth over the past few years, expanding their team and evolving alongside the ever-changing music market. With these factors in mind, the newly created General Manager role at Secret City will serve as a catalyst for the continued development of the company, by placing dedicated focus on driving and managing the label's day-to-day operations. Ould steps into this position after serving over 12 years with the company in Marketing, Communications and Project Management roles. Within this new position, she will report directly to President & CEO Justin West. For more, contact ctaillie@shorefire.com.

Zac Bogart

SVP of Digital Marketing
Guitar Center

Guitar Center has announced the appointment of **Zac Bogart** to the position **SVP of Digital Marketing**. The announcement was made by Gabe Dalporto, Guitar Center Chief Executive Officer, and reflects Guitar Center's initiative of elevating and enhancing the company's digital experience and online presence. Reporting directly to Dalporto, Bogart will oversee Guitar Center's eCommerce channels, Contact Center and Customer Relationship Management team. Drawing upon his years of experience in digital marketing for prominent brands in the eCommerce space, Bogart will develop and execute a comprehensive digital marketing strategy aligned with GC's overall business objectives. For more, contact pr@clynemedia.com.

Yuma Kawai

President & CEO
TOA Electronics Inc.

TOA Electronics Inc., a manufacturer of intelligent audio and security systems, has announced the appointment of **Yuma Kawai** as **President & CEO**. Kawai, who came onboard as CTO of TEI, worked closely with his predecessor, now former President Hiro Omura. "I am extremely proud to assume the role as the new President of TOA Electronics, Inc. and lead this team," Kawai says. "Throughout our company's history, we have been dedicated to providing innovative and high-quality audio equipment, along with delivering exceptional audio experiences to our valued customers. I am committed to upholding this tradition and building new successes in the future." For more, contact marketing@toaelectronics.com.

Drew Silverstein

Senior Advisor, A.I., Innovation, and Strategy
BandLab Technologies

BandLab Technologies deepens its commitment to the advancement of A.I. technologies in music creation and ethical artificial intelligence use by welcoming **Drew Silverstein** as **Senior Advisor, A.I., Innovation, and Strategy**. This move follows BandLab's announcement of support for the Human Artistry CampAIgn, further emphasizing the group's dedication to responsible A.I. practices. "I am thrilled to join the team and collaborate on their mission to advance human-first A.I. practices in music," says Silverstein. For more, contact meg@rockpaperscissors.biz.

Betsey Perlmutter

Vice President of Schirmer Theatrical
Wise Music Group

Wise Music Group has announced the appointment of **Betsey Perlmutter** as **Vice President of Schirmer Theatrical**, Wise Music Group's concert and theatrical production company. Perlmutter will lead Schirmer Theatrical as it embarks on its expanded international rights development strategy. "I am honored to be joining the talented and dedicated team at Schirmer Theatrical and Wise Music Group at large," says Perlmutter. "Together, with collaboration at the core, we will forge new pathways internationally to amplify our dynamic composers & songwriters through thrilling partnerships and stories yet untold." For more, contact bobbi@bobbimarcuspr.com.

Shannon Atran

Director, Public Relations
The Chamber Group

Shannon Atran, an experienced media professional with deep roots in the entertainment industry, has been promoted to **Director, Public Relations** at **The Chamber Group**. It was announced by Chris Chambers, founder at The Chamber Group (TCG), the award-winning New York-based boutique public relations firm. In her new post, Atran will serve as the exclusive independent public relations executive for a broad array of TCG's music clients, including Lil Wayne, Pusha T, Big Sean, Mass Appeal, Lil Tay and others. Atran will be responsible for developing, executing, and overseeing PR campaigns on behalf of these artists and others. For more, contact lydia@thechambergroup.com.

Kaitlin Sweeney

Managing Partner
EastCoast Entertainment

EastCoast Entertainment (ECE) has announced the appointment of **Kaitlin Sweeney** to **Managing Partner**. From performing at children's parties, to fronting bands as a lead vocalist and exploring dance choreography, these multifaceted experiences have been the bedrock of her expansive knowledge. Joining ECE as an agent in 2014, Sweeney quickly rose to Manager of their Philadelphia location in 2017. "Supporting artists, nurturing their talent, and celebrating their achievements continue to be the driving force of my career," says Sweeney. For more, contact amylipskymedia@gmail.com.

◄ FISHMAN LOUDBOX MICRO ACOUSTIC AMP

The Fishman Loudbox Micro is a well-designed vocal and acoustic guitar amplifier with two separate input channels—each with their own equalizer and digital effects. Weighing just over 9 pounds and measuring only 8.1 D x 10.4 W x 9.5 H-inches (206mm D x 264mm W x 242mm H), this is the perfect practice or backup amp for the itinerant singer-songwriter-musician.

Loudbox Micro has 40-watts of bi-amped power driving a 5.25-inch woofer and 0.8-inch tweeter in a sealed cabinet that is angled slightly upwards back at you when it sits on the floor.

I liked that the included (paper) manual explains all the controls with exactly how and why to set them and the results to expect. Loudbox has an XLR input jack for plugging in a professional dynamic microphone but it will also handle a direct box or any balance audio mic-level signal. There is no +48-volt phantom power provided, but there is a simple, two-band EQ for the microphone channel that is very effective and sounds good on dynamic mics.

The 1/4-inch input jack for the instrument channel accepts any passive or active acoustic pickups using Fishman's legendary preamp and tone control design. A three-band EQ with +/- 12dB @ 60Hz peaking, +/- 10.5dB @ 700-Hz peaking, and +/-12dB @ 15kHz shelving sections will carve your acoustic sound exactly the way you like. There is also a Phase button that can reduce acoustic feedback or increase/decrease bass boominess.

I tried Shure's MV-7 XLR/USB Podcast and also their new SM7dB dynamic mics in the vocal channel with great results. The digital reverb is fine when used as a light touch but the chorus effect on the Instrument channel is lovely in just about any amount for acoustic guitars to spread out the sound beautifully.

Besides the DC power jack that connects Loudbox Micro to its included power adapter, the rear panel has two mini stereo jacks. The first is an Aux input for mixing in a backing track with its stereo sound automatically summed to mono. There is also a stereo headphone jack that mutes the speaker when you plug in to it. For practicing without the speaker on!

Finally, the XLR output jack plays out your dialed-in mix of the Vocal and Instrument audio channels so they may be routed to a larger house PA system via its ground-isolated output. Overall level is under control of a Master Volume control.

The Fishman Loudbox Micro is a complete professional product that sells for $299.95 MAP. It is a well-made and designed portable amp that is very flexible, useful and sounds great!

fishman.com/portfolio/loudbox-micro-acoustic-amplifier

► MÄAG AUDIO PREQ2-500 MIC PREAMP

The Mäag Audio PreQ2-500 Mic Pre-amp with EQ comes with the company's very popular Air Band® shelving equalizer built-in. This all-analog single-channel module is suitable for both recording and mixing and fits into a single slot of a standard 500VPR rack. It has up to 71dB of class-A mic gain and is perfectly suited for all input sources. Easily record whisper-quiet vocals using a low output dynamic or ribbon mic to background/foley sound effects to very loud drums using condenser mics.

Besides the standard 150-ohm low impedance microphone input that uses a custom nickel-core input transformer, there is also a high-impedance 1/4-inch input jack on the front panel for recording direct instruments. That same signal coming in is also boosted, isolated and sent out a second front panel 1/4-inch unbalanced Inst/Thru jack. This Thru signal goes out loss-free (even over a long cable) to your guitar amp (or powered speaker) to be amplified again and then also recorded using a microphone and hopefully another Mäag Audio PREQ2-500.

This unique, built-in re-amplification feature enables creative experimentation when recording and/or mixing using: stomp pedals, guitar amps, or Leslie speaker cabinets. The PREQ2-500 has +25dBU of headroom, and a very low noise floor. The Air Band® has up to 9dB of boost and switchable frequencies of 2.5kHz, 5kHz, 10kHz, 15kHz, 20kHz and 40kHz.

Front panel includes switches for: +48-volt phantom on/off, -20dB attenuation pad, phase/polarity flip, and in/out switches for both the 2nd order 12dB/octave 70-Hz high-pass filter, and the Air Band EQ. The +25dB gain button (A red LED lights up when engaged) selects between two gain ranges of either +20dB to +42dB or +42dB to +71dB.

I liked the large, easy-to-grab, red pre-amp gain knob for continuously adjusting the recording level, but I love the super-clear and pristine sound of this amplifier design. The Mäag Audio PREQ2-500 is a single-channel 500 version of their Dual-Channel 1U rack mount PREQ2 Dual Mic Pre-amp with EQ and a great way to get into the sound of Mäag Audio. It sells for $959 MSRP.

maag.audio/preq2-500

▼ FABFILTER PRO-R 2 PLUG-IN REVERB

FabFilter's Pro-R 2 is much more than an updated version or a "bug fix" of the original Pro-R Reverb. It takes all the great sound of the algorithmic Pro-R reverb and adds support for immersive formats up to 9.1.6 Dolby ATMOS complete with surround cross-feed controls. Pre-delay, Character, and Decay Rate can be balanced between the front and back of the created immersive space.

Pro-R 2's original Modern Reverb Style/algorithm is joined by two new reverbs called Vintage and the great-sounding metallic-tinged Plate. I liked that if you have all other parameters set such as Decay time, Pre-delay, EQ etc., you may substitute any of these three styles without disturbing the other parameters.

I think the ability to import impulse responses (.wav or .aiff formats) that Pro-R 2 will analyze to duplicate any room sound to work within a mix is an excellent feature! I also liked the Freeze button that can be automated for moments in your mix to increase the sustain of a reverb in a musical way. Conversely, the new Auto-Gate feature determines how long the reverb tail should last and is sync-able to the host tempo.

I found good use for the Character feature that modulates and increases the early reflections while the new Thickness control saturates the input signal going into the selected reverb algorithm.

I think if you've been wanting more sound design features or immersive reverberation capabilities, this new Pro-R 2 update is a worthwhile investment in the time to learn how to utilize it completely.

With more control and modern features than before, it is actually a whole new product, FabFilter Pro-R 2 Plug-in Reverb sells for $169 MSRP and is available now.

fabfilter.com/shop

/ 40 Series Studio Microphones

Create Your Own Legacy

For more than three decades, our 40 Series microphones have been the go-to choice for engineers, producers and musicians. These versatile, reliable mics – tested and inspected to our highest quality standards – are trusted by the pros to deliver clean, consistent, and detailed sound. This is the legacy of 40 Series mics. Use them to create your own.

audio-technica.com

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◄ JBL PROFESSIONAL INTRODUCES FIR TUNINGS FOR LOUDSPEAKERS

JBL Professional now has FIR or Finite Impulse Response tunings for certain Control Contractor Series loudspeakers to further enhance their performance. These FIR filters optimize both frequency response and phase response to a finer, more precise setting than has typically been possible with standard IIR "parameter-based" filters. Additionally, these FIR filters were designed to meet JBL Pro's new V6 FIR tuning standard.

The new V6 features include: Equalization to a neutral frequency response, improved linearized phase response above 300 Hz, and then you now can start, with a known flat voicing for further equalization, to the needs of the particular install.

The V6 FIR tunings are for COL600 & COL800, SLP12/T and SLP14/T, GSF6 and GSF8 and Control 68HP products. The posted tunings are for use with Crown DCI-N and DCI-DA power amps.

All models feature premium multi-tap transformers for use in distributed systems and are switchable for direct operation. These are sleek, elegant and non-intrusive speakers and winners of prestigious international design awards for industrial design excellence.

jblpro.com/en-US/site_elements/instructions-for-ae-series-fir-tunings

AUDIX PDX720 SIGNATURE EDITION DYNAMIC MICROPHONE

Audix adds the PDX720 Signature Edition, a futuristic-looking hyper-cardioid professional dynamic studio microphone to their studio collection. The PDX720 is finished in a flat black color and trimmed out in beautiful gold. This end address mic (meaning you talk or sing directly into the end of it rather than into its side) is for studio vocal recording—singing, podcasting, or voiceover work and has an impressive heft weighing in at 1.9 pounds and measuring 8.34-inches in length.

I found the microphone's output level sufficient for most all uses (except for recording super-quiet Foley sound effects) without requiring an external booster amp. I used a professional Millennia Music & Media HV-37 transformer-less mic pre-amp but any inexpensive USB interface will work great.

The PDX720 has two, three-position toggle switches located in a recessed cavity at the opposite end of the mic's all-metal (aluminum) body. There is a Presence boost of either off, 1.5dB or 3dB at about 5-kHz. There is also a low-cut filter with three choices of off, 120-Hz or 155-Hz. The Presence boost adds a little more "cut" to thick vocals.

I liked these switches both off for singing or talking about four inches from the end of the mic. But recording a booming bass drum required the 120-Hz low-cut filter position.

The Audix PX720 proved to be excellent for recording drums with its good directivity that tends to prevent loud hi-hats from being picked up when I had it aimed at a snare drum's top head for example. Its 50-Hz to 20-kHz frequency response and ability to take up to 135-dB SPL make it a natural for positioning close to loud drums. It has a warmer sound without excessive brightness. Thin, small sounding drums take on a thicker quality right away

The PDX720 is designed, machined, assembled and tested by Audix in the U.S. It sells for $799 MSRP.

audixusa.com/products/pdx720-signature-edition

◄ WOLFF AUDIO MEMORE HEADPHONE SYSTEM

Famed designer Paul Wolff has a new, all-analog headphone system that is expandable to accommodate any number of musicians with their own, personal 12-channel headphone mixer. This system has eight mono channels, and two stereo channels arranged in a familiar-looking audio mixer format measuring only 13-inches wide. It requires no instructions or skill to use and MeMore can sit on a desktop or use its threaded mount to attach it atop any microphone stand.

It is powered by an included external power supply connected by a 5-pin XLR connector; MeMore's excellent audio fidelity that'll drive any impedance headphones louder than loud including my power hungry Audeze LCD-X Planar Magnetic pair.

All analog line level audio comes in via db25 (d-subs) connectors. Each mono channel has its own Level control, Pan Pot and T-Q (Wolff Audio's version of a Tilt-like EQ)—a single tone control knob. Increasing brightness lowers the bass at the same time and if the sound is too bright, turn the T-Q control CCW takes down the highs and brings up the bass. These are gentle, "touch-up" EQs with center (flat) detents.

Channels 9/10 and 11/12 are stereo input channels that use both d-subs and rear panel XLR inputs; 11/12 has 1/4-inch TRS inputs as well. These stereo channels also have a single volume control, Pan/Balance, and T-Q control.

MeMore's other features include: a built-in Talkback mic with its own (2:1 ratio) compressor and its own separate XLR output jack and lighted push button with a hands-free 1/4-inch footswitch jack. When MeMore units are linked together, talkback audio is automatically routed to all of them and can also serve as a "hear me" feed mixed into the headphones.

All db25 sockets are "multed" or copied on the rear panel as well as on the bottom of the MeMore for convenience. In addition, there are two additional db25 connectors for linking nearly unlimited MeMore units together without loss of fidelity.

In a live tracking session, you could have a stereo track mix going to Channel 9/10 and then each player could adjust the level of himself using the individual track volume controls for their particular instrument or vocal track.

Channel 11/12 could play a completely different stereo mix at the same time such as for a drummer with click track, an orchestra conductor or for any stereo source that you need individual control over. The possibilities are nearly endless especially for commercials or post-production work where simplicity and speed are very important.

Soon there will be a Direct Digital interface that runs at 96kHz with only 2 SAMPLES of latency (measured at 48kHz). This interface would reside in the control room and existing Dante or Cat-5 cabling could be repurposed. MeMore Headphone Systems start at $1,299 MSRP.

wolffaudio.com

BARRY RUDOLPH is a recording engineer/mixer who has worked on over 30 gold and platinum records. He has recorded and/or mixed Lynyrd Skynyrd, Hall & Oates, Pat Benatar, Rod Stewart, the Corrs and more. Barry has his own futuristic music mixing facility in North Hollywood called Tones 4 $ Studios. He is a lifetime Grammy-voting member of NARAS and a contributing editor for *Mix Magazine*. barryrudolph.com

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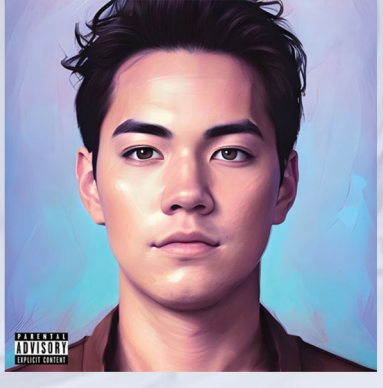

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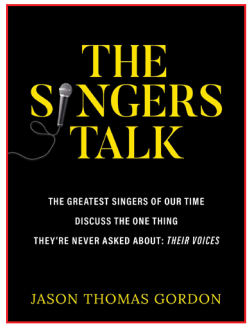
The Singers Talk

By Jason Thomas Gordon

(paperback) **$28.00**

Frontman Jason Thomas Gordon asked his favorite singers how they approach their job behind the microphone, producing more than 70 conversations including: Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen, Mavis Staples, Stevie Nicks, Roger Daltrey, Brittany Howard, Thom Yorke, Chrissie Hynde, Chuck D and Robert Smith, among many others. Most compelling are interviews about voices no longer with us—Steven Van Zandt on Little Richard, Butch Vig on Kurt Cobain, Clive Davis on Whitney Houston and Nile Rodgers on David Bowie.

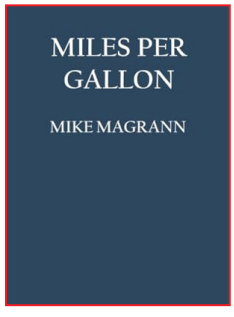


Miles Per Gallon

By Mike Magrann

(paperback) **$20.00**

Miles Per Gallon is the new book from Mike Magrann, frontman of the SoCal hardcore punk band Channel 3. Taking place during the summer of 1983, the novel is the story of a group of very close friends who embark on their first tour of North America as rowdy punk rock kids in the '80s. Think a punk rock *Stand By Me*-meets-*Catcher in the Rye*-meets-*The Air-Conditioned Nightmare*, but with real-life characters from the hardcore circuit like Joey Shithead, Youth Brigade, and The Stretchmarks.

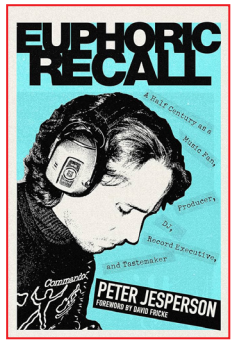


Euphoric Recall

By Peter Jesperson

(hardcover) **$29.95**

Music executive/manager Peter Jesperson found his way into the Minneapolis music world just as it was blossoming in the 1970s and '80s, DJing, managing an influential record store and cofounding Twin/Tone Records, which launched artists such as the Replacements, Soul Asylum, The Suburbs, Babes In Toyland and the Jayhawks. After a half century in the music business, Jesperson shares insights, anecdotes, and lessons from his unique vantage point.

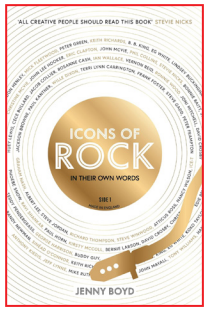


Icons of Rock—In Their Own Words

By Jenny Boyd

(hardcover) **$42.99**

Jenny Boyd, 1960's fashion model, ex-wife of Fleetwood Mac drummer Mick Fleetwood and former sister-in-law of George Harrison and Eric Clapton, spent much of her life in the proximity of musical and cultural influencers. Her access allowed her to interview some of the world's most recognizable musicians regarding their thoughts about the creative process. Her new book *Icons of Rock—In Their Own Words* is a compendium that provides an intimate insight into how some the world's greatest musicians and producers created some of their greatest work.

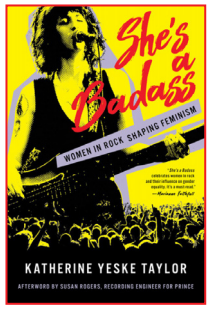


She's a Badass

By Katherine Yeske Taylor

(hardcover) **$34.95**

Music journalist Katherine Yeske Taylor interviews 20 significant and compelling women in rock, revealing the unique challenges faced, how they overcame them, and what still needs to be done to continue making progress toward equality. Interviewees include: Suzi Quatro, Ann Wilson (Heart), Gina Schock (The Go-Go's), Lydia Lunch, Suzanne Vega, Cherie Currie (The Runaways), Joan Osborne, Amy Ray (Indigo Girls), Tanya Donelly (The Breeders), Paula Cole, Tobi Vail (Bikini Kill), Amanda Palmer, Orianthi, and Fefe Dobson.



The White Stripes—Complete Lyrics 1997-2007

By The White Stripes

(hardcover) **$55.00**

Third Man Books has released *The White Stripes Complete Lyrics*, a deluxe new hardbound book documenting all of Jack White's original words written for the 6x Grammy Award-winning duo he and Meg White formed in 1997 through the release of their final album in 2007. The first-time-ever lyric collection also features never-before-seen and rare rough drafts, alternate lyrics, and photographs, alongside exclusive essays and introductions by Hanif Abdurraqib, Ben Blackwell, and Caroline Randall Williams.

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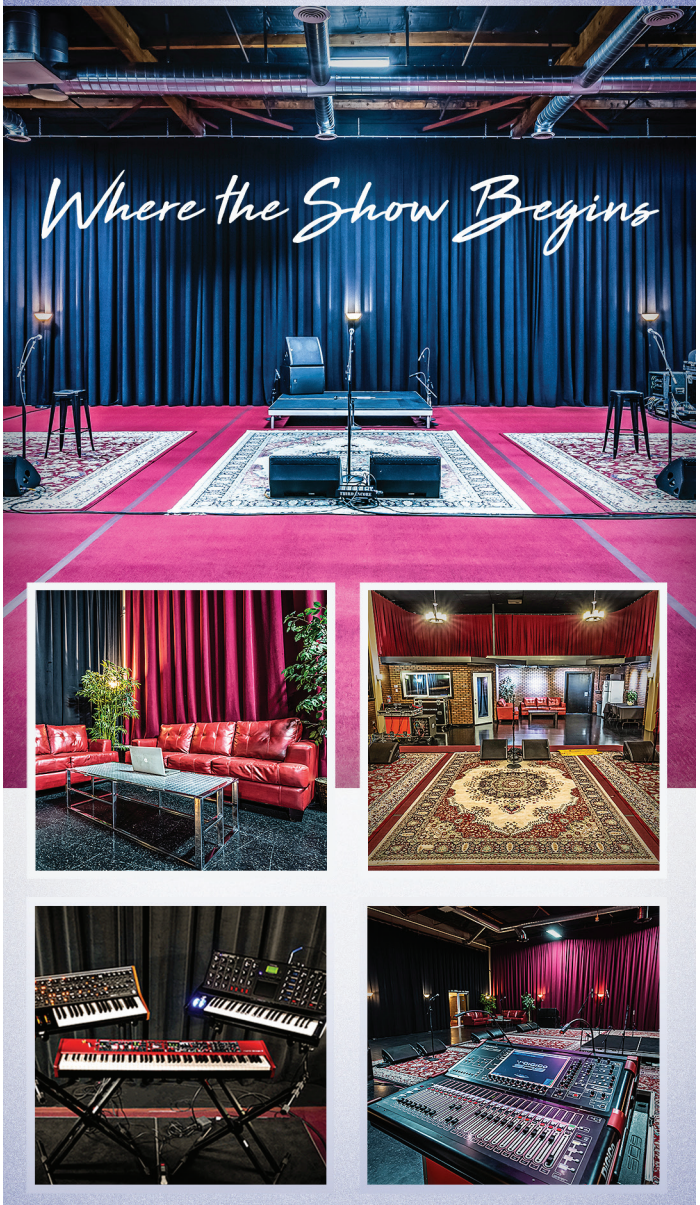

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AEA Ribbon Mics

aearibbonmics.com

Historical Connection to RCA: 93 years after RCA's first ribbon mic impacted both the audio and broadcast industries, AEA Ribbon Mics in Pasadena is still mastering the art of the ribbon, creating state-of-the-art mics and preamps that bring the imaginations of musicians and engineers to life. AEA's original owner Wes Dooley, an engineer and audio salesman who started the company as a record label, began servicing RCA's classic ribbon mics in the mid-'70s after GE bought out RCA and closed its microphone division. After surviving cancer, Dooley made it his goal to create a replica of the RCA 44BX from the stock replacement parts AEA had built up over two decades. Since creating the AEA R44C, the company has built and designed an array of new ribbon mics, each with a unique application and function, using the same RCA traditions combined with advanced ribbon technology and updated manufacturing techniques. AEA's current owner, Julie Tan, is a 30-year audio industry veteran who began her association with Dooley and his wife as a sales consultant.

Since taking the reins in 2022, Julie has made it her mission to not only continue to bring AEA's products to a wider market, but also to help build a consortium that promotes and preserves legendary analog-based companies with roots in Southern California.

Trademark AEA Products: In 2000, Dooley followed the R44C with the first of two proprietary ribbon mics that launched the company's era of original products. The R84 series ribbon mics delivered the classic tonality of the legendary R44, with extended top-end and reduced proximity effect for mid-ranger and close-range recording. The R84A is an active version of the passive R84 that allows compatibility with a wider ranger of preamps. The R88 Stereo ribbon mics, which followed in 2005, capture sound as the ears hear it, with an honest and open tonality. The R88 and R88A effortlessly record complex sources like drums, strings, piano and other instruments that produce intricate transients, harsher highs and bellowing lows.

NUVO Series: AEA's bestselling line of active mics is its NUVO modern ribbon series, including the ubiquitous near-field 22 and far-field N8. In Spring 2024, the company will release a new midfield NUVO series called the mid-field N13. They are also releasing 44-CX25LE a limited edition 25th Anniversary of their flagship mic as well as TDI, an active DI box based on the circuitry of our acclaimed RQP and TRP preamps.

Quote from Julie Tan: "Sonically, our ribbon mics offer less harshness and brassiness. These mics are used a lot on brass sections to tame harsh overtones. Digital recording emphasizes the sharpness of square waves at the high end, while analog old school mics smooth out the sharper, harsher tones. AEA mics are a throwback to the analog sound people appreciate on vinyl records. We're long past the era of the '90s and 2000s where every recording was as ear piercing as possible. We are dedicated to bringing that old analog warm into the digital realm."

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Iconic audio designer Paul Wolff has joined forces with DCA to create a new entrant in professional audio. Wolff Audio's mission is to expand and redefine the boundaries of professional audio, delivering products that inspire and empower audio professionals at every level, who demand nothing less than uncompromising quality with innovative control.

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NAMM **BOOTH 15502**

www.wolffaudio.com

▲ CIRCLE THE EARTH WORK LIKE MANICS

L.A. band Circle the Earth has been working on a new album with multi-platinum producer Erik Ron at Eric Ron Studios. The EP is to be called *Maniac on Mute*. Pictured (l-r): Michael McBay, Erik Ron and Khadia Handon.

▲ ANTHRAX SINGER WORKS WITH JAY RUSTON

Joey Belladonna, frontman with pioneering thrash metal band Anthrax, has been in the studio recording vocals with producer Jay Ruston. "Every take I do has to be full of energy and full of impact, so I'm knocking down every chair in the room to get to the other side, just trying to get something really, really magical," says Belladonna.

▲ JORGAN CARLSSON AT EASTWEST

Jorgan Carlsson (Gov't Mule, Steve Lukather) is currently producing Australian artist D Henry Fenton's next record at EastWest Studio's. Carlsson also engineered and played bass on the Aussie's currently unnamed record scheduled for release in late 2024. Pictured (l-r): Jorgan Carlsson with D Henry Fenton in studio 3.

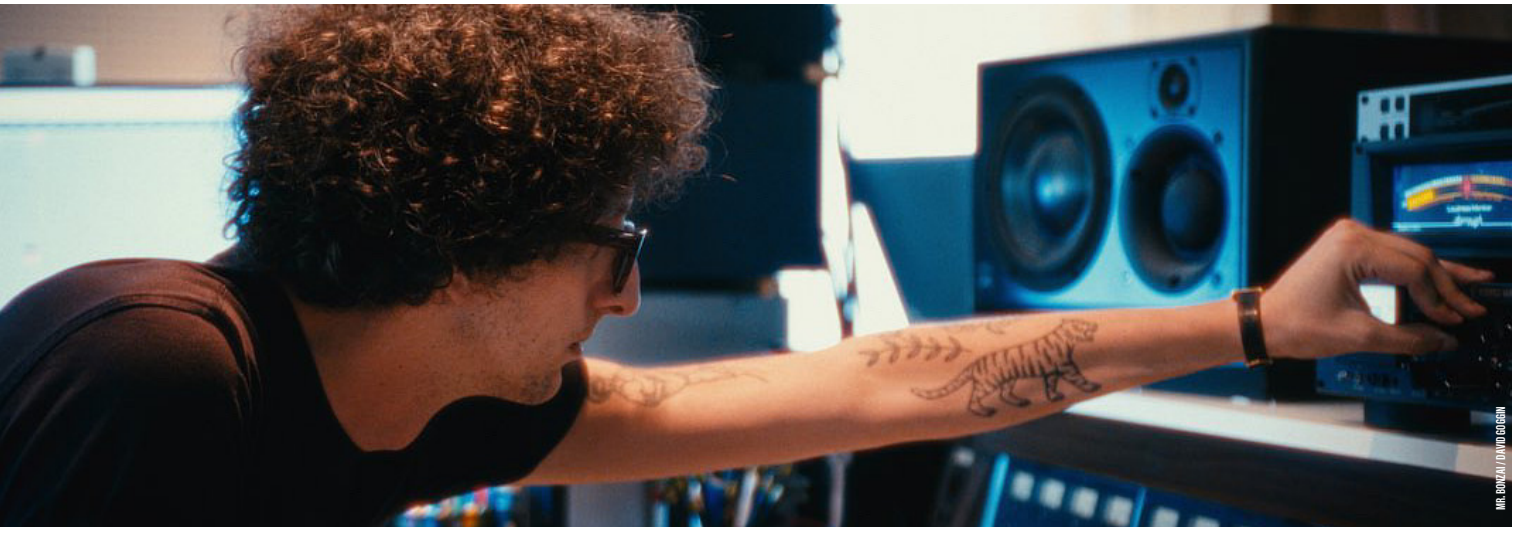
▲ MAYDAY PARADE AT TELEFUNKEN

Eclectic rockers Mayday Parade performed and filmed at TELEFUNKEN's Soundstage recently. The band's performance was tracked with a full complement of the company's microphones. Colin Lorne (pictured), who is the band's FOH mixer on the road, recorded the performance and also mixed the tracks for the new series.

PRODUCER PLAYBACK

"The only challenge I saw initially was that I had to ask the band to be patient with me. When I asked them to play something again or to step outside of their comfort zone, there was a reason for that."

— **ERIC BASS** *(Shinedown)*



▲ MARC WHITMORE AT SHANGRI-LA

Engineer, producer and mixer Marc Whitmore earned a 2022 Grammy nomination for "Album of the Year," and he has followed that feat with a nomination in the same category this year. Whitmore is pictured at Shangri-La Studios in Malibu, CA.

▲ JONAS JALHAY USES AMPHION ONE15S AND FLEXBASE25

Jonas Jalhay (pictured with his cute dog) is the engineer for Meghan Trainor and Jason Mraz. He recently transitioned to mixing/engineering from home and he has found that Amphion One15s and Flexbase25 "reveal the true sound and even allow to operate remote rehearsals because of the reliability of the sound reproduction."

▲ DAVID RIDEAU ON SEMINAR DUTY

Grammy-winning producer and engineer David Rideau will deliver two seminars daily at this year's Inter BEE exhibition in Japan, on behalf of U.K. loudspeaker manufacturer PMC. The company will be showcasing a range of professional monitors that are ideally suited to mixing music in immersive audio formats such as Dolby Atmos.

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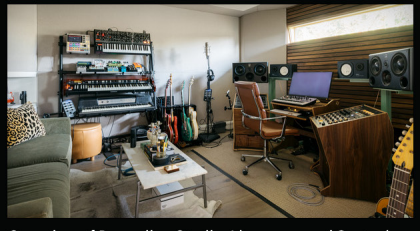
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SCOTT STORCH

Scott Storch created his first beat at the age of 13. It marked his initial step towards becoming a successful, Grammy-nominated producer. His career-making break came when he was recruited to play keys with the Roots. That experience both clarified and sharpened his focus and he realized that the recording side of music appealed to him more than the touring side. So he maximized his studio time and went on to produce with Dr. Dre on "Still D.R.E." from the multi-platinum album *2001*. Ultimately this led to work with artists including Beyoncé, Justin Timberlake and Post Malone.

Music attracts different people for a range of reasons. For Storch, the draw has always been melodies. "That's what I love to work on in the studio or when I'm doing collaborations," he explains. "That's also what I think people recognize most when it comes to my work."

It's relatively common among producers and engineers to rely upon an innate sense of when a song, beat, or melody is on target. But of course that's never a guarantee of success. Few things ever are. "After doing this for so long, I just have an ear for it," Storch asserts. "My intuition still comes into play when I'm working with others, but in those cases it also depends on the artist and the label."

Storch faced a number of personal challenges earlier in his career. They were serious enough that he was compelled to step away from production temporarily. When he was ready to return, he found that it was harder than he'd expected. "Once I was in a great place mentally and was ready to get back into music, things had changed so much," he recollects of that difficult time. "I had to learn all the fresh sounds and sonics and met with a lot of new, young talented artists."

"What helped the most was getting Steve Lobel, my new manager," the producer continues. "He put in a lot of time not only with me, but with major players in the industry. We fought every battle together and he made those connections to get me back into the rooms with young, relevant artists like Trippie Redd, Russ and Post Malone."

As an established producer, Storch is ideally positioned to offer guidance to behind-the-glass newcomers. "Upcoming producers now have social media, which can either shoot artists to fame or bury them in the crowd," he observes. "My best advice is to stay true to yourself. Stick to what you believe and create your own unique sound."

Driven by his ethic as much as his passion, Storch remains prolific. Significant time and effort were devoted to the creation of the KRK Scott Storch CLASSIC 8ss monitor alongside Gibson. He's also in the early stages of a film about his life. New music continues to be at his forefront, which includes collaboration with his son Jaden. Much of his work now is completed at his home studio, which he's spent years refining. However, he remains open to producing in other spaces, particularly with artists who are interested in exploring different environments.

Visit instagram.com/scottstorchofficial

THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT

. . . lessons he's learned as a producer are:

- **There's no secret recipe to success. You can work hard, have a great personality and craft a unique sound. But if it's not your time, it's not your time.**
- **Brand yourself beyond your music. As producers and artists, we can promote ourselves in other areas.**
- **The importance of collaboration. I love working with other producers now. Those sessions are a great learning opportunity for everyone involved.**

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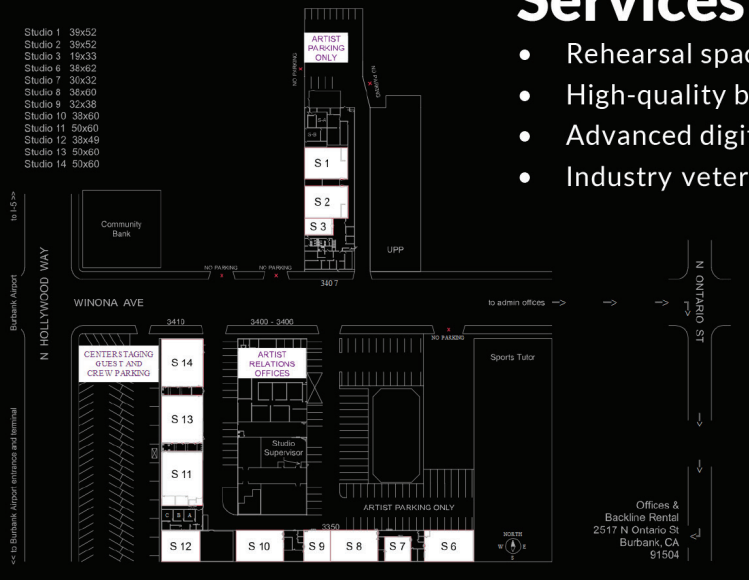

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BACKGROUND

When Erik Ljungqvist moved back home to Stockholm from London, the change was prompted by twin desires—to start a family and to join Amuse, the digital music distribution service that's been disrupting the industry since 2015. Additionally, the company offers licensing deals, operates its own label, and provides artist financing.

"With other distributors, their singular mission is to be a distributor. Ours is that, but we have the distribution service so we can identify growing artists that we can license, give an advance and help."

An Amusing Concept

We were built on the idea that we can leverage data from our distribution platform to identify music with momentum at an early stage. We want to build artist-friendly services for the DIY and independent artist communities and really support them. Our services stretch from supporting an artist that might do a few thousand streams or less per year to an artist who does billions, with the artist staying independent. They set the direction; we're merely there to support them on their journey.

Using Data To Identify Rising Stars

We sign people to our distribution platform and, if they start to grow, we spot that early on. We can help them understand what they should do next. We're very good at understanding what the artist needs.

We get lots of data from the streaming services but also social platforms like TikTok or YouTube. We have advanced algorithms and an advanced machine-learning system that can spot tracks picking up momentum.

Distribution Tiers

We have a tier called Start, which is free. It gives access to any artist to distribute their music. That's for the beginner artist, usually. If you're not rich or sure how to do it, you can join us and get a taste.

And then we have two paid tiers, Boost and Pro. Boost is the middle tier, where you get access to a few advanced features. And then we have Pro, which is the premium tier aimed at artists who might have a team or multiple projects.

Also, with each tier you go up, you get faster support and are able to push yourself quicker, etc.

Data Crunching With Insights

We launched Insights earlier this year [2023.] We work continually to improve it. It's important that you don't just look at it as data. We help you do that. We try to show where users are coming from. Are they listening to music organically or are they listening to music through playlists? Where are they? I think we are the only service that displays TikTok data. We also show YouTube content ID data.

The important thing for artists is to have a presence wherever their listeners are. If their fans are on a Discord channel, they should try to do something for that. If they see a lot of listeners appearing in a certain city, it might be a good idea to advertise in that region.

Remote Mastering Services

Few people can hire a mastering engineer, because it's expensive. And mastering is a tricky process. We are partnering with a Norwegian startup, Masterchannel, which has built A.I. tech around their mastering service. We are offering that service to our users.

A.I. is taking big steps and can give you really nice results in a short time with no effort. If you pay $5 to get your track mastered and do ten tracks a year, that's $50. That's significantly less than buying a software program or hiring a mastering engineer. And you can still get really good results.

Flexible Funding

We have two advance products, one of which is Early Access. You get access to your money earlier than you would. Normally, you'd have to wait around three months. We can shorten that by approximately two months.

And then we have Fast Forward. It's an automated advance that predicts how your music will perform and calculates an advance on that. It's tailored to you. You still control your rights; we don't own your masters or anything. You recoup across your whole catalog, so if you take a Fast Forward offer today and upload ten new songs tomorrow, all of that will count toward your recoup, so you can recoup faster.

Early Access can be from $5 up to a few thousand. With Fast Forward, you can go a bit bigger. We have our licensing business, which is more manual but still tailored to how you're performing and what you need. We can cover a wide range of artists' financial needs.

Financially Fueling Careers

When we launched Fast Forward, we had a band based in Ireland, Blue Americans. They wrote to us and said that offer made it possible to pay for flights and accommodations to London for a gig, which they would not have been able to afford. That's a prime example of what we are trying to do—give [artists] cash they need at that moment so they can accelerate their careers.

Playlist Pitching With Groover

There are multiple things you should do [to promote yourself,] but playlist pitching is one of them. And you can pitch to playlists through a service like Groover.

With Groover, you're not paying to get your music onto playlists. You're paying for the ability to pitch it. You should always be wary of services that say they guarantee a spot on a playlist, because the likelihood of it not being organic is high. But with Groover, they're real playlists. They look to make sure they're not bot-driven or that there's no stream farming.

More Than Distribution

We don't see ourselves as only a distributor. We see ourselves as a music company that builds artist-fan services for the independent community. And we use data to identify music that has momentum at an early stage. So for us, it's not only about distribution. That's almost a means to an end.

With other distributors, their singular mission is to be a distributor. Ours is that, but we have the distribution service so we can identify growing artists that we can license, give an advance and help.

We have artists that have started on our Start tier for free and then started growing. We were able to identify that, and they're now selling gold and platinum in the U.K. With us, you can stay the whole way through your career and we'll be able to support you.

Having Artists' Best Interests in Mind

We genuinely have our artists' best interests in mind. We have a culture that is extremely artist-friendly. We have a lot of people who work at Amuse that are artists. And we always put artists in focus with what we're trying to do. There's an extremely strong culture of wanting to improve the lives of people that do music.

Never Surrender

Don't give up. We see a lot of cases where an artist uploads songs, they get a few streams but it doesn't grow much. And then one day, the right person finds your song. It can blow up very quickly. We see that happen time and time again.

OPPS

TikTok wants a Music Partnership Development Lead
As the Music Partnership Development Lead (North America), you will play a pivotal role within the Music Vertical of the Global Music Partnership Development team. The team specializes in forging high-level partnerships in the area of music business across the globe. Their primary goal is to grow the ByteDance music ecosystem by enhancing ByteDance products within the music sector through strategic collaborations with target partners and to deliver a distinct and elevated experience to the artist community. Apply at EntertainmentCareers.net.

Guitar Center is looking for a Music Teacher.
As a Music Teacher, youwill be responsible for teaching music lessons to students according to the Guitar Center Lessons curriculum. You will work to increase student count ensuring each student continues to grow, develop, and enjoys playing music all while nurturing the culture of integrity, inclusion, musical passion, and respect. Apply at ZipRecruiter.

The National Football League needs a Production Assistant, Music Admin.
As a Production Assistant in the music department you will be responsible for assisting the music team with reporting and administrative functions primarily focused on filing cue sheets for music uses in NFL Media productions. Essential Functions Work closely with the Music Coordinator and other Production Assistants to track music cues across NFL Media platforms and various music administration tasks. Be a key contributor for the creation of cue sheets for reporting to performance rights organizations (PROs). Prepare source music cues for computer entry by working with various production teams and content producers to ensure accurate use. Apply at Geebo.

Bravada, a division of Universal Music Group, wants a Product Manager.
Bravado International Group is the only global, 360-degree full-service merchandise company, develops and markets high-quality licensed merchandise to a world-wide audience. The company works closely with new and established entertainment clients, creating innovative products carefully tailored to each artist or brand. Product is sold on live tours, via selected retail outlets, and through Web-based stores. Bravado also licenses rights to an extensive network of third-party licensees around the world. Apply at Geek.

Sam Ash Music Corp. needs Hello Music Teachers!
Sam Ash Music's Learning Center is growing and they are interviewing experienced music teachers who can benefit from their awesome access to aspiring and current musicians in your area seeking music instruction. Sam Ash Music offers lessons for beginners through advanced in all styles and genres on the following instruments: guitar, bass, keyboards, vocal instruction as well as band and orchestral including sax, trumpet, flute, and violin. So, if you're tired of traveling to your students' homes or having them come to your place, why not teach them in the exciting, musically charged environment of Sam Ash Music? Apply at ZipRecruiter.

▲ DEICIDE BURY THE CROSS

Floridian death metal titans Deicide celebrated the festive season in their own death metal fashion, releasing ferocious new single "Bury the Cross..." "The track was forged in the depths of Smoke and Mirrors, with Deicide at the helm of production," they say. "Engineering wizardry was provided by Jeramie Kling, with Taylor Nordberg lending his skills. The final alchemy of mixing and mastering was conjured by Josh Wilbur." Contact maria@adrenalinepr.com for more info.

Warner Music Group wants a VP, Label Marketing & Development.
As ADA, a division of Warner Music Group, Vice President of Label Development and Marketing, you will optimize their relationship management through establishing efficient processes, standardizing the client experience, and coaching label managers to become superstars. You will be focused on growing the business of their labels, identifying growth opportunities and working cross-functionally to drive this growth. You will bring marketing and analytical expertise to elevate the level of service and value proposition to their label partners. Apply at Geebo.

Spotify wants an Associate Director, Music Publishing Licensing.
Are you the next business lead in the Music Publishing team? At Spotify, they're passionate about providing the right music for every moment. They've connected

DIY Spotlight — GIRLI

Rising electro pop star Girli (stylized as *girli*) loved performing for people and being on stage from childhood.

"My parents are actors and I was so inspired and enthralled by the idea of performing for an audience and making them feel things," she says. "I started my first band when I was 15 to escape from the horrible time I was having at school. It gave me a chance to escape my reality, meet new people, and think about the future. I had started going to gigs that year and the idea of writing my own songs and performing was so exciting. Writing songs came naturally to me because I loved writing fiction and short stories and poetry already, so I started singing those stories instead."

Girli now describes her sound as, "left-field, quirky alt-pop that's vulnerable but also bold as fuck." Her latest release is the *Matriarchy* album, which she recorded over eight months from the end of 2022, in London, Stockholm and L.A.

"The songs are about how I was experiencing my queerness at that time, how heartbreak was tearing me apart but also rebuilding me better, about experiencing healthy love for the first time, my struggles with my mental health, learning self-love and healing from everything," Girli says. "It's a rollercoaster of an album."

For Girli, "DIY" means having complete creative control over her art.

"Making all the major decisions about my project and being in full control of my touring, merch, and with an independent music distributor," she says.

Girli spent the last part of 2023 in internet hibernation, prior to her plans for a big 2024.

"I always take like three weeks off social media over the holidays, it's important to me to reset and manifest for the next year," she says. "

For more information, visit girlimusic.com.

CLARYN CHONG

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For More Career Opportunities, check out musicconnection.com daily. And sign up for MC's Weekly Bulletin newsletter.

PROPS

Congrats APAP Winners
The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) announced the names of eight outstanding individuals who received APAP Awards in January. The 2024 honorees are seven-time Grammy winner and two-time Oscar nominee **Terence Blanchard**, dance and arts managers **Lisa Booth** and **Deirdre Valente**, Lincoln Center's Chief Artistic Officer **Shanta Thake**, arts researcher **Randy Cohen**, arts philanthropists **John W. Brown** and **Rosemary Kopel Brown**, and dance artivist **Ruby Morales**. Booth died in 2023 and will be awarded posthumously. Contact communications@apap365.org for more info.

THE BIZ

Medallion raises $13.7M to accelerate development of its direct artist-to-fan platform
Artist-to-fan platform **Medallion** has raised $13.7 million which it intends to use to "accelerate an ambitious technical roadmap to deliver net new revenue opportunities." Contact inge@goldatl.as for more info.

BRETT CALLWOOD has written about music for two decades, originally for Kerrang!, Classic Rock, Metal Hammer and more in the U.K. He's the author of two books, about Detroit proto-punks, the MC5 and the Stooges. He's now the associate editor at *Music Connection* and the music editor at LA Weekly, and has regular bylines in the Village Voice and Culver City News. He can be reached at brettc@musicconnection.com.

▲ YOASOBI FEEL A HEART BEAT

J-pop duo Yoasobi have released a new single called "Heart Beat," which is the theme for an annual TV show in Japan called *Yoasobi 18 Fest*. The show sees a group of 18-year-olds submit messages, essays and performance videos following a specific theme. This year, that theme is "heart beat." Contact samantha.tilman@sacksco.com for more info.

The LEGAL Beat

BY GLENN LITWAK

BLACKPINK MEMBERS GO SOLO

South Korean K-pop supergroup Blackpink announced that they were re-signing with their record label as a group, but not as solo artists.

Blackpink members Jennie, Jisoo, Rose, and Lisa will pursue their solo careers after they decided not to renew their individual contracts with their record label, YG Entertainment. YG issued the following statement:

"Blackpink recently renewed their contracts with YG for their group activities, and we have agreed not to proceed with additional contracts for [the members] individual activities... We will do our utmost to support Blackpink's activities, and we will cheer on the members' individual activities with warm hearts."

YG's statement was interesting in that one would think they would have preferred to keep them signed for their solo careers because of the success of the group. But apparently the members were free not to resign as solo artists.

YG formed Blackpink in August of 2016 and they have gone on to win such awards as the 2023 MTV Video Music Award for the Group of the Year. They also became the first K-pop group to headline at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

The individual members of the group have embarked on solo projects before. But they spent most of 2023 on their worldwide concert tour supporting their 2022 album, *Born Pink*.

Jennie recently announced that she has founded a new company called Odd Atelier (OA). It is basically a record label that will be "a space that aims to create new things that attract attention in a different way from is usual or expected."

In 2021 Jennie and Rose released solo albums and Jisoo did so in 2023.

There is a long history in the music industry of members of groups branching out to pursue successful solo careers. For instance, the solo careers of the Beatles John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison. Or the individual careers of Beyonce, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Justin Timberlake, and Harry Styles.

But why do artists decide to go solo when they have been in very successful groups? There are several possible reasons:

1. Creative control. Artists may feel like they can do more of what they want to do. For instance, George Harrison felt like Lennon and McCartney treated him like a little brother (he was a little younger than them) and they only gave him a few songs on each album while contributing the lion's share with their own compositions. George felt he had a tremendous amount of good material so when he went solo after the Beatles broke up his first release was a three-album masterpiece *All Things Must Pass* in November of 1970.

2. Financial incentives: Why split the income with a group when you can receive more of the pie as a solo artist?

3. Group friction: As time goes by often friction arises among the members leading to the dissolution of the group and the pursuit of individual careers (think Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young).

GLENN LITWAK is a veteran entertainment attorney based in Santa Monica, CA. He has represented platinum selling recording artists, Grammy winning music producers, hit songwriters, management and production companies, music publishers and independent record labels. Glenn is also a frequent speaker at music industry conferences around the country, such as South by Southwest and the Billboard Music in Film and TV Conference. Email Litwak at gtllaw59@gmail.com or visit glennlitwak.com.

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DARKEST HOUR

Date Signed: February 2023
Label: MNRK Heavy
Band Members: Mike Schleibaum, guitar; John Henry, vocals; Aaron Deal, bass; Travis Orbin, drums; Nico Santora, guitar
Management: Mike Schleibaum and Tito Picon
Booking: U.S.A.: Jonathan Willson - Sound Talent Group, EU/U.K.: Marco Wazel - Avocado Booking
Legal: Beverly Davis
Publicity: Atom Splitter PR
Web: darkesthour.ffm.to/perpetualterminal
A&R: Carl Severson and Steve Seabury

"We have a Patreon. We have a fan base. We have two and a half decades worth of music. We don't need to be on a label!" Meet Mike Schleibaum of D.C.'s Darkest Hour, a metal outfit with 25 years of history that includes over 10 record deals over nine full-length releases. On February 23, they will be releasing their 10th full-length. And until recently, they were adamant that they were done with record labels. After all, they'd already wrapped in the studio; possess their own global booking agents; and have self-managed themselves for years.

Somewhere between the band's 2017 independent release and now, however, DH realized all that time receiving orders, shipping albums,

"We have two and a half decades worth of music. We don't need to be on a label!"

chasing royalties etc., was time taken away from what the band loved to do most—play. So after a bit of a post mortem, Darkest Hour began wondering if a label could help. Coincidentally, this is also when MNRK Heavy joined the chat.

"There was a longtime friend at MNRK Heavy who contacted us and was like, 'Hey, you guys are killing it... but how are you going to do this upcoming release?'" explains Schleibaum. MNRK Heavy is a subsidiary of MNRK, formerly known as eOne, who released Darkest Hour's *The Human Romance* in 2011. What caught Darkest Hour's eye was the label's focus on up-and-coming artists, not just known acts. However, Darkest Hour have the battle scars to know what labels want in return, and the band wasn't going to budge on royalties.

Much to Schleibaum's surprise, the label pitched making its money in places the band wasn't already. "I can't say that it's as simple as they gave us all the digital money and all the publishing and blah, blah, blah—but they gave us everything we wanted and what no [other] label would give us: a deal that ends, but in good faith." Basically, the band and label will check in after each release and see if the partnership is still fruitful. No "three-to-five release minimums."

When asked to share some knowledge on surviving the ups and downs of the industry, Schleibaum had this to say: "Practice. Do things slowly. Like, if you're gonna practice a set, practice the song slower than you normally plan to get everybody's group muscle memory together. Practice at home, the stuff that's really hard, slower. And if there's nothing that's hard, either you don't know how to practice, you're not listening, or you guys are not trying hard enough. You have to be as hungry to learn about practice as you are learning about success." ***– Andy Mesecher***

CARPOOL

Date Signed: October 2023
Label: SideOneDummy Records
Band Members: Chris Colasanto, guitar, vocals; Tommy Eckerson, guitar; Milo Duhn, bass, vocals; Alec Westover, drums, vocals
Type of Music: Punk
Management: Dan Doyle and Trevor Chesler - 918 Management
Booking: Jason Parent - Sound Talent Group
Legal: Henderson Cole
Publicity: Daniel Cooper - Lucky Bird Media, daniel@luckybirdmedia.com
Web: carpoolny.band
Label Manager/A&R: Phil Bender-Simon

Says Chris "Stoph" Colasanto of Carpool's signing with SideOneDummy Records, "I've been buying shit from SideOne since I was 11 years old. It's a very full-circle, wild moment to be on that label now." The band has also signed with Sound Talent Group.

With phenomenal friends and family supporting them, Colasanto says "Rochester's the number one city on Earth. They picked us up and put us on their shoulders, so it means a lot." Releasing their 2018 EP independently (re-released with Old Press Records, now part of Acrobat) they performed in-studio at Audiotree in 2020 for wider promotion. Summer 2023 brought a tour supporting Cliffdiver (also on the SideOneDummy roster). Cliffdiver and manager Dan Doyle pushed for them to be heard.

"I could go on forever about how much I love our team," says Colasanto. "They're great people. Referring to Doyle as a "true Western New York cat—cordial, kind, and cooperative," Doyle ran a venue where

"I could go on forever about how much I love our team."

Carpool played frequently and the band invited him to join them on tour. Manager Trevor Chesler is a "nose to the grindstone, locked and loaded, man on his game," and Colasanto describes label manager Phil Bender-Simon as "one of the realest people I've ever met in the industry, an absolute blessing and a dream come true. It's a pure, genuine interaction every time."

The shift in momentum is already obvious. "Marketing, press, rollout—everything is official," emphasizes Colasanto. "The song ["Can We Just Get High?"] is streaming better than any other song we have released. SideOne [gave] us an avenue to be ourselves and do our own thing, while pushing and marketing so people can latch on."

Bender-Simon shares that Carpool have great energy and felt like close friends immediately. "Their music has been stuck in my head for three years. It's that incredible wide-eyed feeling when you hear something truly great."

The signing included an advance and one-album commitment, with an option for two more. Album *My Life In Subtitles* is scheduled for release in March. ***– Andrea Beenham***

CASSIDY PARIS

Date Signed: January 2023
Label: Frontiers
Type of Music: Hard Rock
U.S. Publicity: Dustin Hardman
Web: cassidyparis.com
A&R: Alessandro Del Vecchio

Australian rocker Cassidy Paris may still be in her early twenties, but she's on a mission to make anthemic hard rock cool again—to take the music to a young audience. There are elements of Pat Benatar, Lita Ford and Vixen to her infectious tunes, but there's a contemporary pop edge that allows it to sound fresh.

She has strong roots. Thanks to a musician father, Paris has been around music her whole life and she began learning guitar when she was about four.

"Singing came a little bit later on and that was kind of around the same time that I knew I wanted to take this seriously and take this further," Paris says. "Our good friend Paul Lane, ex-Danger Danger, he came down for some shows in Australia. Then I started taking singing lessons and things like that. That's when we really started to get the ball rolling and things started to happen."

Paris' new single is called "Danger," which is appropriate, given that she has worked with Paul Lane, and fellow Danger Danger alum Bruno Ravel. That hair/glam metal vein runs through all of her work.

"It's very '80s infused but it's a modern take on your favorite '80s rock artists," Paris says. "I'm very inspired by people like Vixen, Pat Benatar, Joan Jett, Lita Ford, and then I love bands like Halestorm so I love the heavier side of things, as well. My dad's been able to show me the ropes."

It's entirely appropriate that Paris signed a deal with Frontiers, a label

"I describe high school as a bit of a war zone for me."

that specializes in hard rock and glam metal.

"I sent over 'Danger,' my newest single that was released two weeks ago now, to Frontiers and they really digged the sound that I was going for," she says. "Everything started from there. Frontiers has been a record label that has supported and produced so many different artists that I love. They have some people working with me that are very knowledgeable as well."

Paris's debut album is *New Sensation*, and the themes covered include the bullying that she suffered in high school.

"I describe high school as a bit of a war zone for me because people didn't really understand what I stood for, and a rock chick now in Melbourne Australia is a little bit more of a rarity," she says. "People weren't very kind to me in high school and I wrote about it and channeled it into my music, and I think ultimately I'm glad that I did experience that because I feel like I'm a stronger person and I got a really good song out of it as well."

She's sure showing them! ***-Brett Callwood***

HOUSE PARTIES

Date Signed: October 2023
Label: Equal Vision Records
Band Members: Chaney, lead vocals; Spencer Trinidad, guitar; Wesley K. Jones, drums
Type of Music: Power Pop/Rock
Management: Josh Terry, Workshop Management
Booking: Brad Wiseman, Sequel Music Group
Legal: Bryan Christner
Publicity: Erica DelGenio, erica@bigpicturemediaonline.com
Web: housepartiesband.com
A&R: Dan Sandshaw, Equal Vision Records

"Braindead" is the new single and video for this newly signed outfit from Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas. With splashes of emo, late '90s pop/punk and alt-rock they bowl the audience over like a ton of bricks. "It's a high energy song," says Chaney about the new single. "The meaning is not too deep. It's an anthem for stupid people."

Chaney and guitarist Trinidad met in 2020 and began writing songs. Upon releasing an EP they found drummer Jones online. They officially were recognized as a band releasing original material in 2021. From there they pursued the typical avenues playing live, with an "emo night" in Dallas being their first venture. Through the process of releasing

"I see bands getting bigger doing pop-rock or are super-emo."

material online and doing a fair amount of touring they caught the attention of Equal Vision Records.

"Actually, Equal Vision was really the only label that would give us the time of day," explains Chaney. "DIY and being independent is really cool, but it's really hard financially. I just felt being on a label would get us more traction. Also, people can follow a label and it's another way to discover and gain new fans and stuff. It's also really hard to get opportunities when you're independent. If you have a specific vision of something you want to do a label can help create those opportunities and get things done."

While House Parties is currently on the road promoting "Braindead" their game plan is to release follow up singles in the coming months, with an EP and album in the works for 2024.

"I feel like pop-rock is a thing right now," says Chaney. "I see bands getting bigger doing pop-rock or are super emo. I don't think pop-punk is as relevant as it used to be, like in 2014 and 2015. But it's interesting to see older influences like Linkin Park and Blink-182 coming into some of the bands now. We get a lot of Paramore references."

For their next single release they are considering incentives associated with it, such as contests where fans can win handwritten lyric sheets and tickets to a show. ***- Eric Harabadian***

▲ WASSERMAN SIGNS BECERRA

Pop artist Maria Becerra signs to Wasserman Music for global representation (excluding Mexico, Chile, Argentina). Mixing urban pop, hip-hop, bachata, and reggaetón, she has collaborations with Camila Cabello, Becky G, Enrique Iglesias, J Balvin ("Qué Más Pues?" has over 760 m Spotify streams alone).

▶ TYLER TOPS NMPA

Tyler, The Creator lands as top artist-songwriter for 2023's third quarter with 17 certifications on the National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA) Gold & Platinum Program, including 5x platinum "Earfquake," 4x platinum "See You Again," and 2x platinum "New Magic Wand."

▲ ASCAP FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Desmond Child and Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked, Prince of Egypt*) co-host a private intimate piano sing-a-long fundraiser, with performances by guests Maria Bilbao, Ruben Flores, and Peter Cincotti. Pictured (l-r): Nicole-George Middleton, Desmond Child, Adrienne Arsht, Stephen Schwartz.

BMI Congratulates Göransson

BMI congratulates composer Ludwig Göransson for winning the Golden Globe's Best Original Score award for his work on *Oppenheimer* at the 81st Awards Ceremony. Previously nominated for Best Original Song (2023) for "Life Me Up" from *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, Best Original Score (2021) for *Tenet*, and Best Original Score (2019) for *Black Panther*, this is Göransson's first Golden Globe. *Oppenheimer* also scored four other awards, including Best Motion Picture Drama.

SXSW Returns

South by Southwest returns next month (March 8-16) with innovators and creatives sharing top ideas, processes, and expertise to inspire. 2024's featured speakers include Radha Agrawal (Author, Co-Founder of THINX, Co-Founder/CEO/CCA of Daybreaker), Colette Pichon Battle (climate justice organizer, human rights lawyer, vision/initiatives partner for Taproot Earth), Jaime Beard (Founder/Executive Director of Project InnerSpace), Arlan Hamilton (Author/Founder of Backstage Capital and HireRunner.co), Dara Khosrowshahi (CEO of Uber), Tekedra Mawakana (Co-CEO of Waymo), Olivier Rousteing (Creative Director of Balmain), and Laurie Santos (professor of psychology at Yale University, Host of The Happiness Lab podcast). Topics include advertising and branding, artificial intelligence, music and tech, gaming, design, culture, startups, and more. Registration and more information at: sxsw.com.

▲ Emily King Nomination

After three previous nominations, Emily King's latest album, *Special Occasion*, is nominated for Best R&B Album for 2024's GRAMMY Awards. Produced by Jeremy Most, it features with Lukas Nelson and Nick Hakim. Her Spring tour with Jacob Collier kicks off April 27 in Miami.

SOCAN Fights A.I.

Mirroring initiatives in the United States, The Society of Composers, Authors & Musical Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) is urging the Canadian government to adopt a set of principles to protect creatives and regulate artificial intelligence. Together with a group of music organizations, SOCAN has written to the Government of Canada sounding the alarm on A.I.'s impact on the music industry and providing recommendations aimed at protecting "human creativity and culture."

Acknowledging A.I.'s potential to enhance and support creatives, emphasis was placed on specific concerns and outlined a recommended policy framework that balances the goals of the Copyright Act, while fostering human creativity by controlling how creative works are used.
More at: bit.ly/3SbDdCS.

Latin Is Happening

Enrique Iglesias has entered an agreement with Influence Media Partners for rights management of his pre-2021 recording rights including independent masters and Universal recorded royalties, as well as his name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights for future opportunities. With 40 billion cross-platform streams, Iglesias has sold over 180 million albums internationally and headlined 10 sold-out world tours. This is Influence Media's first-ever NIL deal, with the acquisition following 2022's $750 million acquisition fund backed by BlackRock Alternative Investors and Warner Music Group. The latest acquisition follows those of artists Future, Blake Shelton, The Stereotypes, Tainy, Jessie Reyez, Julia Michaels, Tyler Johnson, Logic, and others.

Latin American-based Media Net Partners have also made big moves into the Latin market, launching a $20 million Music Acquisition Rights Fund, with a focus on acquiring and managing music assets within the Latin music industry. They have already secured the rights to songs from Bad Bunny, Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez, and Ricky Martin.

Regional Awards 4U

Owned and operated by Made in Memphis Entertainment, recording studio 4U Recording Atlanta has won the Best of Georgia Award for Best Movie and Recording Studio from the Georgia Business Journal, as voted on by members of the community across the State. Having been open only two years, the studio has already welcomed recording clients including Cee Lo Green, Zaytoven, Rubi Rose, Vince Carter, Raheem DeVaughn, and many others.

Renovated in 2021, the studio includes three separate recording spaces with all new equipment, as well as a podcast room. Founded in 2015 by Stax Records songwriter/producer David Porter (CEO) and business/legal veteran Tony D. Alexander, MIME is dedicated to re-establishing Memphis as a key music hub and expanding its global influence while developing and promoting diverse talent. Full information at mimecorp.com.

Secretly Celebrates 25

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Secretly Distribution announced a global deal with Danger Mouse's 30th Century Records to support new music and their back catalog, including vinyl reissues. Secretly is also working with Bella Figura Music to lend global digital support and vinyl reissues across singer-songwriter David Gray's catalog (*White Ladder* is one of the U.K./Ireland's best-selling albums of all time). Distribution support for Madlib and his label, Madlib Invazion (which will include new music this year) has also been announced.

Multi-year renewals with label partners Capture Tracks (Lemon Twigs, Mac Demarco, Wild Nothing), Run for Cover (Citizen, Modern Baseball, Turnover), and Rhymesayers Entertainment (Aesop Rock, Atmosphere, MF Doom) were also announced. A label service deal with composer Nicholas Britell, a global deal with Chrysalis and Moshi Moshi, partnerships with royalty accounting platform Infinite Catalog, and added artist support with partners drink sum wtr (deem spencer, Kari Faux), Colemine, Big Crown, Mississippi Records, Numero Group, Ghostly International (Tycho, Mary Lattimore), and ZZK (Nicolas Cruz, Jackie Mendoza) followed.

SESAC to Tokyo

With existing partnerships with over 800 clients, Japanese rights management and distribution company NexTone Corporation has signed to global distribution with SESAC-owned music technology company AudioSalad to expand its digital distribution network more globally. As the first Japanese partnership for AudioSalad, NexTone will benefit from additional services including digital marketing and catalog promotion, in addition to leading content management, analytics, delivery, and distribution services.

LyricFind A.I. Expansion

Online lyric provider LyricFind has acquired A.I.-powered video-creation platform Rotor Videos, which bills itself as the 'ultimate app for making music videos' by using A.I. to speed the process and enable users to create video content with minimal known-how and no editing or production skillset. LyricFind's revenue and lyric catalog grew by almost 50 percent in 2022.

ANDREA BEENHAM (aka Drea Jo) is a freelance writer and marketing consultant based in Southern California. The South-African born, Canadian-raised California transplant has a passion for music, people and fun. She can be reached at drea@dreajo.com

▲ HANNA'S REBEL GIRL

Feminist icon/women's rights activist/frontwoman (Bikini Kill, Le Tigre) Kathleen Hanna's 2024 book tour supports memoir *Rebel Girl: My Life as a Feminist Punk*. Sharing stories of her rocky childhood, band and musician friendships, love, health, and growth. See bit.ly/3NTkQzU.

▲ WARNER SIGNS JONES

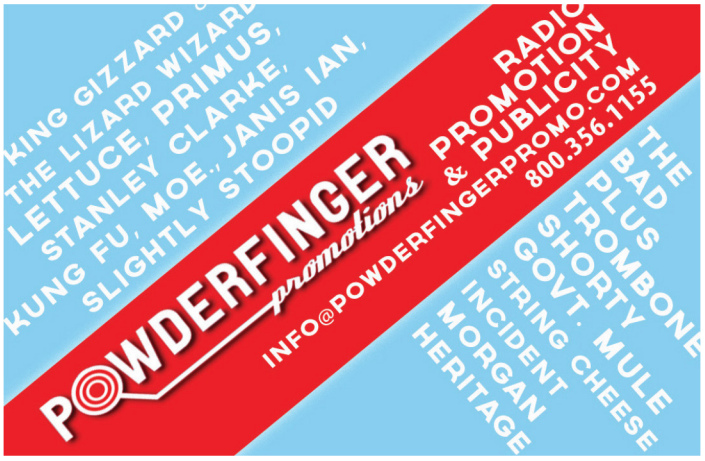
Songwriter Hall of Fame inductee/founding Foreigner member Mick Jones signs global publishing with Warner Chappell Music. With global sales of over 80 m, Jones is the songwriter behind "I Want To Know What Love Is," "Urgent," "Cold As Ice," "Hot Blooded," and "Waiting For A Girl Like You."

▲ SOUNDEXCHANGE HONORS COMMON

Artist-actor-author Common, pictured, receives SoundExchange's American Music Fairness Award for work with American Music Fairness Act (AMFA). The rapper pushes for social justice for mass incarceration, mental health, voting, launched Imagine Justice for students. Pictured (l-r): Michael Huppe, Common.

▲ KISS AVATARS COMING

Iconic band KISS announces eight-foot-tall avatars will take over concerts in 2027, after retiring from touring. Teaming up with Pophouse Entertainment (team behind "ABBA Voyage") and Industrial Light & Magic (the *Star Wars* effects team), avatars will fly over the audience and breathe fire.

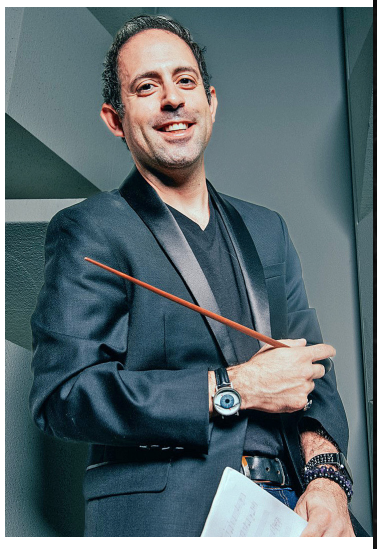


Nadeem Majdalany

Creative Grit

For two-time GRAMMY® and multiple award-winning musician-engineer-composer-songwriter Nadeem Majdalany, music was a passion before he knew how to play an instrument. "I could plunk out what I wanted, match the pitch where it was, then figured out reading the staff on my own," he says. At age eight, he began formal training with Colin Mack, who taught him piano, theory, and composition, and began shaping him as a musician. Between pitch writing, scoring movies to Director specifications, writing songs for placement and inspired from his own life, and compositional works, Majdalany has never been one to take 'no' for an answer and represents the epitome of creating his own opportunities.

His first commission was for the Athens Symphony at just 19 years old while studying at Berklee. Overhearing a conversation in the hallway mentioning that the artistic director and maestro were looking for a new rehearsal conductor (and with no one willing to write him a recommendation, saying he was too young), Majdalany submitted a VHS demo (conducting musical theatre) with just a cover letter. He was accepted with the feedback that "We know you don't have any recommendation letters. You must be really good because that means you've already started upsetting people." Majdalany says that these words would ring even more true over the years, and that the experience in Greece shaped his conducting. "I was being complimented by orchestral members that the energy I give is very inspiring [and] helps them play better. I always try to put that energy into things." The Artistic Director commissioned him to create an orchestral piece during his tenure ("Gloria Et In Terra Pax").



While still in school in Boston and flying back and forth to Greece, he scored his first feature film (*Hopeless*) in 2010, which brought him to Los Angeles. Later contracted for three separate films—none of which moved into production—Majdalany says he always makes sure to get a deposit upfront for all of his work.

The move to Los Angeles was not easy and there were challenging times—including a stint as a jazz pianist at three separate clubs (before finding himself replaced by deejays). Looking back, he says, "there's a downfall but, to rise up again, you have to have the light and dark. Life is being strong enough to cut people out from your life entirely: it takes a lot not to play the game. I think the biggest thing you could do is be okay with who you are."

Starting out, Majdalany had a broken laptop and an Oxygen 8 keyboard with two missing keys. Needing a desk, he stole a milk create from Walgreens and a piece of plywood from a back alley. He worked that way for three years. "It didn't stop me from making music," he says. "You make use of the tools you have. If you can't afford a $2,000 mixer, don't put yourself in the poorhouse trying to make something." Majdalany is also quick to stress the importance of work ethic. "We're great excuse-making machines," he says. "Whether you're too hungover, too tired, or too sick, there's always something that's going to make you not want to do that thing, which means that you just genuinely don't want to do it. Get off the bench and move over for someone else."

Good music balances light and dark, and delivers honesty in the melody and lyrics, Majdalany shares. To keep himself honest, he writes his newest ideas using a pen and paper, explaining that the physical connection represents energy leaving the brain and sending an impulse of an idea, which is lost in translation when using a keyboard.

Best known for his album *Phoenix of Atlantis*, placements on FOX, MTV/MTV2, OWN, HBO, NBC, and instrumental contributions on two GRAMMY®-winning albums, new films, *American Suicide Mass Murders* and *Waterpot* are coming soon, with a conductor tour towards the end of 2024. Majdalany is also working with the Art Heals Foundation highlighting their artist community in his performance series, *Pandora's Box*.

For more information, visit nadeemmajdalany.com

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DROPS

The 26th Annual **Sundance ASCAP Music Cafe** partnered with longtime sponsor Acura for two days of live music performances and interviews with top film music composers in January. The yearly event highlights diverse musical voices and celebrates the world of film music with exclusive sets from songwriters and conversations with popular composers and filmmakers. Past Cafes have featured **Patti Smith, Chris Stapleton, St. Vincent, Andrew Bird, Emmylou Harris, Jon Batiste and Stay Human**, and more. For more information, visit ascap.com or contact Kelly MacGaunn at kelly@bobbimarcuspr.com.

On Jan. 5, **Dubious Records** released the 17-track ***Boat Story Original Soundtrack Album,*** which features music by composer **Dominik Scherrer.** Written by **Harry and Jack Williams,** and produced by award-winning All3Media production company **Two Brothers Pictures,** the darkly comic thriller series premiered on BBC One in November and all episodes are now available on BBC iPlayer. Scherrer said the score presented a unique challenge, requiring the music to reflect different moods and narrative styles. Contact Sarah Roche at sarah@whitebearpr.com for more details.

New York City jazz bassist and singer-songwriter **Georgia Weber** has released a new music video, marrying band footage with A.I. images for the first love song the artist has written in 20 years. Created for the song **"Kintsugi"**—which refers to Japanese pottery art that celebrates imperfections, Weber's music video experiments with new A.I. technology, which was used to generate images to advance the video's storyline with a surreal and dreamlike effect. The single is off Weber's EP ***Big in Japan.*** Contact Kathryn Musilek at km@sharkpartymedia.com for more information.

Music tech company **Verses,** in partnership with **SM Entertainment,** has recently launched a beat-based A.I. music video generator tool known as **aespa world.** The 2024 CES Award-nominated tool offers users an immersive experience shaped by the music of K-pop supergroup **aespa** within the avatar-based metaverse platform **Zepeto.** Users can explore and engage with the track **"Drama,"** interact with band members and make their avatars the star of an **aespa** music video. For further details, contact Lee Grossman at lee@rockpaperscissors.biz.

BETSEY PERLMUTTER

Mercury Studios has reissued the historic and formerly long-out-of-print concert event ***The Thank You Australia Concert Live 1976*** DVD, from the world renowned and beloved songwriter and performer **Neil Diamond**. For more than three hours in March 1976, Diamond performed to a record-breaking crowd at Sydney's Sports Ground and telecast live to the largest viewer audience in Australian history. The concert marked the end of Diamond's Australia-New Zealand tour and his comeback after a four-year hiatus from live performances. For more information, contact Carol Kaye at carol@kayosproductions.com.

Multi-platinum artists **Of Monsters and Men** have premiered their award-winning and acclaimed short documentary ***TÍU*** on YouTube, which was followed by a live YouTube after-party during which the band engaged with fans worldwide. After the band's 2020 world tour was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they embarked on a road trip around their native country, and the documentary short features footage from the journey shot by friend and director **Dean Deblois** (***How to Train Your Dragon, Lilo and Stitch,*** **Sigur Ros'** ***Heima***). ***TÍU*** has been recognized in multiple film festivals, including a world premiere at **Tribeca Film Festival** and an international premiere at the **Reykjavik International Film Festival**. It also received an award for Best Short at the 2023 **Dumbo Film Festival**. For further information, contact Taylor Vaughn at taylor.vaughn@umusic.com.

Nick Menza, best-known as the drummer for thrash metal band **Megadeth**, is the subject of the documentary ***This Was My Life***, narrated by Grammy-winning bandmate **David Ellefson** and directed by **Holly Mollohan Grayson** for **Screaming Butterfly Entertainment** and **Ellefson Films**. The film highlights Menza's life

growing up in a musical household in Southern California and continues through his legendary career with Megadeth and beyond. In 2016, while performing at **The Baked Potato** jazz club in Studio City, CA, Menza suffered a massive heart attack and died. More info available at thiswasmylifefilm.com.

OPPS

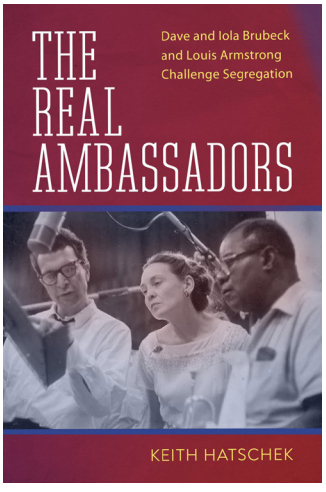
Feb. 7 is the regular deadline (March 7 the late deadline) to submit your video to the **Berlin Music Video Awards**. Open to those who direct, produce, edit or perform with a cash prize for the winner. More information can be found at berlinmva.com/how-to-submit.

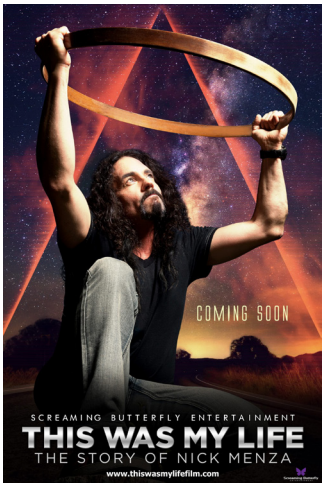
Register for the **2024 Sync Summit LA**, which will take place Feb. 5-7. The event consists of panels, keynotes and demos from more than 100 speakers from brands, ads, tech, TV, film, music, production, sync agents and more. This year, there will also be a songwriting camp, metadata workshop, additional networking opportunities, and a music supervision workshop. Learn more at syncsummit.com/ss2024la.

Visit nacvgm.org for more information on attending the **North American Conference on Video Game Music** March 16-17 in East Lansing, MI. Performer and video game composer **Laura Intravia** will be this year's keynote speaker. Participants can attend in-person or virtually.

PROPS

Hats off to *Music Connection* contributor and author **Keith Hatschek** whose recent book, ***The Real Ambassadors: Dave and Iola Brubeck and Louis Armstrong Challenge Segregation***, was selected as the winner of **the ASCAP Foundation's annual Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Book Award for Popular Music**. The book tells the story of the five-year struggle of three determined artists who set out to overturn segregation using their music and celebrity to demand change during the height of the Civil Rights movement.





Betsey Perlmutter, former producer and artistic planning manager of the **New York Philharmonic,** has joined **Wise Music Group**'s concert and theatrical production division as Vice President in January. Perlmutter will lead Schirmer Theatrical through its expanded international rights development strategy to leverage Wise Music's extensive global catalog across symphonic, ballet and dance, concert, film concert and theatrical. Schirmer produces 150 non-traditional symphonic and film concerts each year, and has now expanded into commercial theater, including co-producing the stage production ***Sugar Hill*** (featuring the music of **Duke Ellington** and **Billy Strayhorn**), and lead-producing ***Monk's Dream*** on **Thelonious Monk's** life. For more information, contact Bobbi Marcus at bobbi@bobbimarcuspr.com.

The Recording Academy recognized talented musicians and artists at the 2024 **Grammy Awards,** which took place on Feb. 4 and was hosted by **Trevor Noah.** There were nominations across multiple categories including Album of the Year, Best Progressive R&B Album, Best Jazz Vocal Album, Best Jazz Performance, Best Engineered Album, Best Arrangement, Best Orchestral Performance, Best Opera Recording and Best Choral Performance. See all nominees at grammy.com and contact Bobbi Marcus at bobbi@bobbimarcuspr.com for more information.

In late December, the 2023 **ASCAP Foundation Honors** celebrated emerging talent in music, including work for film, television and musical theater. The virtual event featured performances by the ASCAP Foundation's 2023 scholarship and award recipients, including **Cristian Avila, Maleah DAWN, Iman Nunez, DJ RellyRell, Will Healy, Javier Madrazo** and more**.** The event provided an opportunity for these up-and-coming artists and composers to showcase their work, and included presentations by industry professionals including **Desmond Child, Autumn Rowe** and more. The program included ASCAP Foundation President **Paul Williams** presenting the Sunlight of the Spirit Award to **Natalie Lewis Schere**, whose organization **PATH to Hip-Hop** uses hip-hop to help tell the stories of those in recovery, and **Patsy Bouressa**, whose organization SIMS Foundation provides mental health and substance use recovery services for the music industry. Contact Kelly MacGaunn at kelly@bobbimarcuspr.com.

JESSICA PACE is a music journalist-turned-news-reporter based in Durango, CO. She is from Nashville, where she started a writing career by freelancing for publications including American Songwriter and *Music Connection*. Contact her at j.marie.pace@gmail.com.

OUT TAKE

Tyler Strickland

Composer

Web: tylerstrickland.com
Contact: Emma Rose Rowell, emma.rowell@impact24pr.com
Most Recent: *Sly, Class 57: Navajo Police, Thriller 40*

Touring guitarist-turned-composer Tyler Strickland's credits include *Sly*, a documentary on the life and career of Sylvester Stallone, *Class 57: Navajo Police*, a three-part docuseries centered on the class training of the Navajo Police's 57th task force, and *Thriller 40*, a documentary celebrating the 40th anniversary of Michael Jackson's iconic album.

"Composing for documentaries absolutely has its own set of challenges separate from, say, drama or comedy. The filmmakers had to earn the trust of the subjects in the film, and there is a sense of responsibility on the post-production team to do right by that," Strickland says. "I do love that layer of responsibility in scoring for documentaries; it feels like we're contributing to real stories and making a tangible change in the world. I would say that often one of the biggest hurdles in composing for docs is remembering to practice restraint with the music."

Strickland says he approaches a new project by having long conversations with the directors about their vision. "I prefer when the filmmakers are vague about what specific instruments they want or don't want. Some might say, for instance, that clarinet is a silly instrument that should only be in comedy, but it can be incredibly haunting and mysterious if you treat it with the right effects." he says.

"I can't stress enough how important it is to record audio," Strickland advises aspiring composers. "It's so easy today to get caught up in only using sample libraries. While many of them are amazing, unfortunately everyone's using the same sounds. Make your own." This practice also helps kickstart new projects: "I usually start a film by spending a week creating loops, textures and drones, so when going into the project, I have a bunch of sounds to mess around with."

► SHERYL CROW CAMPAIGNS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Singer and songwriter Sheryl Crow is valiantly working to end gun violence with a new #IWearOrange campaign. "After the Covenant School shooting, I joined my friend Amy Grant in pushing Tennessee Governor Bill Lee to take meaningful action to end gun violence," said Crow.

▲ CHRISTINE AND THE QUEENS STAY ALIVE

Alt-rockers Christine and the Queens released a blazing version of Bee-Gee's classic "Stayin' Alive," to kick start the New Year. "Art heals," said singer Chris in a statement.

◄ ORIANTHI AND NITA STRAUSS WIN RMA AWARDS

The RMA Awards have an icon and physical award now. Recent recipients include Orianthi for "Best Album In Rock" for her album *Rock Candy*; Nita Strauss (pictured middle) for "Best Single Release & Most Impactful Release in Hard Rock" for her single "Dead Inside;" Marco Mendoza for "Best Musical Performance in Rock" for his release "New Direction;" and Nikki Stringfield for "Best Vocal Production in Metal" for "Haunted."

▲ LIL BABY CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AT HOME

Lil Baby celebrated his birthday in December with a sold-out hometown show in Atlanta's State Farm Arena where he performed many of his hits, including "Drip 2 Hard," "Forever," and "Baby."

▲ GAVIN DEGRAW PERFORMS AT CHEEZ-IT CITRUS BOWL

Gavin DeGraw kicked off 2024 with a performance at the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl Halftime Show in Orlando, FL. The artist performed "I Don't Want to Be" and "Chariot" alongside performances from both schools' celebrated marching bands.

◀ HERBIE IN INDIA

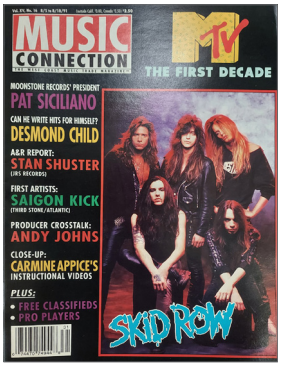
Jazz musicians Herbie Hancock and Dianne Reeves, accompanied by the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz Performance at UCLA Ensemble, visited New Delhi and Mumbai on January 14-25 as part of the US Department of State's new Global Music Diplomacy Initiative. Their performances and master classes with students were dedicated to celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

► DAVID WOOLEY

Producer, writer and director David Wooley, who oversaw the making of the award winning documentary *Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over*, was recently honored at Huron University, awarding the veteran entertainment producer with an Honorary Doctorate.

MUSIC CONNECTION

Tidbits From Our Tattered Past



1991-Skid Row-#15

Jersey hair metal band Skid Row was in its prime when they appeared on the MC cover in 1991, and then-frontman Sebastian Bach was in fine form. "Everybody expects you to change once you become successful," Bach said. "The people in the industry are funny, too. They don't know how to handle it if you remain the same person you were before your success." The issue also featured an interview with songwriter Desmond Child, who said "I'm a vocalist, so the music is suited to a vocalist," he said.

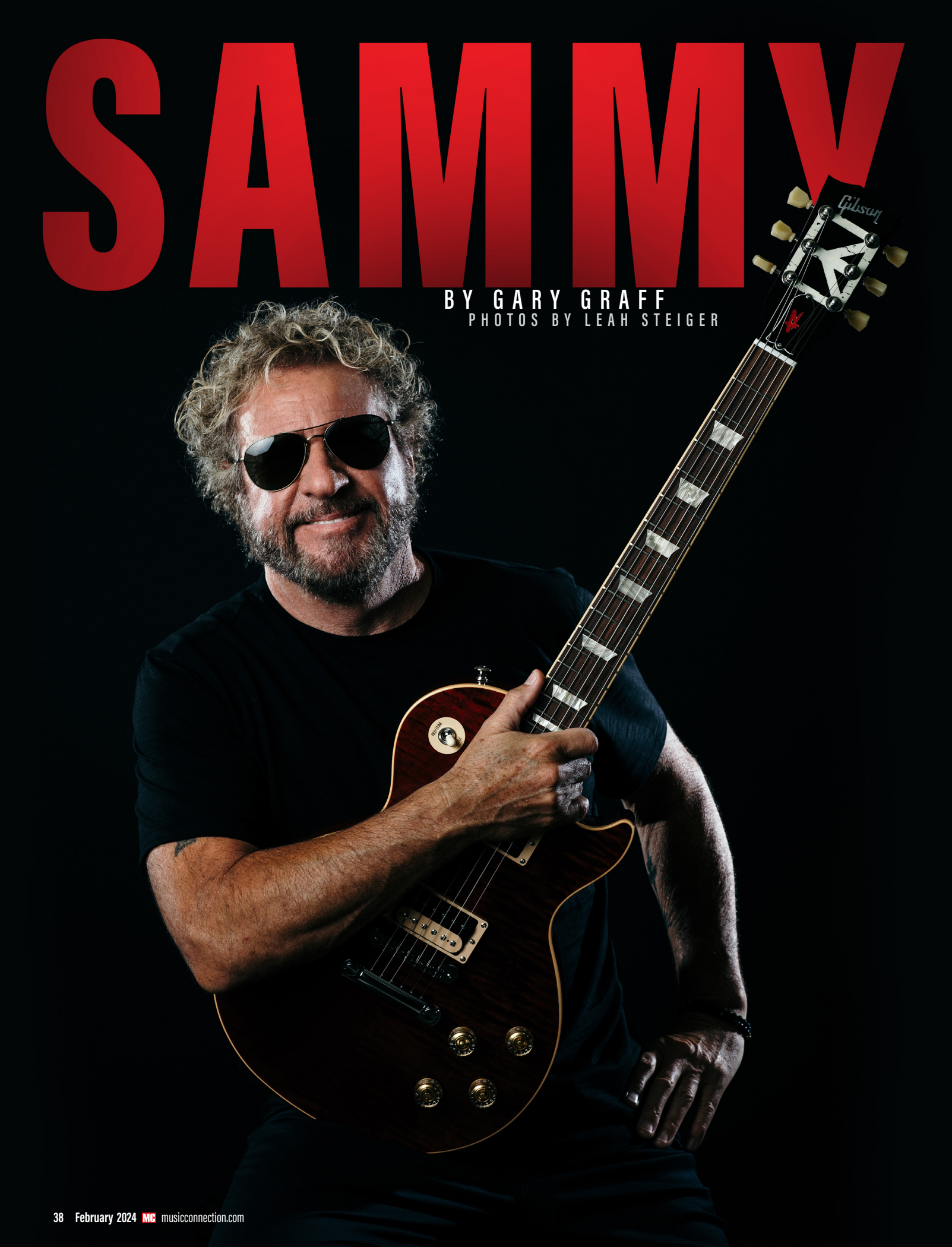
2011-Jazmine Sullivan-#35

R&B artist Sullivan already had eight Grammy nominations when she woke to us 13 years ago. "Of course as a new artist, I'm grateful for any nominations," she said. "I received so many for the first album that it increased my expectations for myself—like I should do just as well with every subsequent recording. The issue also featured a round table discussion with vocal producers.

SAMMY

BY GARY GRAFF

PHOTOS BY LEAH STEIGER



FIFTY-ONE YEARS AGO, with Montrose, Sammy Hagar announced he was going to "Rock the Nation," and he hasn't stopped since. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find an artist who's had such a consistently busy career as Hagar's. That's included a robust solo output (20 studio albums and counting) and tenures with Van Halen and the all-star bands Chickenfoot and HSAN. His primary band, the Circle, is another dream team with Van Halen and Chickenfoot mate Michael Anthony on bass, Jason Bonham on drums and guitarist Vic Johnson, who also played in Hagar's Waboritas. This year, meanwhile, Hagar has recruited Joe Satriani to join him, Anthony and Bonham to celebrate Van Halen with a Best of All Worlds tour that kicks off July 13. And that's just the music. Since the launch of his first Cabo Wabo Cantina in 1990, Hagar has started brands of tequila (also called Cabo Wabo), rum, Mezquila and canned cocktails, and last year he launched the Red Rocker Lager beer line (see sidebar). He's written two best-selling books—the memoir *Red: My Uncensored Life in Rock* and *Sammy Hagar's Greatest Cocktail Hits*—starred in five seasons of *Rock & Roll Road Trip with Sammy Hagar* on AXS and hosts the syndicated Sammy Hagar's Top Rock Countdown on more than 90 U.S. radio stations. He also maintains philanthropic work via his Hagar Family Foundation. Hagar has never driven 55, behind the wheel of a car or in front of an audience, and even at 76 he has no plans to start obeying the rules any time soon.

MC: You're diving deep into the Van Halen part of your catalog this year, which once would have been an ambivalent experience I'm sure. What's it like to play those songs now?
Hagar: I love it. I love those songs. I'm very proud of them. We made some great records with that band, really special… and people still love 'em, y'know?

MC: And with Eddie gone now do you feel a kind of responsibility to make sure that music lives on and still gets played on a stage?
Hagar: Y'know, thank God for that music. I remember right after Eddie died and we were doing the birthday shows [on Santa Catalina Island in California]. It was terrible timing; Here we are putting on this big party, celebrating Sammy's birthday instead of Eddie's funeral. That felt horrible. But when Mikey and I got onstage and played the first Van Halen song, "Right Now" we had a moment of silence and we looked at each other and it was like, "Oh, man, we've got a job to do. We need to keep this music alive. We need to play this song better than we've played it in our lives. here we go…" It was so spiritual, just wonderful. That was the healing, right then and there. To know we can never play with Eddie again, that's the craziest feeling in my head.

MC: There was talk about that maybe happening at the time back then.
Hagar: Even when we were arguing, I knew we would play together again someday. You don't make music and legacy like that and say, "Nope, that's it, sorry." I just knew there would be a reunion. It didn't happen, but Eddie and I had our own reunion, and that was great.

MC: When did you last connect with him?
Hagar: It was probably around February [2020], before COVID. For Eddie's birthday [in 2015] I said [via social media], "Hey, happy birthday, dude. I hope you're good," and I was sincere. I wasn't trying to get back in the band or anything like that. And he got back to me, "Oh, thanks, hope you're doing well, too." Then my birthday came up, and I didn't hear from him. (laughs) But then George Lopez was really the guy who instigated this; he was like, "Sam, I was just with Eddie. He's not doing too good and you need to call him, man. He loves you." And I was going, "He loves me? I thought he hated me?" and [Lopez] goes, "No, no, he loves you." OK, gimme his number," and I just called straight-up. I said, "Ed! I've been trying to get ahold of you through your brother, through this person and that person…" I'd say, "Give Eddie this message for me; if he ever feels like wanting to patch it up, call me." I kept throwing him the ball. And then he finally goes, "Why don't you just call me?" I said, "that's what I'm doing, man," and we just laughed. It worked out beautifully. We were texting like teenagers for the last few months before he died. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be able to take it.

MC: Your first idea for a Best of All Worlds tour was actually for Van Halen, with both you and David Lee Roth on board. You've invited him to make guest appearances with you this year, too. Magnanimous, but… dangerous?
Hagar: With David? (laughs) Yeah [a Van Halen tour] would've been a fuckin' circus again like the Sam and Dave tour was [in 2004]. But it would've been good for the fans, man. It would've been the best. Dave, he just brings a strange element of trying to take over things and make other people look bad and make himself look good. I hate to say that about the guy, but that's who he is. He's always been like that, so it ain't like he's changed. I would have no problem with it now because I would be like, "Who cares?" I'm a grown man now. This is silly stuff. But It would've been great. I don't want to put any negative spin on it. I would've sucked it up and done it in a second, and I think people would have loved it.

MC: As "a grown man" now, what do you see when you look back at that kid who sang for Montrose all those years ago?
Hagar: That guy was very, very young and green but wanted it bad. I became a solo artist too soon; in Montrose I had a seasoned guy like Ronnie Montrose to guide me, but we got out on tour and bumped heads, so I got thrown out of the band because Ronnie was a hard guy to get along with, God rest his soul, and I was trying to get the other guys to side with me. So as a solo artist I was too green. I didn't know what I was doing yet. I thought every song I wrote was great. I could care less about fame; it was more important to just sing and play guitar and get out on stage. I wasn't looking for a free ride; I was, "I'll get out there and sing until I'm rich and famous. I'll make it." But I was young and inexperienced, and then as I got better and realized what the business is and writing better songs… I just matured slowly, but that slow maturing is what made me who I am today. If I would've made it in my early 20s and got rich and famous I would probably be burnt out now. A lot of guys that make it overnight don't last as long as me. But my work ethic made me what I am, so by the time I made it, it was like, "Oh, I enjoy this work. I ain't trying to make it anymore; I just dig this."

MC: Alongside the music, where did the famed Hagar business sensibility come from?
Hagar: From being dirt poor growing up. The first money I made my good Italian mom was like, "You gotta save your money! You gotta invest it or you're gonna end up broke and a drug addict and in jail!" (laughs) So she kind of instilled it in me. I never invested; I don't like to make money with money. I want to DO something and make money, so I always invested in myself. I did some real estate… and then building the Cabo Wabo in Cabo [San Lucas], that was not a business deal; it was strictly passion. And that turned into an unbelievable business that led to the tequila and the rum and everything else… Everybody thinks I'm smart. I'm not sure I'm that smart (laughs); I'm just a pretty lucky guy and I surround myself with good people.

MC: Because of those extra-musical business interests, a lot of people put you in the same boat—if you will—with Jimmy Buffett. A fair comparison?
Hagar: Oh, sure. I think it's kind of in your face. The big difference between Jimmy and myself, God rest his soul, is my stuff is in your face and it's more high-energy, and Jimmy of course was like subliminal music. It was like background music for your relaxation and your party having fun, but it wasn't all up in your face. People that don't know either one of us, they get us confused, but we're not really confusable. It's just two different styles.

MC: And you were friendly?
Hagar: Of course. He was so kind, man. I can't say enough about Jimmy. He changed my songwriting. I never wrote songs like that until after I got hip to Jimmy—the songs that are those types of lifestyle songs that I started writing later on. It just influenced my lyrics. I started writing about my life and my lifestyle instead of just rock 'n' roll, fast cars and loud music—which is great but [Buffett] certainly expanded my lyrical content, and God bless him for that, man. He was a great songwriter.

MC: You've really enjoyed being in the booze industry, haven't you?
Hagar: There you go—now you hit it. I really do. It's big fun and it's creative, as well. It was such a square industry… so a guy like me jumps in and gets so excited about a blend or this or that, a new project, and it's fun jumping in that game. It seemed like it needed a little shot, and Cabo gave it its first one and now look at all the celebrity brands; there's got to be, what, 20 tequilas out there with people's names on them. But nobody did what I did, and I'm doing it again.

MC: Is there a key to doing it "right?"
Hagar: Y'know what it is? We make the product. We own the product. We start it from scratch. We don't go to some producers and say, "Hey, I want to put my name on your stuff" like everybody else is doing. We invented it. We owned it, from the bottle to the juice in there to the marketing plan. And that's what's so rewarding and fun.

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MC: A year does not go by when Sammy Hagar isn't on the road, playing. Where does that drive come from?
Hagar: I feel like I've got to tour before my voice goes. I was singing those songs last night with an acoustic guitar, and I'm thinking to myself, "Damn, I can still hit those notes!" I was on a boat with some friends and they were going, "You can still sing those songs?" I'm like, "Fuck yeah I can!" But I don't know for how long, so I better get out there and give my fans a little treat before I can't do it anymore.

MC: Is that something you're really concerned about?
Hagar: So far I can do it, but I know there's gonna come that day—everyone can tell ya—when, "Man, I can't sing that anymore." I feel like some kind of semi-superhuman being or something because I shouldn't be able to sing like I do. I really shouldn't. I've abused my voice my whole life, screaming and yelling and singing—not with drugs and alcohol, not cigarettes, anyway. Alcohol, a little bit of drugs but not cigarettes or weed. But I'll tell ya, the more I sing the stronger it is. If I don't sing and then went on tour and tried to sing five nights a week, a two-hour show, that would not be good. I'd start losing my top range and I'd get really hoarse and start sounding more gruff—and I sound gruff enough at my age now. I like the scruffy voice, but... I just think giving it proper rest, but don't let it get out of shape. It's like an athlete, like boxers when they take two years off. Muhammed Ali, the greatest fighter of all time, he took a couple years off and came back and was never the same. I know so many singers who take so much time off and they come back and can't sing. They open their mouth and it's not there and then you're head goes, "I'm done! I can't sing anymore."

MC: Do you have a technique for keeping your voice strong?
Hagar: I stay in shape, that's all. I go down to my basement and crank up my Les Paul and a little Marshall and I scream my ass off a couple times a week. (laughs) I recommend that to everybody. Just don't take too much time off.

MC: What are the hardest of your songs to sing now?
Hagar: Oh, the damn Van Halen stuff. Because I didn't play guitar I didn't care what key they were in; I just sang and then I picked up a guitar and was like, "What the fuck? I can't hit that note" and Eddies' going, "Well, you just hit it..." (laughs) But, like, "Dreams," a song like, "When It's Love," that chorus—(sings) "I can't tell you but it lasts forever." Every now and then you slip around that a little bit, but I can do it.

MC: Losing these people, whether it's Jimmy or Eddie or whoever, does it put a little more rocket fuel behind you to keep doing it and maybe do more while you're still here?
Hagar: No. I mean, these people dying around me make me look at my mortality, but I'm so damn driven that I don't need any more motivation. My wife's trying to close my fuel factory over here; she says, "Look, you gotta stop and enjoy life." I said, "I'm enjoying life." This brings me joy, to have an idea. The creativity is all it is for me. It isn't the money. It was at one time; when I was broke on my ass, I wanted to make money. But once you get enough money, then you've got to figure out what really makes you happy— and it's not money. And I hate to say that to somebody who's struggling. It will make your life easier to have money if you're struggling, but it's not gonna make you happy unless you know what to do with it. And what makes me happy is having an idea, whether it's a song or a beer or whatever, and seeing it through and seeing it win and seeing my fans happy with me, seeing my cantinas full, seeing my tequila and my rum fly off the shelves and stuff like that. And just seeing the audiences at my shows singing along with me, every word to the song. That friggin' makes me happy, and that's all you can get.

MC: So what effect has looking at mortality had on you?
Hagar: It's like when I wrote the song "Father Time" that was on the *Crazy Times* record... At my age I'm looking at how many years I've got left, and so I'm still driven and I'm gonna get 'em all done, but I've got to start to prioritize a little bit, not taking awhile to swing as something but do something I feel I can get done and it won't make my life too complicated. My time's spent on the beach, at the dinner table and creating, and that's it—boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. That's everything.

MC: Does it impact the kinds of songs you write, too?
Hagar: Absolutely. I think any artist my age that just goes out and writes silly pop songs—unless it's a really good one, like Paul McCartney would write, or Paul Simon—but an average rock guy like myself, I'm sorry, I don't want to write about "I Can't Drive 55" and "One Way to Rock" right now. I don't mind singing them on stage, but to sit down and write that song again, I just don't' feel it in my heart. I want to go into my head and into my soul more.

MC: What have you been working on recently?
Hagar: Musically right now I've been on a real cool kinda streak. I wrote a couple of blues songs for Joe Bonamassa. I've known him a long time, little by little; we're not great friends or anything, but I wrote this song and I thought, "God, this is just such a good, real blues song." It's called "Fortune Teller Blues," and I thought, "Who can I give this to? Billy Gibbons? Nah; I love ZZ Top, but they're more rock-blues. I need a more traditional blues guy, like Robert Cray or someone like that." And then I thought, "I'm gonna send it to Joe," and he got back in 10 minutes and said, "I love this song. Can I do it?" And I said, "Absolutely" and we did a duet on it and now I've written another one like that. I'm writing more like Jimmy Buffett, but with a blues twist instead of a lifestyle twist, which is kind of interesting. I don't know if I'm gonna make a record or not, but I'll get around to it some day, I think.

MC: It's not like you have to put out an album every year like you once did.
Hagar: I'm not driven to do a record again. I lose a few hundred thousand dollars every time I make a record these days. I don't mind that, but I have to really be in a mood to go in and record. But I've been in a mood for writing, and I've been writing some really cool stuff and it's gonna drive me crazy eventually, and I'll go in and make a record—no matter what I say. (laughs) MC

Contact info@redrocker.com for more

CHEERS TO THE RED ROCKER

SPIRITS HAVE BEEN an integral part of Sammy Hagar's entrepreneurial spirit over the years.

He started during the late '90s with Cabo Wabo tequila (sold to Gruppo Campari for a reported $80 million in 2007), then continued with Sammy's Beach Bar Rum (in partnership with Rick Springfield), Santo Spirit with food celebrity Guy Fieri and Sammy's Beach Bar Cocktail Co.—along with restaurants and nightclubs in Mexico and other locations.

Now the Red Rocker is in the beer business—which is something he's long wanted.

Last October, Hagar formally launched Red Rocker Lager in partnership with the Detroit-based Red Rocker Detroit brewery. "I tried to make beer first," notes Hagar. "My fans back in the '80s, when I was in my heyday, were beer drinkers, man. They didn't know nothing about tequila. I've been trying to make beer forever."

Hagar's opportunity finally came about four years ago, when businessman Eric Schubert, who at the time was developing an app-based on-demand delivery service and looking for partners. He reached out through channels to Hagar, who proposed doing it with beer. "They came to me," Hagar recalls, "and I said, 'For a beer? Hell yeah! American made? Double hell yeah! Made in Detroit, triple hell yeah!' It just felt right to me."

Red Rocker Lager is being brewed in Detroit's historic Corktown neighborhood by Schubert's son Cameron, who worked with Hagar to perfect the recipe. The company describes it as "golden, medium-bodied... light, crisp and refreshing, with just a touch of sweetness," and Hagar likens it to the original recipe used by the Mexican brewing company Modello.

The Lager has been in production, quietly, for about a year, and Eric Schubert estimates it will be available in several states by the summer. "I'm real proud of it," Hagar says. "It's not like this just came out of the woodwork in the last week or so. I've been working on this for frickin' over 20 years, before I made tequila. So it's about time."

Don't, however, expect Hagar to write a song for the Lager like he did with "Mas Tequila" back in 1999.

"I think pretty much all my songs fit with beer—with any booze," Hagar explains with a laugh. "I write songs for driving in cars—which is not symbiotic with drinking. But if you get an a convertible, the top down and crank up some of my music—'Badmotorscooter,' 'One Way to Rock,' 'Heavy Metal'—those are car songs. And if you're sitting in a bar or a pub or your backyard having a barbecue, the music works good, too, with beer and food.

"I'm pretty versatile," he adds. "My music touches on a lot of angles. My lyrics and my lifestyle, it goes pretty good with everything."

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7-POINT CHECKLIST TO INVESTING AND BUILDING WEALTH

By Bobby Borg and Britt Hastey

(Excerpted from Personal Finance For Musicians with permission of Rowman & Littlefield), bios and book image to the Feature story

Invest! Invest! Invest! It's time for musicians to make money and get rich quick. After all, the pandemic of 2020 still has everyone in a hole and nothing could be better than striking it big! Right?

Perhaps! But let's not get ahead of ourselves. The road to true wealth (measured in assets and liabilities) is a long process. It involves several steps you must check-off before grabbing your mobile phone and the latest investment app to try your luck. Read: Investing is not a game!

What follows is our 7-point checklist to responsible investing and building wealth. We start at the beginning with creating a steady flow of income all the way to playing with funny money if you must. Have patience—at times the process might seem boring and include advice you've already heard, but investing was never meant to be fun or sexy when done right.

NOTE: The seven steps presented here are in a systematic order, but depending on your situation, feel free to skip straight to investing or tackle two or more steps simultaneously. Just be sure to speak with a financial planner to make sure that your path to success is right for you.

1 CREATE AND MAINTAIN A STEADY FLOW OF INCOME

The first step to investing and building wealth is creating and maintaining a flow of income.

If you are a musician earning zero income or just living from one gig to the next, you are never going to get anywhere unless you turn on the money faucet. This could mean getting more music gigs, utilizing freelance methods, or getting a "real" job! Let's consider these options:

Get More Music Gigs: Always attempt to use your musical talents for work first. For me (Bobby speaking), I offered drum lessons in the house that I was renting with roommates. With a little advertising, I had 30 students at $30 an hour. On top of that, I got a house gig with a soul band at $225 a week for three nights a week. Furthermore, I played weddings with the teachers at Berklee College of Music on the weekends at $300 a pop. If I could earn 5k out of school, so can you.

Utilize "Regular" Freelance Methods: If music gigs are not an option, go with all of the available "regular" freelance methods to make money. One musician we know drives for Uber, Postmates and Instacart and brings in several thousands of dollars per week (all without missing a single band rehearsal or evening gig). This guy even showcases his music to his Uber customers to get feedback while he works! In one instance, he even picked up a famous record producer which led to a studio session.

Get a "Real" Job: Finally, if none of the above situations work for you, go for a steady day or night gig. We suggest you find something that is connected in some way to your ultimate dream of music. One musician we know got a steady gig working as a salesperson at Guitar Center. Not only did he make steady money, he promoted his gigs to customers to increase his concert draw, and networked with equipment reps to secure endorsement deals. He killed two birds with one stone.

Look gang, whatever route you take, just remember that the road to investing and building wealth starts with your own ability to generate income. While this might sound like common sense, you'd be surprised at the number of musicians who still sleep on their friend's couches penniless waiting to get discovered on TikTok. While people do get lucky, don't bet everything on number 7. So, roll up your sleeves, be strong, and put your human capital to work.

2 CREATE AND LIVE BY A BUDGET

Okay, so now that you have a steady flow of money coming in, it's time to create and live by a budget. Remember, it's not how much you make, it's how you manage your money that counts. Follow these three steps:

Set a Savings Goal: Create a monthly objective setting forth a percentage of your take-home pay that you'd like to save each month. To illustrate, if your take-home pay was 5k a month, your objective might be to save 10 percent (or $500).

List Expenses: Now list all of your expenses showing how you'll cleverly use that 5k to meet your savings goal of $500. Know that fixed expenses like rent will be easy, but other expenses like groceries will require you making an educated estimate based on what you spent in prior months. And finally...

Track Expenditures: Track all of your expenditures throughout the month by counting receipts. If you stay on budget, then bravo for you. If there are overages, then readjust your budget and try again. Eventually, you'll find a plan that works for you. And best yet, you'll have that 10 percent surplus of money you were shooting for.

While creating a budget might seem like a lot of work, remember that it really is the hallmark to getting your financial shit together. And like everything else in life, the more you use a budget, the easier it will get. So, take our word for it gang, live and die by a budget!

3 PAY OFF DEBT AND ESTABLISH STRONG CREDIT

Now that you have a surplus of monthly cash, put it to good use by knocking out your debt.

For most musicians, debt will probably be limited to credit cards, school loans, and an automobile. Whatever the case, just know that there are number of strategies to get debt-free. Consider the following:

Use the Debt Avalanche: Use the "debt avalanche" strategy to double-down consistently on your "highest interest loan" while at least paying all your minimum balances on your other loans. Once paid off, take the amount of money you allocated for the highest interest loan and add it to the minimum payments on the next highest interest loan, and so on, until you no longer have debt.

Use the Debt Snowball: Alternately, you can use the "debt snowball" strategy to double-down on your "smallest balance loan" while paying at least all your minimum balances on your other loans. Once paid off, take the amount of money you allocated for the smallest balance loan and add it to the minimum payments on the next smallest balance loan, until you no longer have debt.

Look peeps, the bottom line is that paying off debt means ridding yourself of wasteful interest payments. Furthermore, it means building your credit for important loans down the road, and saving a little money that you can use for a rainy day.

4 ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY FUND

After digging yourself out of debt (congratulations), the next step in our 7-step process to investing and building wealth is using that surplus money to establish an emergency fund. This is money you amass for life's unexpected moments when all things go south. Consider the following:

Save For Six Months to a Year: Attempt to save at least six months worth of living expenses. I (this Bobby) personally feel more comfortable with one year of living expenses. I was injured in an accident (struck by a truck) and it took longer than a couple of months to heal. On top of that, it took a couple more months to reestablish work. So, whether it's six months or a year, just build up that freakin' fund ya'll.

Keep It Liquid, But Let It Grow: Keep your emergency fund in a safe place where it is liquid (immediately available) and growing in interest. Consider a savings account with an online bank, a money market account with a local bank, or a short-term bond fund via a brokerage company like Vanguard. Where ever you park your money, just remember you'll need access to your "cash in a flash" when the "shit hits the fan." So, never tie this money down in stocks or long-term CDs or bonds. And finally...

Keep It Fully-Funded: Remember that should you ever use your emergency fund, you need to refund it. Be clear that the plan is to be fully-funded and ready for any emergency for the rest of your life. Okay? Good job! Now. Let's move on.

5 START SAVING FOR RETIREMENT

Now that you have a job, a budget, no debt and an emergency fund, we can begin thinking about shifting all your surplus money into retirement accounts. Make no mistake, retirement (or retirement planning) is not just for old folks, it starts as early as 20 years old and lasts a lifetime. Be sure to consider the following:

Take Advantage of Employer-Based 401Ks: Start by taking advantage of "tax-advantaged" accounts such as a 401K offered by your employer. This allows a payroll administer to direct a portion of your pre-tax income directly into an interest earning account to grow and be taxed upon withdrawal in retirement. You can contribute as much as $20,500 a year if you're younger than age 50, and $27,000 annually if you're 50 or older. And if your boss is really cool, they'll even match additional funds up to a percentage of your contribution (yup, free bonus money). Hey, this is the best deal in town.

Open Up An Individual Retirement Account: Now, if you don't have access to a 401K, open up an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) on your own. A Traditional IRA allows you to personally invest "pre-tax" dollars to grow and be taxed upon withdrawal in retirement. You can contribute as much as $6,000 if you're younger than age 50, and $7,000 when you're age 50 or above. There's also a Roth version of this plan (Roth IRA) where you can personally invest "after-tax" dollars to grow and be withdrawn tax free at retirement. All good stuff!

Look, no matter which retirement accounts you use, just be clear that Uncle Sam makes it easy for you to save for your retirement and avoid thousands in taxes over your lifetime. While doing this, you can still utilize other non-retirement accounts (called "taxable accounts") for short-term objectives (like buying a house) or even long-term investments (like extra retirement income). But just be clear that maxing-out your tax-advantaged retirement accounts first is always a good idea. Seriously! Retirement is an investor's biggest priority. And don't forget it!

6 INVEST RESPONSIBLY

After completing all six steps of our 7-step process to investing and building wealth, you can now consider yourself a financial rock star. So, go ahead, take a bow, you've come a long way.

But now you need to really focus on the principles of investing responsibly. After all, it's not enough to just throw your hard-earned money in tax-advantaged (and taxable accounts) and just hope for success. Hope is never a long-term and sustainable financial strategy. Believe that! Consider the following nuggets of wisdom:

Always Set Investment Goals: Setting goals, or more specifically, the time horizon of each goal, is critical to investing responsibly. You see, it's time that typically determines the type of investment vehicle that you will use. As a general rule, the longer the time horizon for your goals, the riskier and more rewarding the investment (such as stocks). The shorter the time-horizon for your goals, the more conservative and less rewarding the investment (such as short-term bonds). This is generally because a long-term investment strategy can better hedge against the associated risks of market swings or downturns. To illustrate, a long-term goal of saving x dollars for retirement in 50 years, would typically mean utilizing a large variety of stocks. A mid-term goal of saving x dollars for a modest house in 10 years, might mean utilizing a mix of stocks and bonds. And a short-term goal of saving x dollars for a modest car in three years, might be to use short-term bonds, bank CDs, or money market funds. So always remember, goals and their time-horizons heavily influence your investment decisions.

> Where ever you park your money, just remember you'll need access to your "cash in a flash" when the "shit hits the fan."

Know Your Risk-tolerance: Knowing your risk tolerance and the amount of money that you are comfortable with potentially losing, is also important to investing responsibly. Or said another way, knowing your allocation of stocks to bonds is critical to your investment success. Remember that stocks (which are highly volatile) and bonds (which are less volatile) are not widely correlated and can help to balance out your portfolio over your life-time. The legendary Jack Bogle (Vanguard's founder) says, "Put your age in bonds and the rest in stocks." So, if you are a 20-year-old musician saving for retirement, you might put 80 percent into stocks and 20 percent into bonds. At age 40, your portfolio might hold 60 percent into stocks and 40 percent in bonds. And at age 70, your portfolio might hold 30 percent in stocks and 70 percent in bonds. You get the point—your investments become less risky as time progresses. So, knowing your risk tolerance and getting your stock to bond ratio right is important to both building and preserving your wealth. Take this tip very seriously.

Diversify Your Portfolio: Diversifying your portfolio is yet another extremely important tip to investing responsibly. This essentially means that rather than trying to find a needle in the haystack (i.e., picking the winning stock), you buy the whole freakin haystack. This means buying investments such as index mutual funds that cover a number of different companies, sectors and geographical regions. To illustrate, a 30 year-old investor might purchase a 70/30 (stock to bond) risk allocation including: Vanguard's Total Stock Market Index Fund (which contains 4,070 companies in technology, consumer discretionary products and financials all over the U.S.); Vanguards Total International Stock Market Fund (which contains 7,754 companies in consumer cyclicals, financial services, and healthcare all over Europe, the Pacific and emerging markets); and Vanguard's Total Bond Market Index (which contains 10,127 investment-grade bonds in US treasuries, and mortgage-backed securities all over the U.S.). As you can see, index funds are very diversified and can prevent you from putting all of your eggs in one basket. This way you win some and lose some, rather than lose everything on a one-horse bet.

Avoid Management Costs: Keeping costs low is also extremely important to investing responsibly—and this is where the news is really going to get great. Not only are index funds (just mentioned above) a highly diversified investment, they can also be one of the lowest-cost investments. This is because index funds track a stock market index and do not require the more expensive "active management" associated with other types of mutual funds and individual stocks. Since the fund essentially mirrors a section of the stock market, tracking its performance is much easier and less time consuming. It does not require the daily management of numerous stock transactions attempting to beat the market returns. This is why time and time again, expert investors such as Warren Buffet have strongly recommended index funds. So, if you're smart, this just might be a great move for you too.

Aim to Beat Inflation: Another super important tip to consider when talking about investing responsibly, is the risk of inflation on your investments. Inflation (an increase in prices and decrease in the power of money), has averaged at about three percent over the last decade. This essentially means—in this example—that your investments must earn three percent in annual interest to keep up with the pace of inflation. If your money is sitting in the bank earning an annual interest rate of .01 percent, you're screwed. Thus, your best chance of beating inflation is probably going through an investment vehicle like our trusted Vanguard stock mutual index fund. While past performance is no guarantee of future results, stocks have historically provided higher returns than other asset classes. This, coupled with the low costs associated with passively-managed index funds, will likely help you net the decent annual returns on your investments you need to succeed. Just, remember, inflation is critical to watch.

Aim to Lower Taxes: Dovetailing nicely from inflation costs, taxation also poses serious costs on investment returns. According to the Schwab Center for Financial Research, this is because you not only lose the money you pay in taxes, but you also lose the growth that money could have generated if it were invested.

This is why it is so important that you employ as many tax-efficient investment strategies as possible. Here's just three to think about:
1) Max out your "tax-advantaged" retirement accounts (401Ks, Roth IRAs, Traditional IRAs, etc.) each year since these accounts are almost like free gifts the government provides to help you save on taxes.
2) Invest wisely in your other "taxable accounts" by using long-term buy-and-hold strategies that won't trigger regular short-term capital gains taxes (which are higher taxes incurred from selling your investments in under a year). And finally,
3) Delay a portion of any lump sum payment you might be owed (like a large publishing or merchandising advance) till next tax year. This way you might avoid falling into a higher tax bracket and paying more income tax in the current year. Sounds good? Look gang, whatever strategies you use, just never pay more in taxes than you need to. Avoid taxes legally when you can.

Avoid the Noise and Stay The Course:
Finally getting to the end of our investment tips, know that avoiding all the financial noise in the media and just staying the course is hugely important to investing responsibly. There are so many experts filling you up with supposed opportunities and gloom and doom, it's enough to make you bail ship on your financial plan in search of a better solution. But if you're constantly buying in and out of the market due to greed and fear, you are doing yourself a major disservice. You are allowing your emotions to get the best of you, costing yourself time and money, and creating a lot of stress and worry. So, stop looking at your investments every minute and have faith in long-term investing. Sure, the movements of the stock market are always going to fluctuate on the short-term, but know that the market tends to rise steadily over the years. In fact, since 1928, the U.S. stock market has averaged returns of 9.8 percent per year. So, go live your lives a little. Write that new hit song that brings in hundreds of thousands and go get that publishing deal. Have faith that you put together a killer financial plan, and stand by it. Know that staying the course is a sound piece of advice. It's also the famous slogan of Vanguard's founder Jack Bogle (who actually created the Index Fund). Wow! Godspeed!

7 PLAY WITH FUNNY MONEY (ONLY IF YOU MUST)

Finally, moving away from our perspective on investing responsibly, it's time to play with "funny money," if you must.

Funny money is money you can afford to lose. It's the money where you can be highly speculative, throw down on a crypto stock pick that some guru mentions in a Facebook group, or invest in a buddies' restaurant. Who knows, you might even get super rich and finally get that mansion, yacht, and lime green Lambo, It doesn't matter if you lose it because it's all about having a little fun. After all, you deserve it. You've busted your ass, followed our advice, and have the above six steps completely under your control. Hey, whatever makes you happy!

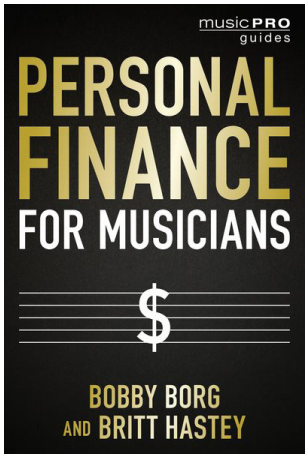
But before running off to the race track, it's important to look back on the past. Throughout history, people have always been trying to get rich quick. There was the gold rush of 1848 where everyone got greedy thinking they were going to strike gold (most didn't); there was the dot com craze in 2000 where everyone got greedy thinking they were going to strike it rich (most didn't); and now there is the crypto thing where people want to get a taste of the millionaire dream (and many have already lost their asses

Look, if you want to play with "extra" money, have fun! But always be realistic about the odds and never let "playing" get out of control. Adhere to our six steps above, and remember smart investing is not supposed to be fun. Take this advice seriously folks. Okay?

So that's our 7-point checklist to investing and building wealth. This stuff is not revolutionary, but it is crucial to your personal financial education and your future.

Some of this stuff you've likely heard elsewhere, and some of it you've read in other articles and books (by us!). But maybe that is the point—what works is worth repeating. And what works is worth adapting to your own investment playbook.

On that note, give these tips a try, and speak with a financial planner who can cater to your needs. One or two sessions can never hurt. Sound good? Peace!



***Personal Finance For Musicians* is available in physical and digital form on Amazon and other fine book sellers.**

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BRITT HASTEY is the Department Chair of the Business Administration Department at Los Angeles City College. He is also an adjunct professor at Chapman University, University of Massachusetts, and UCLA where he teaches Personal Finance.

RECOMMENDED READING ON INVESTING

Here are a few investment books and other resources that we highly recommend. After all, life-long learning should be yet another smart step to every responsible investor. Happy reading!

BOOKS

- **Personal Finance For Musicians** by Bobby Borg and Britt Hatsey
- **The Little Book of Common Sense Investing** by Jack Bogle
- **The Little Book of Bullet Proof Investing** by Bill Stein and Phil DeMuth
- **How to Think About Money** by Jonathan Clements
- **The Random Walk Guide to Investing** by Burton G. Malkiel
- **Rescue Your Money** by Ric Edelman
- **The Wealthy Barber** by David Chilton
- **The Richest Man In Babylon** by George Clason
- **The Index Card** by Helaine Olen and Harold Pollack
- **The Coffee House Investor** by Bill Schultheis
- **The Bogleheads Guide to the Three-Fund Portfolio** by Talor Larimore
- **The Bogleheads Guide To Retirement Planning** by Taylor Larimore, Mel Lindawer, Richard Ferri and Laura F Dogu
- **Common Sense Investing** by Rick Van Ness
- **Why Bother With Bonds** by Rick Van Ness
- **Think, Act, and Invest like Warren Buffet** by Larry E. Sweroe
- **Four Pillars of Investing** by William Bernstein
- **The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need** by Andrew Tobias
- **Get a Financial Life** by Beth Kobliner

WEBSITES

- **Investopedia:** investopedia.com
- **Nerd Wallet:** nerdwallet.com
- **Bankrate:** bankrate.com
- **The Finance Buff:** thefinancebuff.com
- **Oblivious Investor:** obliviousinvestor.com
- **Forbes Advisor:** forbes.com/advisor
- **Yahoo Finance:** finance.yahoo.com
- Morningstar: morningstar.com

Hennessey Studios: Creative Destination

Exciting news from North Hollywood, CA as producer Sammy Oriti, creator of WB's Emmy-nominated *Coconut Fred*, partners with Hennessey Studios nestled at the corner of Lankershim and Magnolia Boulevards. This collaboration promises affordable creative services for the film and television industry. Oriti's expertise in directing music videos, as well as live stream production, fits right in at Hennessey's state-of-the-art facility, a creative destination.

Known for his successful ventures with William Shatner and Randy Jackson, Oriti expresses enthusiasm, stating, "Hennessey Studios in the Arts District is Noho's best-kept secret, right next to the TV Academy. I'm excited to collaborate with visionaries and deliver great content."

Founded by Jason Hennessey, this creative hub, akin to Youtube Space LA, opened its doors in 2020 to support Noho's creators. Hennessey expresses, "We are in the heart of Noho, a very creative community, we couldn't be in a cooler location; Sammy knows the landscape well and connects the dots, we're excited to have him on board to offer creative services."

For music videos, commercials or live podcasts, anticipate a fresh blend of ideas for your productions from Hennessey Studios. For more info or booking, contact Sammy Oriti at 310-985-5511.

Produced by Robert A. Case and Steve Avedis
Master and Synch Licensing available
through New Pants Publishing, Inc.
Contact Robert Case for details: 719 632-0227
Email: rac@crlr.net

newpants.com/silence-the-white-album

Grossé Jewelry Hits the 2024 GRAMMY® Gift Bag Once More

It's that time of year when lovers of music begin eagerly anticipating the GRAMMY Awards®. Ever since May 4, 1959, the Academy has been celebrating the accomplishments of music makers with shiny awards, memorable performances and fashions ranging from the elegant to the outrageous. Millions tune into the television broadcast to find out whether their favorite pop artist will win or perhaps see an unusual water cooler moment, such as a streaker zipping across the stage.

For the nominees, there is another dimension to this evening that provides a strong incentive to show up—the GRAMMY® Gift Bag. These luxury packages contain all sorts of goodies that the recipients may enjoy, even if they lose. The 2023 package had a total cash value of $60,000 and included everything from robotic pool cleaners to Swarovski crystal flip-flops. If you're unaware of the celebrity gifting practice and are thinking this is another case of the rich getting richer, understand that the ventures giving away their products do so because the advertising they get from having a star use their brands more than makes up for the cost of the items.

Although last year's stash boasted treats such as wine and a voucher for $10,000 in arm liposuction, the latest edition includes new jewelry from Grossé. This ornamental option began in 1907 in Pforzheim, Germany by Heinrich Henkel and his brother-in-law, Florentin Grossé, starting life as part of a watch repair store. In 1937, the company was awarded the gold medal at the Paris World's Fair. Then came the relationship with French fashion designer Christian Dior, starting in 1955. It was the beginning of a 50-year partnership that helped spread the brand's popularity all around the world.

The company's baubles became even more sought after once the day's luminaries began wearing them. Film star Marlene Dietrich, for instance, adored their designs so much that, according to legend, she once bought everything in their New York warehouse. Greta Garbo was also a big fan. Incidentally, Grossé jewelry was part of the 2023 Academy Awards gift bag.

But this isn't the first time Grossé has been featured as part of the GRAMMY® Gift Bag. The designs were first introduced into the swag pile in 2011. A selection has been included every year starting in 2017, with 2024 being the eighth time in total.

Mayumi Beaufils is the PR Director for the jeweler and handles their two brands, EINS by Grossé and Grossé Glacé, their more casual line. Working in the jewelry business is something she always wanted to do. Being part of a family business is just icing on the cake. As far as what it is that keeps customers returning, she believes it's Grossé's prestigious history, top-notch quality and beautiful looks that make the difference. It's also what keeps the GRAMMY® Gift Bag deciders coming back for more.

"Celebrities wearing Grossé at the massive Crypto.com Arena look even brighter than those wearing fine jewelry."

Notably, Grossé jewelry is technically costume jewelry, although it isn't the sort that's made of cheap plastic. This label simply means that they do not use pure gold or silver. Sale prices range from $200 to $10,000.

Whatever its purity, it looks stunning under stage lights. "Celebrities wearing Grossé at the massive Crypto.com Arena look even brighter than those wearing fine jewelry," Beaufils insists by email from Japan. "One of the main reasons they choose us is because they can concentrate on their performances with peace of mind." That said, Grossé jewelry is equally suitable for those who do not spend their days in the spotlight. "It is a great honor to be loved by celebrities, but it is also important for us to have people wear Grossé jewelry in their daily lives."

The fact that these pieces have less monetary value in comparison with other jewelry makes it ideal for wearing during shows. Should a piece get lost because a performer is feeling the moment and getting physical, it will be less of a crisis than if a much more expensive earring or brooch were to go missing. Grossé jewelry is also especially durable. The company uses advanced technology to create six layers of coating, so it is practically guaranteed to last a good stretch. Some items from Grossé's early days are still in the company's possession, and these pieces continue to shine as if they were just made. Says Beaufils, "Our jewelry is art that will last for generations."

One might wonder if Grossé's designs are out of step with modern aesthetics. After all, it is reasonable to imagine that a 117-year-old fashion company is missing the boat on what today's customers crave. Shoppers need not fear. "Grossé has created a variety of jewelry in line with the times," writes Beaufils. Although their selections lean extremely feminine, that's changing. This year's GRAMMY® inclusions will feature gender-neutral products made of platinum and silver.

Readers who want to see what the company has on offer are encouraged to go to their website and browse their extensive array of bangles, necklaces, rings and more. "We have a wide selection of items, including a revival of archive collections from the 1930s, as well as simple and sophisticated jewelry that matches modern trends.

"Grossé jewelry is created through extensive research by masters and has a beautiful shine that differs from other costume jewelry," she continues. "Our jewelry is even stored in famous museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London."

Grossé's wearable treasures are ideal for performers at every level, from Beyoncé on down to the beginning artist making waves in a local coffee shop or competing in talent showcases. Its durability, incomparable shine and affordable price tag make these trinkets a solid choice for those with refined tastes and sensible budgets. If you're looking for a fashion statement to grab the audience on your next tour, consider adding a piece or two from Grossé to your wardrobe.

Contact Mayuimi Beaufils
mayumi@mglobaljapan.com, Grosse.hk

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Neural DSP's Douglas Castro & Francisco Cresp

Headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, Neural DSP is one of the world's leading developers of guitar signal processing technology. *MC* recently had a chance to connect with Douglas Castro and Francisco Cresp, founders of Neural DSP, and was able to get some perspective on the current and future direction of the company.

Music Connection: You recently released Plini X, the first Archetype plugin that's fully compatible with Quad Cortex, your hardware-based amp modeler. Can you tell me a little about that plugin and why it's important and how that technology works?
Francisco Cresp: The Archetype Plini X plugin is the first plugin we've released that will be fully compatible with Quad Cortex. This means you can load each of the blocks of the plugin as a signal chain into the Quad Cortex. You can also import your user presets and use Cortex Control to manage your signal path.

MC: So, going forward, all that functionality and hardware and software integration is on the boards to be built into the future releases of your Archetype series plugins?
Cresp: We are making progress on making the new platform very robust, and we will be deploying it soon. The new Archetype plugin we recently released for example is called Plini X. The X marks the version of plugins that are now fully compatible with Quad Cortex. We will be releasing updated X versions of older plugins throughout the year quite regularly. That's the plan at least.
Douglas Castro: Actually, we have been working on this project for quite a while now and a lot of our customers have been asking why it has taken so long. There are several reasons for this. One, is that we have had to implement new communication protocols between the Quad Cortex and services like iLok, for example, so that users will be able to link their Neural DSP account to whichever Neural X series plugins they are using, and then integrate those blocks in Quad Cortex. Technologically, that has been proven to be quite tricky and has taken more time than we would have liked.

The other reason is that a lot of our earlier plugins were made in a way that sounded amazing, but were not in a state that we could port right away into the Quad Cortex. As I said earlier, the more recent plugins have been developed with Quad Cortex in mind from the ground up, but with the earlier plugins, we had to go back and re-engineer some of the amplifier model algorithms and then update them to make them fully compatible with Quad Cortex. As it turned out, it has taken quite a bit of effort to make sure the re-engineered plugins sound perfect and are up to our standards. We have had a lot of people working a long time on this project, but we are making really satisfactory progress and are happy with the results.

Another cool feature is that you can combine a selected effect of one X series amplifier plugin with another. You can actually mix and match your favorite blocks from different plugins and manage them in the Quad Cortex grid.

These are all very cool features that a lot of our plugin users have asked for. We just have had to figure out how to implement all this as a digital application. Going forward, you will be able to mix and match your favorite blocks from your favorite plugins and create new presets and control everything from Cortex Control which is going to be really cool, as well.

MC: I know you announced Cortex Control, the desktop graphic user interface application at last year's NAMM. Is that going to be ready to be deployed as an official release soon?
Castro: The official release of Cortex Control is available for download from the Neural DSP website now.

MC: As I understand it, Cortex Control is going to have some menus to help facilitate integration between the plugins and Quad Cortex?
Castro: Yes, that's correct. Basically, all of the blocks of a given X series plugin will unlock when the plugin license checks out on iLok and whatever plugin you are using shows up as a registered plugin in your iLok account. Once that's done, you will then be able to access the blocks from the plugin(s) that you have purchased, and all of the included factory presets as well as your own user presets will show up in Quad Cortex as a Quad Cortex signal chain and you will be able to control everything with Cortex Control.

MC: What do you feel is important for our readers to know about your company and why as a company do your products stand out among a really crowded field of similar technologies?
Cresp: Our company is a remarkably interesting intersection of highly talented musicians and engineers, technologists, and designers. When we founded Neural DSP, we felt that there was a false economy with other amplifier modelers on the market at that time. On the one hand, there were guitar

signal processing products on the market that were very intuitive and easy to use and user friendly, but they actually weren't very powerful in terms of signal processing power. On the other hand, there were some amp modelers that sounded good and had a lot of flexibility and signal processing power but were extremely hard to use.

When we set out to design Quad Cortex, we knew we wanted to design a next generation amp modeler and signal processor, a product that would overcome these issues and set the bar going forward for what a next generation amplifier model should be.

Neural DSP is a truly multidisciplinary company. In my opinion, many companies that we are competing with excel in music but in general have a few strengths and then everything else is sort of neglected or is an afterthought. Like the user interface design for example. Before we released Quad Cortex, no other amp modeler on the market had a touch screen user interface that was anywhere near as easy to use and flexible, it was a real game changer.

When we develop a product, we put all of our design parameters at the forefront, regardless of whether they have been done in other products or not. When we set out to design Quad Cortex, we knew we wanted to develop a modeler that was not only the most powerful floor unit on the market, but also had the most realistic and best-in-class sounding amplifier as well being the easiest to use and the most compact amp modeler ever created.

With the Quad Cortex, we were going after a lot of superlatives in one unit and to be honest, that was a very big bet because at that time, we were a very small start-up. Today as a company we are quite big, but at the time that the Quad Cortex and the first plugins were developed, our team consisted of just a couple dozen people and it was a huge task to develop our first products the way we wanted them and get them to market. Fortunately, as it turned out, the bet paid off.

MC: How do you go about vetting the artists you are going to create Archetype series plugins around?
Castro: We try to quantify which artist we are going to work with on several levels. Actually, it's been harder than you would think it would be to quantify which artists to work with. You would think you would be able to just go by gut instinct and sit around a table and say "oh yes, this is going to be great," but the reality is the vetting process is a lot more complex. In the early days, making these decisions was relatively easy, but as we evolved as a company, we have had to take many other factors into consideration before we put our resources behind a given artist as a company.

Today, the artists we select to create an Archetype plugin have to have the right combination of factors going for them. Over the years, a lot of the artists we have considered are highly respected musicians, but they might not have had a following on the internet or social media. The artists we select to work with to develop a plugin need to be respected not only as musicians technically, but they also need to know how to market themselves, not to mention they need to be respected as social media influencers. They also, for lack of a better way to describe it, need to be respected as artists, not just performers.

MC: So, you look for musicians that have a high level of artistry that are genuinely great guitar players and have a track record as social media influencers?
Castro: That's right. Today, guitar technology has evolved to a point where guitarists have access to a huge range of affordable signal processors. As a result, the bar has been raised really high. I saw this term somewhere online; I don't know who said it. I wish I did so I could quote them and give them props, but they used the term "Tone Hero" which I think is very much on point to where a lot of guitar players are coming from.

MC: Where do you see your company being five or 10 years from now looking down the road?
Cresp: That's a particularly good question. We have invested a lot of time and resources in developing very sophisticated technologies that we feel going forward will set the standards for other companies to follow. We are not really interested in following trends. As a company we are not afraid to break the mold and try something new whether it's an accepted industry standard or not. We were way ahead of the curve in using A.I. to model our algorithms. The result is an extremely robust development platform backed up by a strong group of people that can, going forward, be applied to many different kinds of products in different areas of the music industry, not just guitar products.

I wish we could publish a white paper on how we developed some of our proprietary technologies, because it would be really fascinating to read. It's a really interesting story. One of the core principles that drives us as a company is how to remove friction from the creative process and try to develop systems to support the technical skillsets of our product development teams. This could, for example, be applied to how we go about modeling amplifier models in this case, but it could also be a different application. That said, I think that staying in the world of guitar is especially important to us and I think that we will continue on that path. Ten years from now, it is crazy to think where technology could lead us. As a company we will always invest a lot of time into research and making sure that we have something really interesting under development.

Find out more at neuraldsp.com

Kali Uchis

Orquídeas

Geffen Records

Producers: Various

Colombian-American songstress Kali Uchis honors her heritage by masterfully blending fiery Spanish and English production for her fourth studio album *Orquídeas*. Uchis' versatility dazzles as the first half features her signature low-tempo soul sound and progresses to interesting bolero and dance influences in tracks like "Te Mata" and "Dame Beso Muevete." The musical features, including "The Igual Que Un Ángel" with Peso Pluma and "Labios Mordidos" with Karol G, are also a must-listen. **– *Jacqueline Naranjo***

Busta Rhymes

Blockbusta

Conglomerate/Epic

Producers: Various

With over 30 years in this rap game, Busta Rhymes is showing no signs of fatigue. His latest release, titled *Blockbusta*, is his 11th studio album; and it's executively produced by Pharrell Williams, Timbaland, and Swizz Beatz (three highly respected producers in the music business). "Beach Ball," "Luxury Life" and "Big Everything" are just a few of the many bangers on this album, which features artists like Bia, Quavo, Burna Boy, and Coi Leray. And *Blockbusta* is just like its album cover, a volcano that's erupted. **– *Adam Seyum***

Chino

Chameleon

Fervor Records

Producers: J. Cuse, Thomas Bowen, Chino

Chino's major label debut blends pop, R&B and hip-hop, heavy on the pop sensibility. Lead singles "Rocketship" and "Stay Down" are earworms, easy-to-listen to with chilled-out jazz guitar and sizzling dance drum beats. While the entire project is only seven songs, it is hard to hear variance when listening to the whole album, as many tracks share the same formula and ingredients. The brief duet "No Good" deserves a shoutout for its guest feature Taylor Blasucci who added pretty harmonies and a feminine mystique. **– *Joseph Maltese***

Brian Tarquin & Heavy Friends

Beyond the Warrior's Eyes

Downtown Music/Dashgo Distribution

Producer: Brian Tarquin

Sometimes the cause is more important than the art, and this album benefits the veterans charity Hope For The Warriors, "who provide medical care, mental health counseling, professional training and education, physical conditioning and transition services for wounded, ill, and injured Marines and Navy members." Tarquin has assembled some top-notch talent for this jazz-rock odyssey, including Eric Johnson, Robben Ford, Steve Morse and more. **– *Brett Callwood***

Tate McRae

Think Later

RCA Records

Producers: Various

As the viral hit "Greedy" keeps climbing up the charts, Canadian pop singer Tate McRae is striking while the iron is hot with her second studio album *Think Later*. McRae's music shines when she embraces her bold persona and dynamic melodies in tracks like "exes" and "run for the hills." Woefully, the songwriting relies heavily on radio-friendly and stereotypical tropes that don't help her stand out amongst her pop peers. **– *Jacqueline Naranjo***

Nikhil Korula Power Trio

Crossroads

Groove Infinity Records

Producer: Nikhil Korula

Guitarist Korula embraces his musical roots, with a tip of the hat to Clapton, Hendrix, Robert Johnson, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Freddie King, et al. Here are 15 instrumental gems that emphasize open rhythms and stealthily executed improvisation. The Power Trio is augmented wonderfully throughout by buoyant horns and the soulful keyboard textures of guests Chuck Leavell and Bob Malone. Give a listen to originals like the Stax-flavored "Struttin'" or the strong piano ballad "When I'm With You." Righteous! **– *Eric Harabadian***

Millyz

Holy Water

Create Music Group Inc.

Producers: Various

Millyz, an emcee and singer from the mean streets of Boston, MA, has been on his lyrical grind for a while; and has gotten co-signs from notable rappers in the rap game along the way. Laced with metaphors with real life behind his lyrics, Millyz is true to his music. *Holy Water* is heartfelt and insightful with songs like "Holy Water," "Last Time," and "Soul Bleed." This album features guest appearances from hip-hop personalities like OhGeesy, Fivio Foreign, and Benny the Butcher. **– *Adam Seyum***

Mia x Ally

The Viral Hits

MXA Records

Producers: Various

Albany-based Mia Asano (electric violin) and Ally the Piper have gone viral time and again for their unique reimaginations of hard rockin' songs. Their TikToks—including "5 Metallica Songs You Didn't Know Could Bagpipe" and "Through the Fire and Flames"—have caught the attention and approval of the original players. *The Viral Hits* are just that, well-produced renditions of their popular covers. "Free Bird" and "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," are standouts, verging on novelty over utility, but Mia x Ally's musicianship is undeniable! **– *Joseph Maltese***

To be considered for review in the Album Reviews section, you must have a record deal with a major label or an independent label with an established distributor. If you do not, please see our New Music Critiques section.

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Bill Bachmann

Contact: bill465@gmail.com
Web: billbachmannmusic.com
Seeking: Review, Management
Style: Singer-Songwriter, Folk

Bill Bachmann is a seasoned singer-songwriter with a country twang. Latest album *Flight of the BumBillB* is Bachmann's first release in over a decade. "Size Don't Matter on a Banjo" is clever, perhaps not as hilarious as Bachmann may think, but takes swings at harmonica players that will get big laughs when played live at the bluegrass festival. "Double Negative" is another farcical folk song, one deserving of a second listen to absorb all the wordplay. "You're not unappealing" is a love line for the ages. Bachmann yodels "I'm a Real Man" on a bluesy jaunt, on which we hear some convincing lounge playing.

Production	7
Lyrics	8
Music	7
Vocals	7
Musicianship	8

SCORE: 7.4

Tre Fo Boyz

Contact: keithmajor99music@gmail.com
Web: li.sten.to/bighit
Seeking: Label, Publishing, Booking
Style: Hip-Hop

We encourage "the more the merrier" to extend the Tre Fo Boyz universe—led by Carolina artist CTM Boss, who already enlisted guest vocalists like Huntiee Pooh and Lil Murden, and producers Kory L and Mike Bandz. "It was me, myself and I" makes for a catchy refrain on "Big Hit." "We get money," repeated a bunch gets annoying on "Cuttin Up." Nonetheless, the songs are hot. The verses and overall tracks are exciting and on par with other moody rap collectives. The music overall is generic, and since there's interest in sync placements, that's a compliment. Being direct gets the message across. "Can't Cap Me" is direct, meaning "can't catch me."

Production	7
Lyrics	7
Music	8
Vocals	8
Musicianship	7

SCORE: 7.4

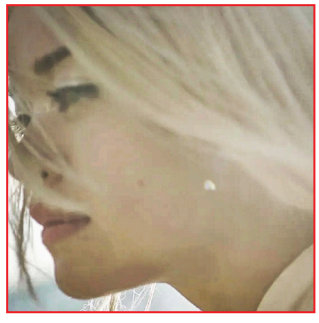
Boss Hippy

Contact: aacreationinfo@gmail.com
Web: Spotify
Seeking: Booking
Style: Hip-Hop

There's a singsongy, nursery rhyme quality to the Boss Hippy song "Dandelion In the Chop" which brings to mind the likes of Outkast and even, at times, De La Soul. True to his name, Boss Hippy appears to be in this to have fun. His vibe is one of joy and musical freedom, which brings with it the swagger of a man unconstrained by traditional genre boundaries. The song "The Rapper" starts with a piano loop which lends the song an air of melancholy, to its immense benefit. Then "Get Out Of My Head" is a therapeutic, jaunty couple of minutes that is both thought provoking and calming. It'll be fascinating to see where his vision takes him from here.

Production	8
Lyrics	8
Music	7
Vocals	7
Musicianship	7

SCORE: 7.4



Magali, A Cult

Contact: beatrice@empktpr.com
Web: Spotify
Seeking: Booking, Film/TV, Reviews
Style: Electropop, Wave

There's so much going on here that it's actually quite hard to pin it all down. The intriguingly named Magali, A Cult (a solo artist) was born in Hong Kong, and now resides in NYC. She describes herself online as a "sci-fi pop artist," and that's weirdly vague enough to actually make a ton of sense. The music is an esoteric workout for the brain, while also proving to be spiritually refreshing. There's some '90s electronic in there, some pop harmonies, and even an industrial edge. Magali, A Cult is a producer, 3D modeler and 3D animator, which explains why her music has the feel of a score at times. As sweet and draining as "It Is (The End)" is, "Auntie Christ" is poetry set to ferocity.

Production	9
Lyrics	8
Music	8
Vocals	8
Musicianship	8

SCORE: 8.2

AleMor

Contact: jjentertainment@gmail.com
Web: alemormusic.com
Seeking: Reviews/Interviews
Style: Latin Pop

Colombian singer AleMor blends elements of R&B, soul, jazz, and boleroin such a way that a song like "Tiempo" (also featuring the vocal talents of Rafael Pollo Brito) sounds like a gorgeous Latin muical stew, rather than a series of genres that have been forced together. AleMor has a beautifully emotive, smooth and earthy voice, yet she loves a duet. Based in Miami, AleMor sings in in Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese, which keeps things interesting. But it really doesn't matter if you don't understand her language of choice on any particular song — the sentiments are overt. "Agridulce" sees her singing with Fabian Hernandez, and as with her other duets, their voices compliment each other. She can pick 'em!

Production	7
Lyrics	8
Music	7
Vocals	8
Musicianship	7

SCORE: 7.4

Brenda Russell

Contact: tomestpr@yahoo.com
Web: brendarussell.com
Seeking: Booking, Film/TV
Style: R&B, Soul, Singer-Songwriter

Soulstress and acclaimed songwriter Brenda Russell's "What Will It Take" is a new "We Are The World," a proclamation and plea for peace, a message that bears repeating and being repurposed for every generation. Russell's rich lead vocals command the background singers and children's choir, backed by hand percussion and tribal flute flourishes. The song, and arrangement especially, sounds dated, as if it could share a release date with the 1985 Michael Jackson song for Africa. However, the sincerity is welcome when it comes to songs for unity. A forthcoming solo album will make for a great capstone.

Production	8
Lyrics	8
Music	8
Vocals	8
Musicianship	8

SCORE: 8.0

Music Connection's executive committee rates recorded music on a scale of 1 to 10. Number 1 represents the lowest possible score, 10 represents the highest possible score.
A final score of 7 denotes a solid, competent artist. For more information, see Submission Guidelines on the next page.

Teni Rane

Contact: tenirane@gmail.com
Web: Soundcloud
Seeking: Label, Mgmt, Booking, Film/TV
Style: Singer-Songwriter, Folk-Pop

While Teni Rane does sit in the folky singer-songwriter space, there's a lot more going on here. She has a voice that is stunningly delicate and unwaveringly strong. Fans of Jewel will find much to love here, as will those coming from a more bluegrass, Alison Krauss-esque end of the spectrum. Rane is also an accomplished acoustic guitarist, and she works with some exemplary musicians (cellist Dave Eggar, guitarist Phil Faconti, bassist Roger Gustafsson). Rane co-produces, and she creates her own sleeve art too. She's clearly something of a renaissance woman, and that is to be admired. But it is the evocative lyrics and the sweet brilliance of her voice that is so compelling.

Production 8
Lyrics 8
Music 8
Vocals 8
Musicianship 8

SCORE: 8.0

MetroKidE

Contact: MetroKidE@gmail.com
Web: Apple Music
Seeking: Label, Film/TV
Style: Hip-Hop/Trap, Soul

MetroKidE's rap delivery is a breath of fresh air. The artist is emotive and vulnerable, while never lacking in confidence and strength. This isn't mumble—MetroKidE's stories are clear and concise, while the music finds influence in trip-hop and indie rock. It's occasionally orchestral, always gorgeous, as the artist takes the brave step of allowing the beats to take a backseat and the melodies to swim their way to the forefront. The artist has bite too; in "Ain't Comin' Outside," he explains that he "wants that online money," which is perhaps the most authentic take on the contemporary indie musician that we've heard in a while.

Production 8
Lyrics 7
Music 8
Vocals 7
Musicianship 7

SCORE: 7.4

Chain Reaction

Contact: info@chainreactiondetroit.com
Web: chainreactiondetroit.com
Seeking: Booking, Film/TV
Style: Rock

A proud product of Detroit Rock City, Eric Harabadian-fronted Chain Reaction play gritty garage rock tunes, and demonstrate a social consciousness and awareness on recent release *Still in the Game*. The title track is a bluesy celebration of the band's decades-long tenure. "American Son," from the soundtrack to the film *We Thrive*, is downtempo with hand percussion and wailing background singers, while Harabadian makes poetic pleas for the plight of the immigrant. The opening track "Playmaker"—cowritten with Bobby D (Drozdzewski)—was our favorite of the bunch, with catchy hooks and shredding fuzz guitars. We look forward to hearing more refined recordings.

Production 7
Lyrics 7
Music 8
Vocals 8
Musicianship 8

SCORE: 7.8

Annabelle Marie

Contact: annabelle@bohemianinlondon.co.uk
Web: bohemianinlondon.co.uk
Seeking: Film/TV composing
Style: Future soul, Neo soul, Neo classical

Hypnotic, mesmerizing, enticing, etherial—all are words that apply to British-based artist Annabelle Marie. The entirety of her "You" single is an aural massage—it washes in on a swathe of chill beats and floating melody, and proceed to carry you away on a mystical magic carpet of musical magnificence. References include Massive Attack, Faithless and Portishead—there are trip-hop elements, trance too, and it's hard to dissect into specific elements because the music is blended into one very relaxing and ultimately effective whole. Her occasional use of piano only amplifies the sparse yet fulfilling feeling that the music provides. Devastating and thrilling, Marie's music is an emotionally fraught, exhilarating experience.

Production 7
Lyrics 7
Music 9
Vocals 8
Musicianship 8

SCORE: 7.8

Wyl Snap

Contact: goinbananazentroster@gmail.com
Web: reverbnation.com/wylsnap
Seeking: Film/TV Placement
Style: Rap

Vegas rapper wyl snap lives up to his lowercase name in that he snaps out rhymes with a sense of glorious urgency. Busta Rhymes is a name that springs to mind as snap is literally busting out lines like, "Gotta go, I gotta go, I gotta go" on the curiously titled "Milwaukee Knows." On "I Apologize," the artist displays a tremendous amount of humility as he lists the ways that he has made mistakes in the past. "I was selling drugs in extreme proportions, your mama got pregnant, it was mine, we need an abortion," he raps candidly. wyl snap doesn't pull any punches as he keeps things as real as they can possibly be, resulting in a startlingly authentic listening experience. snap manages to stand out in a crowded field.

Production 7
Lyrics 8
Music 7
Vocals 7
Musicianship 7

SCORE: 7.2

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

Contact: jjentertainment@gmail.com
Web: bigphatband.com
Seeking: Review
Style: Jazz

We have recently heard from Grammy-nominated jazz composer Gordon Goodwin on *Raymond Scott Reimagined*, the tribute to the Gershwin contemporary, on which "Cutey and the Dragon" achieves symphonic success. Takes on Count Basie's "April in Paris" and "Anything Goes" are also exciting and imaginative. Horns, strings, piano, pitched percussion and a great electric guitar trade off as main voices, which keeps these compositions fresh. His Big Phat Band is an 18-piece jazz orchestra, and, with Goodwin as leader-arranger, achieve a uniform sound, while spotlighting its talented soloists.

Production 8
Lyrics x
Music 8
Vocals 8
Musicianship 9

SCORE: 8.3

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: There is absolutely no charge for a New Music Critique. We critique recordings that have yet to connect with a label or distributor. To be considered please go to musicconnection.com/get-reviewed. All submissions are randomly selected and reviewed by committee.

DEVON GILFILLIAN

MEGAN (PERRY) MOORE

Tractor Tavern *Seattle, WA*

Contact: aprice@shorefire.com
Web: devongilfillian.com
Players: Devon Gilfillian, Vocals, uitar; Jonathan Smalt, drums, backing vocals; Matthew Chancey, bass; Josh Blaylock, keys, backing vocals; Ray Mason, trombone; Nate Felty, percussion; Parker Knight, crew

Material: Devon Gilfillian is a gifted singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who creates neo-rocked-out soul. Gilfillian's provocative lyrics delve into life's complex manifolds—from finding and experiencing love to observing and contending with socio-political injustices.

Musicianship: Gilfillian's vocals are superb. He effortlessly moves his rapturous voice, which embodies Curtis Mayfield's silky-smooth timbre, from dark lows to seductive highs in "Imma Let My Body Move." As a guitarist, his work also pays homage to Mayfield's innovative guitar technique, but also points toward Prince's electrified virtuosity in the supercharged, post-chorus breakdowns "Unchained" and the extraordinary experimental "Follow the Leader."

Keyboardist Blaylock provided exquisite additional melodics which included his unaccompanied "Piano Interlude." The rhythm section—Smalt on drums, Felty on percussion, and Chancey on bass—read each other's beats, fills, and low lines to perfection. As an ensemble, they provided amazing accompaniment for Gilfillian's gorgeous grooves.

Performance: Devon Gilfillian walked onto a Tractor Tavern stage decorated with woven carpets, warmly lit lamps, and several well-placed floral arrangements. He shined a bright smile to the excited, sold-out crowd and surged into the delectable "Brown Sugar Queen." His seductive voice and alluring personality brought the already tight audience closer, squeezing them together for the Afrobeat-driven "Get Out and Get It" and the neo-funk "Right Kind of Crazy." Gilfillian and company moved further into the night with the sultry "The Recipe" before belting out an emotionally stirring rendition of Marvin Gaye's "What Going On." The show ended with soaring atmospherics in the poignant "Love you Anyway."

Summary: Magical best describes Devon Gilfillian's live show. The joyous contemplative beauty of his music combined with his effervescent, authentic personality instantly draws people toward him. His effortless skill in blending a wide variety of musical genres and lyrical content in his compositions is impressive while his soul-based musicianship is on par with the best in the business. Make sure to check out Devon Gilfillian on tour as well as his most recent album *Love You Anway.* **– *Megan Perry***

RACHEL GRAE

PIERCE BROCHETTI

The Moroccan Lounge *Los Angeles, CA*

Web: rachelgrae.com
Contact: mcmiskell@shorefire.com
Players: Rachel Grae, vocals, keys; Isacc Singer, keys; Liam Fennell, guitar; Izzy Lamberti, drums

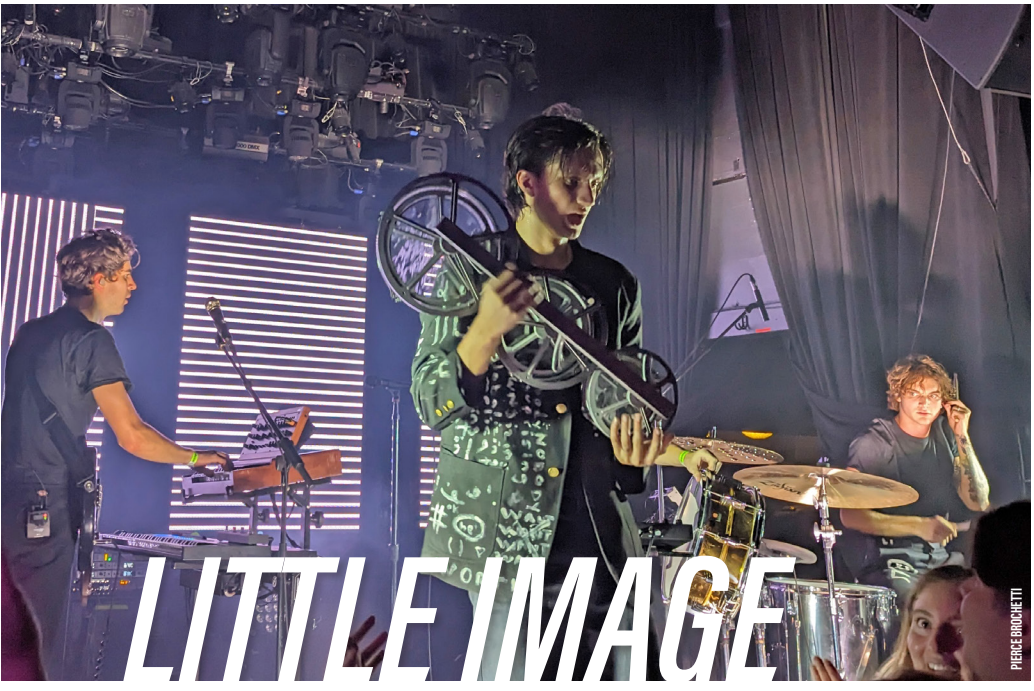
Material: Rachel Grae is a pop/rock and R&B group in the likes of Ariana Grande, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga and Selena Gomez. The music is catchy and has powerful lyrics that contribute greatly to the understanding of a broken heart. If the music doesn't get you, the lyrics will.

Musicianship: Grae has an excellent group of musicians backing her up. Lamberti is a firecracker behind the kit and was constantly going off. She was sitting in the back, thumping away in her own little world. Confident and poised, she was the backbone of every song. She didn't miss a beat all night and her energy was boundless and infectious. She made the rhythm section happen, even without a bass player. Singer Grae contributed nicely with keyboards and some well-placed, tasty chops and was key in holding down the bottom end.

Performance: Rachel Grae conveys an amiable and pleasant persona. She commands attention from the audience and in return she gives them friendship and bonds easily with everyone, even newbies. She has a great voice that sounds, at times, like Lady Gaga, or Ariana Grande and she can hit the high highs as well as the low lows. "How to be Alone" showcased Fennell on guitar, who, also, was an integral part of the music. It's always nice to have a solid player, who knows the music and that you can count on.

Summary: Rachel Grae is an up-n-comer who has well-written tunes and a very good band. All her music is pretty good, no matter how short or how long the tune is. She is very entertaining and the music is affable. Songs like "How Dare You," "Enough of Me" and "Your Loss" take you to a land of heartbreak, as you are beautifully lulled into a world of confusion, hate and anger; as only love can do. Just ask Rachel Grae.

– *Pierce Brochetti*



LITTLE IMAGE

The Echo *Los Angeles, CA*

Web: littleimagemusic.com
Contact: brittany.rendak@disney.com
Players: Jackson Simmons, vocals, guitar; Brandon Walters, bass, synthesizer; Troy Bruner, drums

Material: Little Image is a rave-ready rock band, complete with thundering drum beats, searing guitars and how-low-can-you-go bass lines that rev up the audience to new heights. The music is a little bit all-over-the-place, but the audience loved it. Sounding at times like Rage Against the Machine, and Radiohead and/or the Goo Goo Dolls at others, the music was loud, in-your-face and thunderous the whole time.

Musicianship: Take three musicians, who individually are very good, and put them together and you have a great, energetic and spirited band that drove the audience crazy. All three of these guys are multi-instrumentalists as they showed off their skills to a near sold-out show at The Echo in Los Angeles. Bruner was on keys on some of the songs, Walters was on guitar, and Simmons... well, Simmons was having his way with the ladies as he included the audience in on all the fun.

Performance: The performance was great. Little Image had a screen behind them on stage flashing pictures of the band and random thoughts and sayings and images that kept the audience intrigued the whole time. Walters was having a great time showering the front row with sweat as Simmons and Bruner were content with playing their instruments and having fun with the crowd.

Summary: Little Image is a great rave band. The drums were the driving force behind the sound and Walters and Simmons took advantage and took the music to another level. Simmons' vocals are very good and the background vocals by Bruner and Walters added another vital layer to the already groovy and good music. They are energetic and the music is likable and appealing.

– Pierce Brochetti

MALDALITSO

Joshua Tree Music Festival *Joshua Tree, CA*

Contact: neilnayar@hotmail.com
Web: banjoboys.com
Players: Yobu Maligwa, bababtone and lead vocals; Yosefe Kalekeni, guitar, drum and backing vocals

Material: Under the desert sun, Malawi-based duo Madalitso Band played a sparkling set on the main stage at the Joshua Tree Music Festival. Yobu Maligwa's bright tenor vocal and homemade bass instrument, the babatone, combine with Yosefe Kalenkeni's rich baritone vocal, dancing guitar lines, and thumping kick drum to create a rhythmic force. The band pounded out their catchy Afropop songs from their album *Musakayike*, meaning "don't doubt us," their second international release under Bongo Joe Records.

Musicianship: Within the span of a song, the crowd was dancing along to the infectious, sunny grooves. Kalenkeni's rhythms drove the band's sound with his steady four-on-the-floor kick drum, simultaneously weaving syncopated guitar lines to provide the chords. Combined with the one-stringed babatone and the duo's vocals, the sound was greater than the sum of its parts. Maligwa and Kalenkeni share vocal duties and take turns leading the songs, but their combined harmonies really captured the crowd's attention. They delightfully flip musical conventions on their head by using the bassy babatone as the lead solo instrument while Kalenkeni keeps his guitar lines driving and catchy. "Jingo Janga" highlighted the set, with great energy and flare.

Performance: The set fell into a predictable pattern of vocal section, then an instrumental jam. By using a glass bottle slide on the babatone, Maligwa not only played bass lines for the songs, but punctuated the tunes with adventurous slides up and down the neck. This rising action for solos frequently culminated in a single, repeated note. Though minimalistic at times, these musical sections brought the listener's attention back to the rhythmic core of their style, toeing the line between jam band and pop.

Summary: Madalitso band are an exciting take on Afrobeat music. By boiling down the genre's instrumentation to its core, the duo showcases the beauty of simplicity. This duo delighted the crowd with their vocal harmonies, warm stage presence, and dedication to the joyful groove. ***– Ian Stahl***

Hill Country Downstairs *New York, NY*

Contact: daniella@pressherepublicity.com
Website: sethglier.com
Players: Seth Glier, vocals, guitar, keyboards

Material: Marking the release of his new album, *Everything*, solely devoted to climate change, Grammy®-nominated artist Seth Glier took the audience on a journey, imagining a world where we are one with our planet. With topics ranging from foraging for mushrooms to trees having in-depth conversations, Glier's vision is one of hope and problem solving. In "Birches," trees cry out for what they are missing: *The Maples are moving/Spinning northbound seed by seed/ Praying for snow and the sap that needs running*. In his strongest appeal to our collective efforts to preserve the planet, Glier implores us to consider all living breathing entities in "Rise:" *What if this is the beginning/Not the beginning of the end/We all belong, we all belong to the rhythm/So rise.*

Musicianship: Although considered a folk singer-songwriter, Glier transcends that designation with a panoply of sounds from guitar to keyboards and programmed instruments. The absence of a backing band did not impact the performance as Glier fills the spaces with these elements along with the high energy he exudes. His vocals are powerful and often have more of a pop sensibility than what would be considered a traditional "folky" sound or style.

Performance: He managed to deliver messages that were packaged with a high level of musicality, humor, and sincerity, never hitting us over the head or bemoaning our fate, which was refreshing. There were also plenty of charming anecdotes to accompany the songs.

Summary: Seth Glier's commitment to the issues reads authentic. Without preaching or scolding, he paints a tapestry of what can be, with positivity and musical acumen. He has collaborated with musicians in Ukraine, Mongolia, China, and Mexico during his time working with the U.S. State Department and shared the bill with a diverse list of artists including Ronnie Spector, James Taylor, and Ani DiFranco.

– Ellen Woloshin

Tractor Tavern *Seattle, WA*

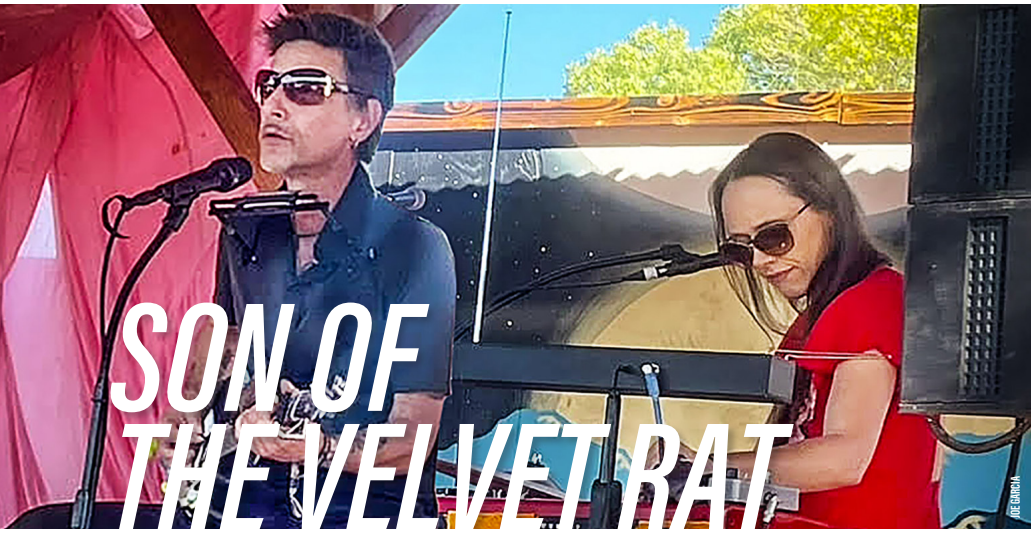
Contact: monsterwatch@gmail.com
Web: monsterwatchnoise.com
Players: John Spinney, guitars, vocals; Ben Parker, bassist; David Cubine, drums

Material: Monsterwatch is a frenetically heavy psych-punk band based in the Emerald City. The trio embraces the dissonant sludgy guitar sounds made popular during Seattle's gilded grunge days (Nirvana, Mudhoney) but blasts them into modernity by blending brutal post-hardcore beats (Metz, Turnstile), fuzzy hallucinogenics (The Black Angels, Thee Oh Sees/Osees), and sardonic art-edged tonalities (IDLES, Fontaines D.C.). Monsterwatch's lyrics explore the concept of psychological thrills and existential crises, finding purpose and meaning in lives filled with despair.

Musicianship: The trio's overall visceral musical technique is striking. Frontman John Spinney's vocals easily flow from haunting lows to lofty screams throughout. As a guitarist, Spinney's playing is blistering, fretting power chords as well as guitar solos with precision even while playing upside down (which is often). Bassist Ben Parker creates deep counter melodies with influences that include Matt Freeman's (Rancid) arpeggiation stylings as well as Peter Hook's (Joy Division) "hooky" bass lines. Drummer David Cubine's hard-powered hitting and his skill in keeping varied time signatures is impressive, especially when working in clean, expressive supersonic fills.

Performance: Monsterwatch stepped onto the Tractor Tavern's stage awash in swirling, screeching sound effects. The band casually took their places and after a quick "Hey Seattle, what's up!," plummeted into a pure punk fiasco starting with "Let Go." Monsterwatch immediately moved into "Lick the Wall," with lead singer Spinney bending over backward while sticking his tongue in the air. The band continued the chaotic vibe as John climbed a speaker cabinet, motioning the crowd to move closer. Their raised arms prompted John to jump in, crowd surfing on his knees. The show ended with the darkly harsh "Big Sin" and maniacal "Brain Twist." Monsterwatch signed off with Spinney handing his guitar to the crowd before the trio disappeared backstage.

Summary: Monsterwtach is an extremely talented, vicious psych-punk trio. Their live show highlights the band's ability to effortlessly blend a wide range of musical influences from grunge to metal core with polished finesse and fierce rawness. ***– Megan Perry***



SON OF THE VELVET RAT

Joshua Tree Music Festival *Joshua Tree, CA*

Contact: sonofthevelvetrat@gmail.com
Web: sonofthevelvetrat.com
Players: Georg Altziebler, vocals, guitar; Heike Binder, vocals, drums, percussion, keyboards, theremin; Tim and Ellen Chinnock, backup vocals; Gar Robertson, mandolin

Material: Son of the Velvet Rat (SotVR) is the stage name of Georg Altziebler, joined by his wife, Heike Binder. Delivering tremolo-soaked guitar chords, honest vocals and lyrics, and simple noire-folk grooves, the duo seemed right at home nestled on the cafe stage with the morning sun streaming down as festival goers trickled in from camp.

Musicianship: With his grizzled vocals and mournful harmonica lines, Altziebler carries the folk-troubadour legacy of Dylan, Van Zandt, and Drake. However, his psychedelic approach to the guitar brings a new flare to the tradition, embracing modern techniques like tape echo manipulation to paint spacey soundscapes that add to his song-vignettes.

Performance: Opening as a duo, "Blood Red Shoes" was a natural highlight with its simmering energy and singalong "Sha la la's." The tight, haunting harmonies on "White Patch of Canvas" highlighted the couple's locked-in vocals. SotVR weaved song into song, frequently tying together different tracks with a swell from Altziebler's guitar, or a flash of magic from Binder's theremin. The simmering, melodramatic "Another Glass of Champagne" began with a crowd pleasing theremin intro, and then sucked the crowd in with woozy vocals and instrumentation. "See So Blue" had a nostalgic melodica solo, punctuated with vocal harmonies, cantering straight into a spacey transition of theremin and tape echo, building into "Jet Pilot"'s driven guitar groove.

Summary: Son of the Velvet Rat is an adventurous take on the folk-rock tradition. By melding the Old-World cabaret influence of Georges Brassens and Jacques Brel with the story-driven songwriting of Bob Dylan and sonic landscapes of Mojave psychedelia, Altziebler and Binder lure you in and swallow you down with a blood red merlot. The duo have a stunning range thanks to Binder's multi-instrumental capabilities and convincingly tie intimate love songs to groovy surf-rock tunes. Altziebler's self-referential lyric from "Jet Pilot" captures their ethos perfectly, "sometimes it feels like nothing holds me, a puppet on a broken string... feel so free it makes me sing." – ***Ian Stahl***

The Troubadour *Los Angeles, CA*

Web: frankieandthewitchfingers.com
Conatct: frankieandthewitchfingers@gmail.com
Players: Dylan Sizemore, vocals, guitar; Josh Menashe, guitar, synthesizer; Nikki Smith, bass; Nick Aguilar, drums

Material: Frankie and the Witch Fingers is a hard rocking, open-minded band. They are very progressive and mix it up extremely well with punk, metal, jazz and pop. The band is many faceted in many ways. They introduce a trumpet and a sax into a few of their songs and the songs themselves have many layers, twists, turns and spirals. Fast and furious at one point, then a slow-go for a bit, then it's back on the horsie to gallop away; but only to get into the next song. Hints of Yes, Zeppelin and the Sex Pistols oozed out of the band's pores as they played very melodic and melodious hard tunes.

Musicianship: Excellent musicianship all around. These guys (and gal) put it on the line this particular evening in Hollywood. Sizemore walked the tightrope, did a few flips and landed straight on and wanted more. Great shredding from Menashe added 'umph' to the already great tunes as the horns and synthesizers added sophistication to the mix. The rhythm section was so on, you could tell these guys have been playing together for a while. Sizemore, Smith and Aguilar could do no wrong as they laid the foundation for a great evening of entertainment.

FRANKIE AND THE WITCH FINGERS

Performance: The performance was extremely good. Super high energy was emanating from the stage all night. Aguilar is a monster behind the kit. Not just because he had painted his face super ugly, but because he prodded, poked, yelled and provoked, the audience, as well as his bandmates, to dance, jump and shout all night long; all the while twirling his sticks and sneering at who-so-ever dared lock eyes with him. Together with Smith and Sizemore, the chemistry is unmatched.

Summary: Frankie and the Witch Fingers was super fun to watch and listen to. Superb lighting show by the Troubadour crew added ambiance and mood to the already vigorous atmosphere that Frankie and the Witch Fingers exuded. A great band performance that not only entertained on a Broadway level, but entertained and impressed on a musical level. If you're into high energy rock 'n' roll and want to dance, jump and shout all night long, Frankie and the Witch Fingers is your band. Prog-Metal at its best!

– Pierce Brochetti

MUSIC CONNECTION

Directory of Producers & Engineers

Looking for the right producer or engineer? Here is Music Connection's 2024 exclusive, national list of professionals to help connect you to record producers, sound engineers, mixers and vocal production specialists. All information supplied by the listees

AAM
Advanced Alternative Media
270 Lafayette St., Ste. 605
New York, NY 10012
212-924-2929
Email: info@aaminc.com
Web: aaminc.com

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310-271-9350

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Joe Zook

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Santa Monica, CA 90405
310-656-1350
Email: info@globalpositioningservices.net
Web: globalpositioningservices.net
Contact: Jerimaya Grabher, JW Johnson, Colin Ramsay

Michael Brauer
(mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Coldplay, John Mayer, Luther Vandross, Aretha Franklin, Elle King

Billy Bush
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: The Naked & Famous, Garbage, Angus and Julia Stone, The Boxer Rebellion, Neon Trees, Kaiser Chiefs, Silversun Pickups, Snow Patrol and Paul McCarthy

Phil Ek
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Modest Mouse, Grouplove, Band of Horses, Bear's Den, Fleet Foxes, The Shins, Built to Spill, J. Roddy Walston & The Business and The Walkman, Jake Troth, Smoke Fairies

Greg Fidelman
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Metallica, Slayer, Black Sabbath, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kid Rock, Marilyn Manson and Slipknot. Additional records include work with U2, Johnny Cash, and Neil Diamond

Ryan Freeland
(mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Bonnie Raitt, Ray LaMontagne, Hugh Laurie, Aimee Mann, Joe Henry, Grant-Lee Phillips, Ingrid Michaelson, Loudon Wainwright III, Rodney Crowell, Alana Davis, Morrissey, Jonathan Brooke

Mark Howard
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Neil Young, Rickie Lee Jones, Tom Waits, U2, Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris, Eddie Vedder

Ethan Johns
(producer, mixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Lucinda Williams, Willie Nelson, Marianne Faithful, Emmylou Harris, U2, Peter Gabriel, R.E.M., Neil Young and The Neville Brothers

Christian "Leggy" Langdon
(producer, mixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Meg Myers, Banks, Amos Lee, Jamie N Commons, Ed Sheeran, Ben Platt, The Pierces, Fletcher and Caitlyn Smith

Su Lee
(singer-songwriter, producer, visual artist)
Notable Projects: Slice of Life, The Rough, I'll Just Dance

Lera Lynn
(producer, artist, songwriter)
Notable Projects: HBO series True Detective, Plays Well With Others, (duets with John Paul White, Shovels and Rope, Dylan LeBlanc)

Tucker Martine
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Neko Case, First Aid Kit, She & Him, The Decemberists, Modest Mouse, Sufjan Stevens, Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, Mavis Staples

Dave O'Donnell
(engineer, mixer, producer)
Notable Projects: James Taylor, Keith Richards, John Mayer, Keith Urban, Eric Clapton, Keb' Mo,' Lyle Lovett, Smokey Robinson, Ray Charles

Lincoln Parish
(producer, mixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Lissie, The Moxies, Run River North, Rebecca Roubion, Lucinda Wiliams, Cage the Elephant.

Vance Powell
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Chris Stapleton, Elle King, The Reconteurs, The Dead Weather, The White Stripes, Arctic Monkeys, Wolfmother, Seasick Steve, Black Prairie, Tinariwe and Jeff The Brotherhood

Joey Raia
(mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Run the Jewels, Aesop Rock, Nick Hook, Mac Miller, Danger Mouse and the Frozen Original Soundtrack

Mark Rankin
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: 3x Grammy Award winner for his work with Adele and Harry Styles, Queens of The Stone Age, Florence and The Machine, Iggy Pop, Foster The People. Worked with Taylor Swift, Maggie Rogers, Spoon, Weezer, CeeLo Green.

Benjamin Rice
(Producer, Vocal Producer, Mixer, Engineer, Songwriter)
Notable Projects: Lady Gaga, Selena Gomez, Julia Michaels, Becky G., John Legend, JP Saxe, James Bay, Noa Kirel and Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real

Carmen Rizzo
(Producer, Mixer, Remixer, Composer)
Notable Projects: Seal, Coldplay, Paul Oakenfold, AR Rahman, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Pete Townshend, Huun Huur Tu and Niyaz

Thom Russo
(producer, mixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Juanes, Jay-Z, Michael Jackson, Macy Gray, System of a Down, Johnny Cash, Eric Clapton, Enrique Iglesias, Rod Stewart and Destiny's Child

Dave Sitek
(producer, mixer, songwriter, remixer)
Notable Projects: Beyonce, Jay-Z, Yeah Yeah Yeah's, Solange, Santigold, Foals, Kelis and Beady Eye

Damian Taylor
(mixer, producer, remixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: the Prodigy, Bjork, Arcade Fire, the Killers, Temper Trap, UNKLE, City of the Sun, Naeem, Bomba Estereo and Dizzy. Recently worked with Jon Batiste, Tkay Maidza, Talos, Odette, Louise Burns

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P.O. Box 280010
Northridge, CA 91328 818-300-0400
Email: skipsaylor@gmail.com
Web: skipsaylor.com
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Ian Blanch
Notable Projects: Mary J. Blige, Missy Elliot, Nappy Roots, KRS-One

Enrico De Paoli
Notable Projects: Ray Charles, Elton John, Marcus Miller, Aaron Neville, Alexander O'Neal, Stanley Jordan, Djavan, Jorge Vercillo, Brazilian Carnival engineering, Smirnoff Worldwide commercial mixing

Lester Mendoza
Notable Projects: Beyonce, Glasses Malone with Kendrick Lamar, Jenny Rivera, Hit-Boy, Jahlil Beats, King Lil G, DJ Journey, Egyptian Lover, Jared Lee Gosselin, Novel, Juan Rivera, Jackie Rivera, Ervin Pope, David Rolas, Malik Yusef

Skip Saylor
Notable Projects:
Production: Bobby Brown, Ronnie Hudson, Too Short, E40, Candyman 187, Snoop Dogg, Bootstraps, Ceasefire, California Dreamers, End of Ever, the Ex-Hang-Ups, TJ Gibson, Oh My Stars, Spacifix, Brandon James, Lynn Carey Saylor w/ Brian May
Mixing/Engineering: Julian Lennon, Alan Frew (Glass Tiger), Producer John Jones, Travis Kr8ts, BlessOne featuring Tamar Braxton, Master P, Malik Yusef, Jamie Lynn, Chris Coleman, Alex Ligertwood & Emily Richards, Jonathan Butler (No. 1 Contemporary Jazz Album, No. 9 Gospel on Billboard), Producer Kevin Teasley, Booker T. Jones, Vintage Trouble, Bobby Brown, Egyptian Lover, Dale Fiola, Producer Jared Lee Gosselin, Novel, Brainpower feat. W.C. Ralph Tresvant, Jonathan Lashever, Mohammad Molaei, Will Smith, Notorious, Iron Man 2, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Nashville Film Festival Award-Top Music, Parenthood, Cherie & Marie Currie, Layla Hathaway, Twentieth Century Fox Films, HBO Film/TV, The Day the Earth Stood Still, X-Men, Obama Documentary, Mumtaz Morris, Phoebe Snow, Gospel Artist Karima Kibble, The Reddings, Gary Taylor, Vesta Williams, Linda Clifford, Con Funk Shun, Damion Hall, Lukas Rossi, Emm, Whispers and many more.

Keston Wright
Notable Projects: Snoop Dogg, Tupac, Westside Connection

David Young
Notable Projects: Travis Kr8ts, BlessOne featuring Tamar Braxton, Master P, Jamie Lynn, Gap Band, Rick James. Kool and the Gang, will.i.am, Akon, Jodeci, Dru Hill, Troop, Mad Lion, DJ Green lantern, Ronnie Laws, Michael Jackson (Catrina project)

ADAM KATZ
Next Wave Management
3191 Casitas, Ste. 145C Los Angeles, CA, 90039
323-522-4567
Web: nextwavemanagement.com

Drew Brown
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Beck, Radiohead, Blonde Redhead, Lower Dens

Ali Chant
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Perfume Genius Too Bright, Aldous Harding, Widowspeak, Soccer Mommy, Youth Lagoon

John Congleton
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: St. Vincent, Explosions in the Sky, St. Vincent Sharon Van Etten, Wallows

Brian Deck
(producer)
Notable Projects: Modest Mouse Strangers to Ourselves, Iron & Wine Our Endless Numbered Days, Fenne Lily Breach, Nathaniel Rateliff In Memory of Loss

Sonny Diperri
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: DIIV Deceiver, Emma Ruth Rundle Marked For Death, Animal Collective Painting With, Deradoorian Find The Sun, Protomartyr Relatives In Descent

Alex Farrar
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Snail Mail Valentine, Wednesday Twin Plagues, Indigo De Souza Any Shape You Take, Angel Olsen Aisles, Suki Waterhouse I Can't Let Go

Joel Ford
(producer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Jacques Greene, How To Dress Well, Oneohtrix Point Never Replica, Yes/And, North Americans Going Steady

Chris Funk
(producer, engineer)
Stephen Malkmus, The Decemberists, Langhorne Slim, Red Fang, Naked Giants

Gareth Jones
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Depeche Mode, Erasure, Interpol, Clinic, Liars, Mogwai, Grizzly Bear, Merchandise

Jon Joseph
(producer)
Notable Projects: All Things Blue, Gungor Archives, Gothic Tropic Drunk On A Rhythm, Mini Trees, Spaceface

Danny Kalb
Notable Projects: Ben Harper, Beck, Hire, The Elovaters

Alex Newport
(music producer, mixer, engineer, arranger)

COMPILED BY ROBIN ROSE

Notable Projects: City & Colour, At The Drive-in, Bloc Party, etc.

Sean O'Keefe
(producer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Beach Bunny, Fall Out Boy, Plain White T's, The Hush Sound, Hawthorne Heights

Marcus Paquin
Notable Projects: National, Local Natives, Arcade Fire

Andy D. Park
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Noah Gundersen, Deep Sea Diver, Princess Nokia, Pedro The Lion, Now Now

Howard Redekopp
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Tegan and Sara, the New Pornographers, An Horse

Eric Rutan
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Cannibal Corpse, Goatwhore, Agnostic Front, Madball

Gus Seyffert
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Michael Kiwanuka, Beck

Chris Shaw
Notable Projects: Bob Dylan, Public Enemy, Ween, etc.

Chris Walla
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects:, Death Cab for Cutie, the Postal Service, Tegan and Sara, the Decemberists

Joey Waronker
(producer, writer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Atoms for Peace, Yeasayer, Other Lives

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Web: www.linearmanagement.com
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Los Angeles/Nashville
818-802-0732

Beatriz Artola
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/beatrize-artola
Notable Projects: Fleet Foxes, Sharon Van Etton, Ryan Adams, Adele, A$AP Rocky

Davey Badiuk
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/davey-badiuk
Notable Projects: Liam Gallagher, Harrison Brome, Wethan, Dragonette, Sebell, REN

Colin Brittain
(producer, mixer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/colin-brittain
Notable Projects: Sueco, 5 Seconds of Summer, All Time Low, A Day To Remember, Aviici, Dreamers, Papa Roach

Rick Carson
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/Rick-Carson
Notable Projects: Jay Prince, A Day To Remember, Terrace Martin, 9th Wonder, Sidewalk Chalk

Bob Clearmountain
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/bob-clearmountain
Notable Projects: Bruce Springsteen, Kelly Clarkson, David Bowie, Demi Lovato, Lenny Kravitz, The Rolling Stones

Chris Coady
(producer, mixer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/chris-coady
Notable Projects: The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, tracking 'Show Your Bones' and mastering 'Fever to Tell.' He engineered 'Desperate Youth' and 'Return to Cookie Mountain' for TV On The Radio. His other credits include mixing Grizzly Bear's 'Yellow House' as well as producing and mixing Beach House's albums from 'Teen Dream' to 'Thank You Lucky Stars' – a 4 album run with an utterly distinctive sonic landscape that launched the band into the mainstream.

Trevor Lawrence jr
(producer, composer, musician)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/barrett-martin
Notable Projects; Bruno Mars, Eminem, Snoop Dog, Lauren Daugle, DJ Khalid, Leanne Rimes, Leon Bridges, Banks, Lizzo

Tom Lord-Alge
(mixer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/tom-lord-alge
Notable Projects: Blink 182, The Band Camino, Weezer, Pink, Faith Hill, Korn, All Time Low

Mitch Marlow
(producer, mixer, songwriter)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/mitchell-marlow
Notable Projects: Starset, In This Moment, All That Remains, He Is Legend, New Years Day, P.O.D.

Barrett Martin
(producer, composer, musician)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/barrett-martin
Notable Projects: Ayron Jones, REM, Queens of The Stone Age, Mad Season, Shipibo Shamans, The Last Bluesman Soundtrack and Blues legend CeDell Davis

Kevin McCombs
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/kevin-mccombs
Notable Projects: Sueco, Papa Roach, Illenium, Royal & the Serpent, Dreamers, All Time Low, Sk8, Mothica

Sean Oakley
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/sean-oakley-2
Notable Projects: Zach De La Rocha, Georgia, The Last Shadow Puppets, Frank Ocean, Elly Laroux

Mike Pepe
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: Tadia@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/mike-pepe
Notable Projects: Taking Back Sunday, Sundressed, Bayside, Sick Puppies, Anarbor

Danny Reisch
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/danny-reisch

Lawrence Rothman
(producer, composer, musician)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/barrett-martin
Notable Projects: -Amanda Shires, Bartees Strange ,Margot Price,The Highwomen, Lady Gaga ,The Overcoats, Kim Gordon,Cherry Glazerr,Brittany Spencer,Lucinda Williams,Bobbi Nelson,Angel Olson, Bunny Lowe

Dominique Sanders
(producer, composer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/dominique-sanders
Notable Projects: Jidenna, Boys 2 Men, Tech n9ne, Sk8, Jay Prince, Logan Richardson

Dave Schiffman
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/dave-schiffman
Notable Projects: System of a Down, PUP, Strumbella's, Vampire Weekend, Haim, Adele, Vance Joy

Doug Showalter
(producer, songwriter)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/doug-showalter-2
Notable Projects: Harry Styles, Cam, Lennon Stella, 30 Seconds to Mars, Smokey Robinson, Mikky Ekko, Van Hunt, Rafferty, Gabriel Black

Aaron Steele
(producer)
Notable Projects: Portugal The Man, Madi Diaz, Hayley Williams

Jordan Stilwell
(mixer, engineer, vocal producer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/jordan-stilwell
Notable Projects: The Chainsmokers, Lana Del Rey, Beyonce, Charm LaDonna, Bebe Rexha, Jay-Z

John Velasquez
(producer, mixer)
Email: kelle@linearmanagement.com
Web: linearmanagement.com/index.php/john-velasquez
Notable Projects: Jay Joyce (Little Big Town, Eric Church) and Zella Day

LIPPMAN ENTERTAINMENT
23586 Calabasas Rd., Ste.
208 Calabasas, CA 91302
805-686-1163
Email: music@lippmanent.com
Web: lippmanent.com
Contact: Michael Lippman, Nick Lippman

James "Jimbo" Barton
Notable Projects: Metallica, Smashing Pumpkins, Eric Clapton, LL Cool J, Alicia Keys, George Michael, Santana

Diego Ferrera
Notable Projects: Noah Cyrus, Tori Kelly, Neil Young, Siickbrain, Grady

Nellee Hooper
Notable Projects: Gwen Stegani, Lmaya, Sinead O'Connor, Seal, Ziggy Marley, Sneaker Pimps, Janet Jackson, Depeche Mode, Whitney Houston, Maxi Priets

Bardo x Cole Hutzler
Notable Projects: Red Bull Records, Gavin Haley, Highly Suspect, Trevor Daniel

Ron Nevison
Notable Projects: Led Zeppelin, Heart, Meatloaf, UFO, Ozzy Osbourne, Bad Company

Steve Rinkoff
Notable Projects: Meatloaf, Celine Dion, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, the Bangles

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805-446-3370 Fax 805-446-3371
Email: frank@mcdman.com
Web: mcdman.com
Contact: Frank McDonough

Joe Barresi
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Tool, Queens of the Stone Age, Bad Religion, Chevelle, Parkway Drive, ETID

Matt Beckley
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Selena Gomez, Britney Spears, Avril Livigne, Major Lazer, Ke$ha, One Republic, Camila Cabello

Mike Clink
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Guns N' Roses, Pure Rubbish, I Mother Earth, Megadeth, the Glitterati

Nick Didia
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Powderfinger, Pearl Jam, Stone Temple Pilots, Rage Against the Machine, Bruce Springsteen

John Fields
(writer, producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Jonas Brothers, Switchfoot, Andrew W.K., Bleu, Pink, Mandy Moore, Delta Goodrem, Backstreet Boys

Paul David Hager
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Doobie Brothers, Bonnie Tyler, SickPuppies, John Mellencamp, Edgar Winter, Ziggy Marley

Matt Hyde
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Slayer, Monster Magnet, Hatebreed, Porno for Pyros, Pride Tiger, Fu Manchu, Hotwire, Sum 41

Alain Johannes
(writer, producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Chris Cornell, Queens of the Stone Age, Eleven, Live, No Doubt, Eagles of Death Metal

Pierre Marchand
(writer, producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Sarah McLachlan, Rufus Wainwright, Stevie Nicks, the Devlins, Blue Rodeo

Nick Raskulinecz
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Rush, Foo Fighters, Alice in Chains, Stone Sour, Ash, Velvet Revolver, Superdrag

Garth Richardson
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Shihad, Young Artists for Haiti, Bloodsimple

Ross Robinson
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Project: Slipknot Iowa, Korn, The Cure, Amen, Limp Bizkit

Andrew Scheps
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Johnny Cash, Jay Z, Metallica, the Duke Spirit, Adele

Rob Schnapf
(producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: The Bronx, Cass McCombs, St. Tropez, Kurt Vile, The Garden

Daniel Tashian
(producer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Tenille James, Lee Ann Womack, Tim McGraw, Logan Mize, Jesse James Decker, Josh Turner, Kacey Musgraves, Lily & Madeleine, Lucy Silvas, Josh Rouse, Sixpence None The Richer, Jessie Baylin

Matt Wallace
(writer, producer, engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Maroon 5, OAR, Ludo, Michael Franti/Spearhead, Sugarcult, Faith No More, the Replacements, Train

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Format: Analog & Digital, Protools, Logic
Styles: Any style of music
Services: Complete Audio & Video Production, Sound Design, Mix & Master, Composer,

Arrangement, Artist Development, Marketing
Notable Projects: Quincy Jones, Sting, Dave Koz, John Secada, Jorge Pardo, Igor Nikolaev, Guru Rendezvous Films, HMMA Awards

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*No Unsolicited Material

Matt Anthony
(engineer)
Notable Projects: Bizzy Bone, Busta Rhymes, DJ Mustard, Drumma Boi, Kid Ink, Kirk Franklin

Johnny Coddaire
(Mixer, Engineer, Producer)
Notable Projects:
Wale, DJ Mustard, ScHoolboy Q, Diddy, MixedbyAli, Macy Gray, Chance the Rapper, 1500 or Nothin', Roddy Ricch, Kid Cudi, MTV, Ella Mai, Brody Brown

Xavier Daniel
(Engineer, Mixer)
Notable Projects:
Future, Nipsey Hussle, Scott Storch, JID, The Internet, Ludmilla, Donny Osmond, Raye, Earthgang, Jharrel Jerome, Juice WRLD, Jozzy, Lil Baby, NBA Youngboy, Lay Zhang, Halle Bailey, Trippie Redd, Ayra Starr, JoJo Siwa, Young Thug

Nicolas Fournier
(mixer, engineer, producer)
Notable Projects: The Vaccines, Death Cab For Cutie, At The Drive-In, Biffy Clyro, Of Monsters and Men, Kimbra

William "CJ" Gaston
(engineer)
Notable Projects: Rich the Kid, Polo G, Souja Boy, Nipsey Hussle, YG, Kevin Gates

Ben Hogarth
(Engineer, Mixing, Vocal Producer)
Notable Projects:
Latto, Pressa, Jason Derulo, Big Sean, 21 Savage, Arin Ray, Jeremih, SZA, Chris Brown, Meek Mill, Florida Georgia Line, Charlie XCX, YungBlud, Trippie Redd, T.I., DNCE, Slayyyter, T-Pain, Pia Mia, Travis Scott, ASAP Rocky, ASAP Ferg, Ty Dolla $ign, Kiesza, Ant Clemons, Ninajirachi, Sorana, Supa Bwe, and many more.

Richard Segal Huredia
(engineer, mixer)
Notable Projects: Mally Mall, Slim Shady lp, Jay Z Renegade, Snoop dogg Blue Carpet Album. Xzibit 40 Days 40 Nights Album

Matt Jacobson
(engineer)
Notable Projects: T-Pain, Fetty Wap, Keyshia Cole

Steve Olmon
(engineer)
Notable Projects: Deftones, Motorhead, Metallica, Scarface, Busta Rhymes, LL Cool J, Mary J. Blige

Liz Robson
(Engineer)
Notable Projects: Isaiah Rashad, Selena Gomez, DaBaby, Nardo Wick, Yo Gotti, Kali Uchis, Adekunle Gold

Eli Smith
(Mixer, Engineer, Producer)
Notable Projects:
Swae Lee, Working on Dying, Dirty Heads, Slightly Stoopid, Shwayze, JWHITE, Aloe Blacc, Adam Levine, Wale, MTV, Chaka Khan, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

Tyler "Tylee" Unland
(engineer)
Notable Projects: Usher, Jeremih, Toni Braxton, A Tribe Called Quest, Future, Meek Mill

Randy Urbanski
(engineer)
Notable Projects: Beyonce, Katy Perry, Jamie Foxx, Mariah Carey, Justin Bieber, Chritine Aguilera, Miley Cyrus, Usher

SELF TITLED MANAGEMENT
Chicago, IL
813-468-1718
Email: johnny@selftitledmgmt.com
Web: selftitledmgmt.com
Contact: Johnny Minardi
Producers: Marc McClusky (NYC), Sean O'Keefe (Chicago, IL), Ace Enders (NJ/NYC), Rob Freeman (NJ/NYC), Seth Henderson (Crown Point, IN), Nick Sampson (Detroit, MI), Brandon Paddock (LA), Adam "Nolly" Getgood (Bath, UK), Misha "Bulb" Mansoor (Washington DC), Chris Athens (Austin, TX), Will Putney (Belleville, NJ), Kris Crumpet (Portland, Or), James Paul Wisner, (Saint Cloud, FL), Mike Watts
(Port Jefferson, NY), Rian Dawson (Los Angeles/Nashville), Arun Ball (Nashville), Matt McClellan (Atlanta, GA), Nik Bruzzese (Williamson, NJ), Randy LeBoeuf (Belleville, NJ), Steve Seid (Belleville, NJ)

Chris Athens
(mastering engineer, mixer, sound designer)
Notable Projects: Rick Ross, Beastie Boys, Flo Rida, Wiz Khalifa, Pet Shop Boys

Courtney Ballard
(producer, mixer, engineer, writer)
Notable Projects: Emarosa, Waterparks, All Time Low, Good Charlotte

Steve Evetts
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Senses Fail, Saves the Day, The Wonder Years, Every Time I Die

Adam "Nolly" Getgood
(producer, engineer, mixer, songwriter)
Notable Projects: Periphery, Animals As Leaders, Bleed From Within

Will Putney
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Every Time I Die, Like Moths To Flames, the Amity Affliction

Nic Rad
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Mister/Wives, Toby Mac, Loose Talk, Tasha Layton

James Paul Wisner
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Notable Projects: Luna, the Need To Feel Alive, West, Glasseater, In Your Arms, 3-D

TRUNKBASS ENTERTAINMENT
Email: info@trunkbassent.com
Web: trunkbassent.com
Recent Projects: MYCity (video content), Grown and Sexy (Ongoing – Multiple Cities, The Rodriguez Show (Sponsor), Unlocking Your Naked Truth (Sponsor)

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Services: Music Production, Session Musicians, Session Singers, Session Engineers, Song Plugging.
Notable Projects: Our session musicians' roster includes multiple Grammy award winners, some of whom have worked with the likes of Pharrell Williams, Beyoncé, and Barry Manilow. Tunedly clients have so far recorded chart-topping singles, placed songs with music publishing companies, and won songwriting contests.

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323-965-1540
Email: info@worldsend.com
Web: worldsend.com
Contact: Sandy Roberton, Colin Chambers, Paul Tao, Niki Roberton

Producers, Mixers, Engineers:
AZTX
Dave Benkel
Tom Biller
Max Dingel
Jack Endino
Isabel Gracefield
Adam "Atom" Greenspan
Stephen Hague
Ted Hutt
Peter Katis
Larry Klein
Peter Labberton
Stephen Lipson
MTHR
Paul Northfield
PH4T SCR4N
August Ogren
Tim Palmer
Rick Parker
Michael Patterson
Chris "Frenchie" Smith
Brad Wood

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Web: ariesofnoho.net
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Format: Analog & Digital, Pro Tools, Tascam, Fostex
Styles: R&B, Soul, Funk, Old School, Gospel, Jazz, World Beat.
Services: Studio & Video Productions, Voice Overs, Sound Design, Foley, Audio Transfers, Tape Repair.
Notable Projects: Bill Sheffield (Texas Tornados), Tarsha Rodgers (Rev. James Cleveland), Karen Meeks (Marshal Tucker Band), Patty Lacey (Luther Vandross), Dot Shelby (The Sounds of Blackness).

MICHAEL ABIUSO
(engineer, mixer, producer, musician)
347-699-4429
Email: mike@behindthecurtainsmedia.com
Web: mikeabiuso.com/about
Notable Projects: Eric Nally
(Foxy Shazam and Macklemore's "Downtown"), Nathan Lithgow (Feat: Liz Ryan of Big Data), Jim Gaffigan, Patrick Adams, Jennifer Holliday

WILLIAM ACKERMAN
207-929-5777
Email: will@williamackerman.com
Web: williamackerman.com
Notable Projects: George Winston and Michael Hedges, Founder of Windham Hill Records, Grammy Winner, recipient of multiple Platinum and Gold records.

ROBERT SCOTT ADAMS
Director of Job Placement & Student Services
Omega Studios' School of Applied Recording Arts & Sciences
12712 Rock Creek Mill Road, Ste. 14A Rockville, MD 20852
301-230-9100
Email: shannon@OmegaStudios.com
Web: Omegastudios.com
Notable Engineers: Jim Curtis, Scotty OToole, Phillip DiMercurio, Malcolm Jackson, Bill Mueller, Neal Keller, John Melvin, Isaac Breslau, Andrew Mastroni

MATTY AMENDOLA
Brooklyn, NY / Remote
Email: mattyamendola@825records.com
Web: mattyamendola.com
Styles: Indie, rock, pop, alternative, soundtrack
Specialities: Production, co-writing, mixing, & education

MATT ANTHONY
Parklane Production
Hollywood, CA
(323) 540 9830
Email: matt@parklaneproduction.com
Website: parklaneproduction.com
Genre: Pop, Rock & R'n'B
Notable Projects: Joji, Kendrick Lamar, Alessia Cara, Bekon, Shawn Mendes, Timbaland, Nick Jonas.

BEN ARRINDELL
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NYC
347-827-0763
Web: soundclash.wixsite.com/soundclash-nyc-140905/ben-arrindell
Notable Projects: Gerald Levert, K-Ci & JoJo, Aretha Franklin, Busta Rhymes, the Temptations and Janet Jackson.
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Web: thesoundsalon.com
Contact: Joe Ayoub
Styles: all, rock, metal, pop, R&B, film
Notable Projects: Cab 2, Nina Shaw, Seven Foot Wave, Down From Hollow, Dream Vampires, Czarina, Annie Calder, the Mac, George Lacava

PETER A BARKER
Executive Producer/mixer
Pen Station Studios
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(424) 238-8800
Email: info@penstation.la
Website: penstation.la, spinmoveproducers.com/peter-a-barker
Genre: Pop, Rock, RnB, Hip Hop
Notable Projects: Babyface Ray, Lil Poppa, EST Gee, Guns N' Roses, Shawn Mendes, Heart, Bonnie Raitt, Jason Aldean, Fall Out Boy.

BEATOLOGY MUSIC
909-843-5673
Email: beatology@mac.com
Web: multiplatinumproducers.com
Contact: Gordon "DJ Stealth" McGinnis
Styles: urban music
Notable Projects: Dr. Dre, Notorious B.I.G., Xzibit, N.W.A, Above the Law, 2Pac, George Clinton, Ice Cube, Redman, Digital Underground, Stanley Clarke, George Duke, Kid Frost, Jayo Felony, Kam, W. C., Kurupt, K Dee, Mack 10, Luniz, Mac Mall, Kausion, H. W. A., Kokane, Mad Lion, Domino, Gospel Ganstaz, Heather Hunter, Martin Johnson, E-40, Will Downing, Sir Nose, Najee, Ken Navarro, Greg Adams, Jeffrey Osbourne, Wayman Tisdale, Bob Baldwin, Everette Harp, Patti Austin, Paul Jackson Jr., Michael Lington, Michael Henderson, Jean Carne, Norman Conner, Phil Perry, Pieces of a Dream, Club 1600, Dave Mann, Eazy-E, Tray Deee, Outlawz, Volume 10, Caffeine, Badd Azz, Hostyle, Brian Bromberg and many more
*Unsolicited material accepted

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Bendiksen Productions
720-234-1234
Email: lance@bendiksenproductions.com
Web: bendiksenproductions.com
Notable Projects: Grayson Erhard, Caleb Grose, Back Porch

DUSK BENNETT
Producer/Engineer
310-413-0845
dBU Ranch Recording Services
San Diego, CA
Email: duskb@yahoo.com
Web: duskbennett.com
Notable Projects: The Black Eyed Peas, Five for Fighting, Motley Crue, Sixx AM, Mike Love, Chicago, Barry Manilow, Vitamin C, the History, Travel and Discovery

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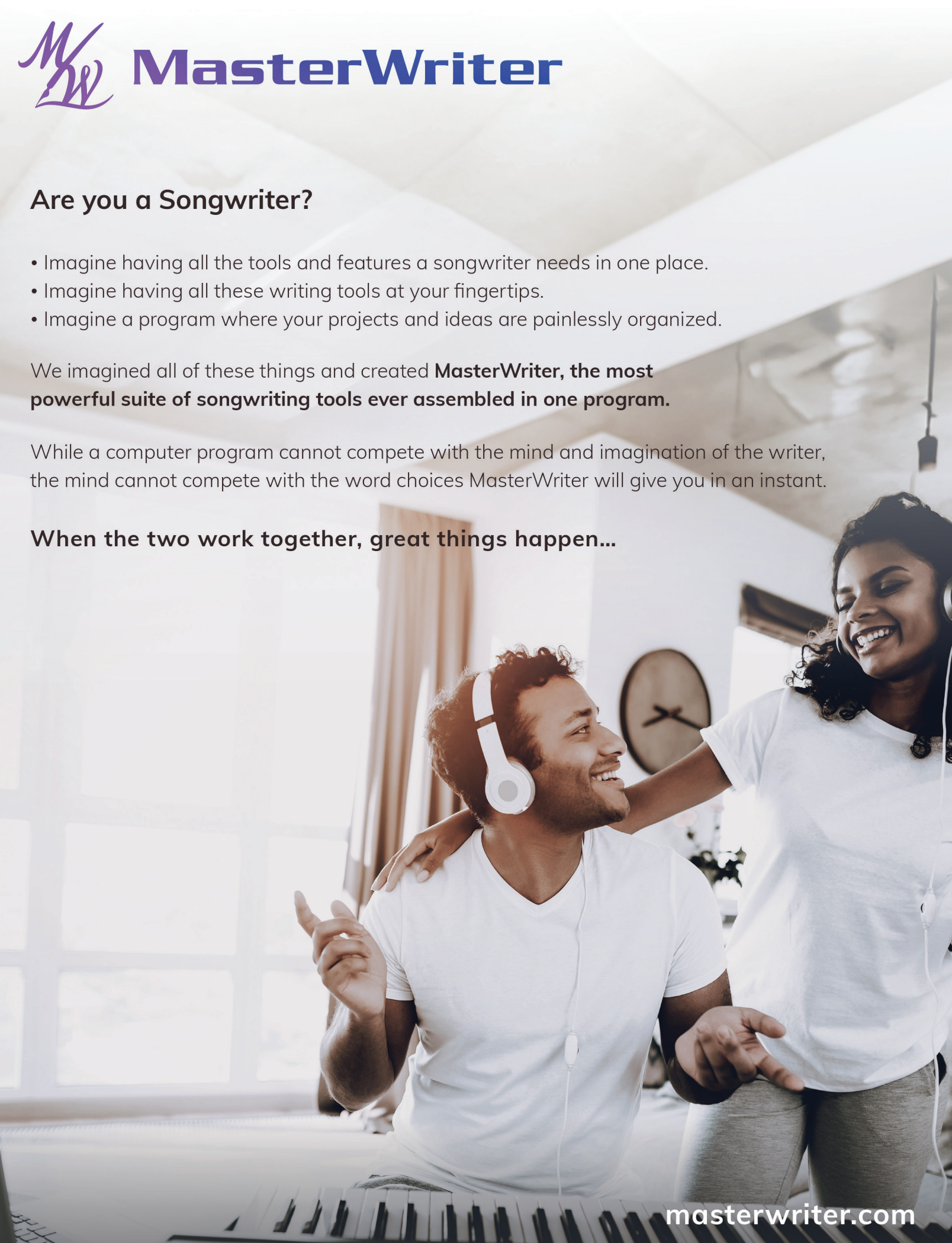

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Channels as well as TLC, among many many others.

LENISE BENT
(producer, engineer)
Los Angeles, CA
Email: soundflo@aol.com
Web: linkedin.com/in/lenisebent
Styles: Americana, Blues, World, Rock, Pop, Jazz
Notable Projects: Blondie, the Knack, Suzi Quatro, Robert Fleischman, Primal Kings, Rich DelGrosso, Gary Allegretto, Lance Baker Fent, Steely Dan, Supertramp, Janiva Magness

BIG SCARY TREE
Los Angeles, CA
213-680-8733
Email: bigscarytree@gmail.com
Web: bigscarytree.com
Contact: Jeb Lipson
Styles: Specializing in recording live humans on great gear in a great room!
Notable Projects: call for current client roster

JOHN BOYLAN
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 2300
Los Angeles, CA 90036-5050
Email: info@greateasternmusic.com
Web: greateasternmusic.com
Notable Projects: Linda Ronstadt, Boston, Little River Band, Charlie Daniels

CLIFF BRADLEY
(Producer/Programmer)
Bradley Entertainment, LLC
Email: cliffbradleyent@gmail.com
Web: bradleyentertainment.co
Styles: Rock

ANDY CAHAN / THE DEMO DOCTOR
Cathedral City, CA 818-489-4490
Email: andycahan@gmail.com
Web: allentertainment.net
Contact: Andy Cahan
Notable Projects: Ringo Starr, Harry Nilsson, the Turtles, Eric Carmen, Jimmy Webb, Little Richard, Chuck Berry
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Bangor, PA 18013
610-588-4968
Email: mail@hilltopstudios.com
Web: hilltopstudios.com
Contact: Dave Mosca
Styles: country
Notable Projects: A Tennessee Tradition, Country State of Mind, Tom Kozic

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Music: jimbojamz.com
Styles: rock, pop, R&B, most styles, live drumming or programming, Hunter has produced over 5000 songs since 1986
Notable Projects: JIMBOJAMZ (my solo projects), Todd Stanford (4 Country CDs), Ivy Lite Rocway (85 songs), Savannah Phillips (many songs), Tim Fleming's Selective Amnesia, Mark R. Kent (3 CDs), Dr. Alias (over 100 songs), the West Hollywood Cheerleaders, Dre Charles, Lisa Gold (1 CD), Tom Powers R.I.P., Carl Summers (Cix Bits), the Della Reese (UP church UFBL weekly Ministry)

DAVID CHAMBERLIN
DBW Productions
Woodland Hills, CA
818-884-0808
Email: dbw@dbwproductions.com
Web: dbwproductions.com
Styles: rock, indie, blues, hard rock, pop, country, adult contemporary, folk, celtic, new age, hip-hop
Notable Projects: Zach Galifianakis, Paul Jackson, Jr.
Have produced over 80 indie CDs, most of which are singer-songwriters. Check website for details and sound samples.

ROB CHIARELLI
(mix engineer, producer, musician)
Final Mix Inc.
2219 W. Olive Ave., #102
Burbank, CA 91506
Email: rob@finalmix.com
Web: finalmix.com
Notable Projects: Kirk Franklin, Will Smith, P!nk, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Christina Aguilera, Angelique Kidjo, Tamela Mann, Stokley, Andra Day, Mary Mary, Charlie Wilson, Jonathan McReynolds, Lalah Hathaway, Charles Jenkins, Musiq Soulchild, Madonna, The Jacksons, LeAnn Rimes, Janet Jackson, Ray Charles, Ice Cube, Luther Vandross, Keiko Matsui, Dave Hollister, Luther Vandross, Johnny Gill

ARIEL CHOBAZ
Mixing and Mastering Engineer
Email: hollywoodmix@icloud.com
Web: arielchobaz.com, facebook.com/arielchobaz
Notable Projects: Nicki Minaj, Drake, Keyshia Cole, Lil Wayne, Rihanna

CLEAR LAKE AND FEVER RECORDING STUDIOS
North Hollywood, CA 91601
Contact: Reut Feldman
Studio General Manager
Call: 818-762-0707
Email: contact@clearlakrerecording.com / reut@clearlakerecording.com
Web: clearlakerecording.com / feverrecording.com
Services: Engineering, Mixing, Production, Podcasts, Tracking, Tape
Notable Projects: Smino, Bas, Trippie Red, Earth, Wind & Fire, Ravyn Lenea, Alina Barez, Wiz Khalifa, Demi Lovato, X Ambassadors, YBN Cordae, Terrace Martin, No Doubt, Jimmy Eat World, Greg Adams, Bone Thugs- n-Harmony, Lil Wayne, Deitrick Haddon, Steel Panther, Chaka Khan, among hundreds of others across multiple genres.

STEVEN BARRY COHEN
c/o Lake Transfer Artist & Tour Management
12400 Ventura Blvd. Suite 346
Studio City, CA 91604
(818)-508-7158
Email: info@laketransfer.com
Web: laketransfer.com
Recent Projects: Sheree Brown (Expansion Records UK), James Holvay (Conqueroo / Mob Town Records), King SK (Big Money Records, L.A.), Candyboy f/ Mari Y. (Lake Transfer Music ASCAP)), Trina McGee-Davis (Boy Meets World ABC/Disney), Jacky Cheung (Hong Kong /Univ Music Grp), Sylvia St. James (House of Blues), UNIV/NBC ("Let It Grow" film), "13" (The Band - Rock), Taylor Dayne (Arista/BMG), Friends of Distinction (RCA Legacy/ BMG), El Chicano Project (The Brown Sound / SOLA Label), "Fair Game" (Film score Michael Whaley), Shanice Wilson (Motown/UMG), Patrice Rushen (w/Sheree Brown), Evelyn Champagne King (RCA Legacy/Sony), Sam Salter (LaFace/Sony) Evelyn Champagne King (RCA/BMG), Tattoo Ink (Notorious Enemy Records)

JOSE CONDE
New Orleans
Producer, Singer, Arranger, Guitarist, Bassist, Synthesist, Percussionist, Writer, Performer, Film Maker
Email: pipikirecords@gmail.com, J@Joseconde.com
Web: joseconde.com
Styles: Pop,Jazz, Latin, Funk, World, Electronic
*Client Inquiries Only. No Submissions

ERIC CORNE
(producer, engineer, mixer, songwriter)
Los Angeles, CA
Email: eric@fortybelowrecords.com
Web: fortybelowrecords.com/ericcorne
Styles: soul/r&b, blues/jazz, Americana/country, rock/indie rock, folk/singer- songwriter
Notable Projects: Sugaray Rayford (Grammy Nominated), Walter Trout (Billboard Blues #1), John Mayall (featuring Joe Walsh, Joe Bonamassa, Marcus King), Joe Louis Walker, KaiL Baxley, Glen Campbell, DeVotchKa, Freedy Johnston (Fwat. Aimee Mann, Susanna Hoffs), Joe Louis Walker, Davy Knowles, Jaime Wyatt, Sam Morrow, Joanna Wang, PF Sloan (Feat. Lucinda Williams), Tim Easton, Michelle Shocked

JIM D.
Pyram-Axis Digital
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310-869-8650
Email: music@pyramaxis.com
Web: pyramaxis.com
Styles: All styles - Mix+Mastering Specialist, Remote, Distribution
Notable Projects: Indie, Sony, Universal, Grammy
*Call before submitting

JOSQUIN DES PRES
Track Star Studios
La Mesa, CA 91941
Email: Josquin@JoNaMusicGroup.com
Web: jonamusicgroup.com
Clients: Bernie Taupin, Jason Mraz, Gipsy Kings, Jax, Makayla Phillips, Rayvon Owen.

MARC DESISTO
MIX LA STUDIO D
TARZANNA, CA.
Email: marcdesistoaudio@gmail.com
Web: marcdesistoaudio.com
Notable Projects: U2, Don Henley, Ivan Neville, Melissa Etheridge, Stevie Nicks, Dwight Yoakam, Tommy Emmanuel
Professional Recording, Mixing/Producing and Mastering all genres of music.

DIET LEMON PRODUCTIONS
Alexander Spagnolia
Philadelphia, PA
Email: dietlemonmusic@gmail.com
Website: dietlemonmusic.com

DON DIXON / ENTOURAGE TALENT ASSOCIATES, INC.
150 W. 28th Street
New York, NY 10001
212-633-2600
Email: info@entouragetalent.com
Web: entouragetalent.com, entouragetalent.com/artist/marti-jones-don-dixon
Styles: rock, pop, blues, alternative
Notable Projects: 10CC, the Church, Joan Armatrading, Joe Satriani, Procol Harum

DIET LEMON PRODUCTIONS
Alexander Spagnolia
Philadelphia, PA
Email: dietlemonmusic@gmail.com
Website: dietlemonmusic.com

DJ ETERNAL LOVE aka E. LOVE
Pure Heat Entertainment
White Plains, NY 10603
917-547-9886
Email: PureHeatBiz@gmail.com
Web: pureheatentertainment.com
Styles: urban pop, R&B, EDM, rap
Credits: 4 Billboard Top 100's. Published songwriter (Member SESAC, AES, NARAS, National Mentoring Partnership)
Notable Projects: Sex And The City, Waist Deep Soundtrack, Messiah, Roy DK, J Bless, Kenny Smoove (Spoiled Rotten Global Music), Joint venture with LA Reid & Russell Simmons, La Tha Darkman & Shotti Hefner (Wu-Tang Clan), Lee Carr (Def Jam\ Jive), Big Mike, Horace Brown, DJ Jay Faire, Fonda Rae, Ahmad Belvin (Clive Davis)

SHAUN DREW
(producer, composer, engineer) Sotto Voice Productions
North Hollywood, CA 91606

818-694-3052
Email: info@sottovocestudio.com
Web: shaundrew.com/contact
Styles: producer, composer, engineer. Specializing in rock, ambient, orchestral, world, progressive, soundtrack
Notable Projects: Single track recordings to full record production, feature film scoring. Clients include major advertising agencies, TV networks and A-list filmmakers.
*Call before submitting material

DOLBY ATMOS MUSIC STUDIOS
(Certified UMG Atmos Mixer)
Email: alex@alexpromix.com
Web: alexpromix.com
Styles: Pop, Afrobeats, Indie Pop, Indie Rock, Alternative, Latin, Indian, World Music
Notable Projects: T.I. Davido, Billy Lockett, The Maine, Jack Cassidy, 1da Banton, renforshort

CASEY DUNMORE
plus4dBu
323-207-5411
Email: info@plus4dbu.com
Web: plus4dbu.com, schpilkas.com
plus4dBu is a full-service music production entity created by Casey "Schpilkas" Dunmore, offering original music for TV, film, video games and other multimedia outlets where quality and fresh production music is needed.
Notable Projects: Production credits include theme songs for reality TV show Tia & Tamera (E!/Style Network) and the NBA Toronto Raptors. Featured placements include ESPN's First Take, NIKE's Vapen Sessions and Jimmy Kimmel Live (ABC). As a composer for Hi-Finesse Music & Sound, Casey has placed original music & sound design in trailers for Tyler Perry's Acrimony (Lionsgate), Glass (Universal Pictures), Get Out (Universal Pictures), Call of Duty 'Advanced Warfare' (Activision), and Kubo and the Two Strings (Laika/Focus Features)

JEFF ELLIS
Email: kirk@ourbadhabit.com
Web: jeffellisworldwide.com
Contact: Scott Marcus
Styles: acoustic, hip-hop, pop, R&B, rock
Notable Projects: 2013 Grammy Award winner, Frank Ocean, Doja Cat, The Neighbourhood, Snoh Aalegra, Omar Apollo

LOUIS ELTON
ELTON AUDIO RECORDS
EAST COAST ARTIST MANAGER
201-250-7989
Web: eltonaudio.com
Email: contact@eltonaudio.com
Services: https://www.eltonaudio.com/earnews
(including Production, Mixing/Mastering)

ES AUDIO
Donny Baker – Chief Engineer/Owner
1746 Victory Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91201
818-505-1007, 800-880-9112
Email: studio@esaudio.com
Web: esaudio.com
Notable Projects: Crazy Town, Taylor Dayne (My Heart Can't Change - Dance and Club Remixes), Shifty, Tino Coury, Sky Felix (producer), Alex Cantrall (producer), Rhona Bennett, Brandy, 40Gloc, Dina Rae.
*We accept all types of music submissions
**Please call for a studio tour and to meet with the producers

JIM ERVIN
L.A. Entertainment, Inc.
7095 Hollywood Blvd., Ste. 826
Hollywood, CA 90028
800-579-9157 Ext. 707
323-924-1095
Email: jervin@laeg.net
Web: warriorrecords.com/LA
Styles: All
*No unsolicited material

FRANK FILIPETTI
(6x Grammy Winner)
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
West Nyack, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/frankfilipetti
Styles: rock, pop, adult contemporary, classical
Notable Projects: Elton John, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Billy Joel, Andrea Bocelli, KISS, James
Taylor, Barbra Streisand, Ray Charles, Rod Stewart, Carly Simon, the Bangles, 10,000 Maniacs, Book of Mormon, Spamalot, Motown

NETTIE FREED
(studio owner, artist manager)
Spellbound Recorders
Lebanon, TN
310-871-1055
Email: nettie@spellboundrecorders.com
Web: spellboundrecorders.com
Styles: singer-songwriter, americana, country/folk, rock
Notable Projects: Organizing world-renowned team of studio architects to build out Spellbound Recorders

OC RECORDING COMPANY, THE
ASAF FULKS
3100 W. Warner Ave., Ste. 7
Santa Ana, CA 92704
323-244-9794
Email: info@ocrecording.com
Web: ocrecording.com, hiphopbeatz.com
Contact: Asaf Fulks (Owner, Audio Engineer and Music Producer)
Format: High End Analog/Digital Recording, Mixing, Mastering and Music Production
Styles: All Music Genres, ADR & Voice Overs
Basic Rate: Please Visit Website

MAURICE GAINEN PRODUCTIONS
4470 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 177
Hollywood, CA 90027
323-662-3642
Email: info@mauricegainen.com
Web: mauricegainen.com
Styles: Any/all musical styles, film, TV, etc.
Notable Projects: Starbucks (Mastered 185 CDs), Spoon, Rita Coolidge, Rafael Moreira, Alex Skolnick, Andy McKee, Darek Oles w/ Brad Mehldau, Jim Hershman w/ Lee Konitz, Patty Austin (Sound Design), the Hues Corporation, Angela Carole Brown, Little Wilie G, Joe Bataan, Orchestre Surreal, Mighty Mo Rodgers, Paul Fried, Disney, KCRW, Ron Powell, Mark San Filippo, Tim Fenton, Dale Fielder

MAURICIO GARZA
TheRoomStudios.Us
4550 Melrose Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90029
Web: TheRoomStudios.Us
Email:booking@theroomstudios.us
Additional Studios: MELROSE, STUDIO CITY, CANOGA PARK, BURBANK OR NOHO RECORDING STUDIOS

ARNIE GEHER
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Port Hueneme, CA
818-763-7225
Email: arniegeher@gmail.com
Web: reverbnation.com/arniegeher

DAVID GIELAN
Recording Academy Member
453 S. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213-283-7485
Web: gielan.com
Styles: all, pop, rock, alt, hip-hop, electro, film/TV/video game composer, singer-songwriter, audio post- production, studio owner.

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The High-End Alternative to Over-Priced LA Studios

Notable Projects: Joey Lawrence, Universal Music, EMI, Animal Planet, Poor Yorick, Wayne Stylez, Arturo G. Alvarez, Lorelei Carlson, Caviar Content, iQimedia, Vox Pop Films
*Email for more information at website

JON GILLESPIE
1419 Baywood Drive
New Haven, IN 46774
260-804-0040
Email: Jon_Gillespie@sweetwater.com
Styles: All
Notable Projects: Kenny Aronoff, Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors), Mz Menneh (Liberian Pop singer) Tajci Cameron (Croatian Pop Singer), Phil Keaggy, Randy Stonehill, Randy Jackson (Zebra), Gucci Mane, "Zone Six," Amanda Perez, "Candy Kisses," Joyce Lawson, Phat Sound Records, Ernie Johnson (Soul Singer), Frank-o Johnson (Motown Writer, Phat
Sound Artist), Roy Kasika (Ugandan Drummer), Okinawa Americana, and many more

JUSTIN GLASCO
Los Angeles, CA
615-414-3233
Email: justinglasco@mac.com
Web: facebook.com/justinglascomusic, justinglasco.com
Styles: rock, pop, country, singer-songwriter
Notable Projects: Andrew Bird, Cary Brothers, Christina Perri, Garrison Star

BRYCE GOGGIN
Trout Studios
Prospect Heights
Brooklyn, NY
718-222-0946, 917-324-3856
Email: troutrecording@gmail.com
Web: troutrecording.com
Styles: rock, alt., jazz
Notable Projects: Spacehog, the dig, Chess Smith and These Arches, Valley Young, So Brown, Black Host, Frank Bango, Pete Galub

LARRY GOLD
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Philadelphia, PA
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/larrygold
Styles: Rock, Pop, Classical, Urban, R&B
Notable Projects: Kanye West,
Jay Z, the Roots, the Roots with John Legend, Lana Del Rey, Justin Timberlake, Rihanna, Mary J. Blige, Kid Cudi, T.I., Ne-Yo, N.E.R.D., Musiq Soulchild, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey

BILLY GRAZIADEI
(producer, engineer) Fire Water Studios
Co-Founder of Biohazard.com
310-354-5901
Email: info@firewaterstudios.com
Web: firewaterstudios.com
Notable Projects: Cypress Hill, Onyx, Hatebreed, Life of Agony, Pantera, Sick of it All, Slipknot, Type O Negative, Agnostic Front

IAN EMERSON GREGORY
1116 STUDIOS LLC
1753 S 8th St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Email: ian@1116Studios.com,
MisterG@1116Studios.com
Web: 1116Studios.com
Styles: all
Notable Projects: John Emerson, Dylan Montayne, Grayson Erhard, Juannah, Nick Pauly, The Days on Earth, Cotown Records, Anthem Music Enterprises

JUSTIN JOHN GREGORY
1116 STUDIOS LLC
1753 S 8th St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Email: ian@1116Studios.com,
MisterG@1116Studios.com
Web: 1116Studios.com
Styles: all
Notable Projects: John Emerson, Dylan Montayne, Grayson Erhard, Juannah, Nick Pauly, The Days on Earth, Cotown Records, Anthem Music Enterprises

CARMEN GRILLO
Big Surprise Music
16161 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 522
Encino, CA 91436
818-613-3984
Email: info@carmengrillo.com
Web: carmengrillo.com
Styles: R&B, pop, rock, jazz, blues, voice over
Notable Projects: Gloria Loring, Footloose, David Anderson

RYAN HADLOCK
Bear Creek Studio
6313 Maltby Rd.
Woodinville, WA 98072
425-481-4100
Email: ryanhadlock@hotmail.com
Web: bearcreekstudio.com
Styles: folk, indie rock, art rock Notable Projects: Ra Ra Riot, Soko, Johnny Flynn, Blonde Redhead, the Black Heart Procession, the Gossip, Islands

NIC HARD
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
347-262-0975
New York, NY
Email: nic@nichard.com
Web: nichard.com
Styles: electronic, pop, rock, indie, singer-songwriter
Notable Projects: Taylor Swift, Lucy Woodward, Ghost Beach, The Kin, Joey Ramone, Jack Bruce, Tito Puente, Eagle Eye Cherry, Flava Flav and Jesse Malin

COL. DARRYL HARRELSON
Major Label Entertainment / MLE STUDIOS
P O Box 27017
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312
866-246-8846
Email: mail@majorlabelmusic.com
Web: facebook.com/mlestudios. majorlabelmusic.com
Styles: All but specializing in country, alt country, blues, R&B, voice over, A.D.R., SFX.
Notable Projects: Bobie Covell (MI), Mike Davis (TN), The Tola Crusades "the light of day" (Video Game Character Voices), BLUE (CA), The Company Rep "Rosenstrasse" (8-part lead vocals), Studio and Producer credits in film: Asian Stories, Book III for "Shake That Thing."
*Prefer Flat Rate Billing per song/ album instead of hourly.
*Artist Development and Promotion. *Comfortable Multiple Room Studio.

HITMIXERS MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 280010
Northridge, CA 91328 818-300-0400
Email: skipsaylor@gmail.com
Web: skipsaylor.com
*Call for more information

Ian Blanch
Notable Projects: Mary J. Blige, Missy Elliot, Nappy Roots, KRS-One

Lester Mendoza
Notable Projects: Beyonce, Glasses Malone, Kendrick Lamar, Jenny Rivera, Hit-Boy, Jahlil Beats, King Lil G, DJ Journey, Egyptian Lover, Jared Lee Gosselin, Novel, Juan Rivera, Jackie Rivera, Ervin Pope, David Rolas, Malik Yusef

Enrico De Paoli
Notable Projects: Ray Charles, Elton John, Marcus Miller, Aaron Neville, Alexander O'Neal, Stanley Jordan, Djavan, Jorge Vercillo, Brazilian Carnival engineering, Smirnoff Worldwide commercial mixing

Skip Saylor
Notable Projects: Bobby Brown, Ronnie Hudson w/ Snoop, Too Short and E40, Candyman 187 w/ Snoop Dogg, Bootstraps, Ceasefire, California Dreamers, End of Ever, the Ex- Hang-Ups, TJ Gibson, Oh My Stars, Spacifix, Brandon James, Lynn Carey Saylor w/ Brian May Mixing/Engineering: Jacob Banks In The Name of Love (From the motion picture The Equalizer2), Healthy Chill feat. Gucci Mane HeathyLyfe, Amber Diamond Erby & Marques Anthony (Love and HipHop) Bad Energy, Julian Lennon, Alan Frew (Glass Tiger), Producer John Jones, Travis Kr8ts, BlessOne featuring Tamar Braxton, Master P, Malik Yusef, Jamie Lynn, Chris Coleman, Alex Ligertwood & Emily Richards, Jonathan Butler (No. 1 Contemporary Jazz Album, No. 9 Gospel on Billboard), Producer Kevin Teasley, Booker T. Jones, Vintage Trouble, Bobby Brown, Egyptian Lover, Dale Fiola, Novel, Brainpower feat. W.C. Ralph Tresvant, Jonathan Lashever, Mohammad Molaei, Will Smith, Notorious, Iron Man 2, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Nashville Film Festival Award-Top Music, Parenthood, Cherie & Marie Currie, Layla Hathaway, Twentieth Century Fox Films, HBO Film/TV, The Day the Earth Stood Still, X-Men, Obama Documentary, Mumtaz Morris, Phoebe Snow, Gospel Artist Karima Kibble, The Reddings, Gary Taylor, Vesta Williams, Linda Clifford, Con Funk Shun, Damion Hall, Whispers and many more.

Keston Wright
Notable Projects: Snoop Dogg, Tupac, Westside Connection

David Young
Notable Projects: Jacob Banks "In The Name of Love" (From the motion picture The Equalizer 2), Amber Diamond Erby & Marques Anthony (Love and HipHop) "Bad Energy," Travis Kr8ts, BlessOne featuring Tamar Braxton, Master P, Healthy Chill feat. Gucci Mane "HeathyLyfe," Ideal "Wildlife" EP, Jamie Lynn, Gap Band, Rick James. Kool and the Gang, will.i.am, Akon, Jodeci, Dru Hill, Troop, Mad Lion, DJ Green lantern, Ronnie Laws, Michael Jackson (Catrina project)

ROSS HOGARTH
Hoax Productions
Web: hoaxproductions.com
Contact: Ross Hogarth
Styles: all
Notable Projects: Van Halen, Keb' Mo,' Ziggy Marley, The Doobie Brothers, Gov't Mule, Roger Waters, John Mellencamp, R.E.M., Jewel

DANIELL HOLCOMB / ADVENTURES IN MODERN RECORDING
West Hills, CA 91307
310-709-9645
Email: amrdaniell@gmail.com
Web: adventuresinmodernrecording.com
Contact: Daniell Holcomb
Styles: hard rock-pop
Notable Projects: Howard Stern Show, Sony Music Group, Bleeding Deacons

HEATHER HOLLEY
(producer, songwriter, artist development)
Email: info@heatherholleymusic.com
Web: dreamartistproductions.com/heather-holley, heatherholleymusic.com/
Styles: Pop, Dance, Indie, All
Notable Projects: Christina Aguilera, Katie Costello, Caitlin Moe, Richie Rich, Commercials for Mercedes, Pepsi, songs in Grey's Anatomy, The Office, 90210, The Hills, Ugly Betty

GAYLORD KALANI HOLOMALIA
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-927-7923
Email: gifts@manamaoli.org
Web: manamele.org/gaylord-kalani-holomalia
Notable Projects: Worked with all of Hawaii's top artists. Kalapana member

THOMAS HORNIG
(freelance mixer, producer)
Tomcat On The Prowl Productions
Canaoga Park, CA
818-943-6059
Email: studio@tomcatontheprowl.com
Web: tomcatontheprowl.com
Styles: singer-songwriter, pop, americana, country/folk, rock
Notable Projects: Jamila Ford – The Deep End (Engineer/Mixer, Matt Doherty – Dignity (Mastering), Red Bull Media – Blood Road (Post)

CHRIS HORVATH
Jamnation Music
818-646-0005
Email: info@jamnation.com
Web: chrishorvath.com, jamnation.com
Styles: pop, rock, R&B
Notable Projects: Grey's Anatomy, August Empire, Coolio, Jonas Bros., Venice, Billy Idol, Michael McDonald, Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Trevor Hall, Gigolo Aunts, America's Got Talent, FOX Sports, Rock Of Ages, A.N.T. Farm, Digimon (Theme), Alias, Scrubs, Erin Brockovich
*No unsolicited material

DAVID HENSZEY
Henszey Sound
Los Angeles CA
424-230-4563
Email: david@henszeysoundlic.com
Web: henszeysoundllc.com
Contact: David Henszey
Styles: all, Rock, Pop, Hip Hop, R&B, Film/TV
Notable Projects: Eighty8, Boys World, Sting, Cheap Trick, Tommy Lee, George Clinton, Jerry Harrison, The Temptations, Ice Cube, Brandy.

JIMMY HUNTER
(producer, audio engineer, studio drummer, studio vocalist, vocal coach, composer, songwriter)
See Cazador Recording
INSPIRED AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS STUDIO IMIRAGE SOUND LAB
1558 Linda Way
Sparks, NV.
775-358-7484
Email: tom@inspired-amateur.com
Web: inspired-amateur.com

ERIK ISAACS
West Hills, CA
818-497-0105
Email: music.erik@yahoo.com
Web: erikisaacsmusic.com/contact
Styles: rock, pop, dance, AC, R&B, country, all
Notable Projects: Warner/Reprise, MCA, Hollywood Records, Disney Records, Global Records, various TV/film work including Paramount Pictures, NBC, CBS, ABC, TBS, BET, Disney Channel, etc. Worked with several Grammy winning/nominated No. 1 hit producers/songwriters. Services include songwriting, production and artist development.

ISLAND SOUND
Pamela Spicer
818-292-3485
Web: www.islandsoundstudios.com
Email:pamela@islandsoundstudios.com
Notable Projects: see website for roster

JO-MUSIK
Sunnyvale, TX 75182
972-226-1265
Email: info@jomusik.com
Web: jo-musik.com
Contact: Joe Milton
Notable Projects: see website for roster

QUINCY JONES PRODUCTIONS
Web: keychain.club/quincyjones
Styles: all
Notable Projects: Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Tevin Campbell, James Ingram, Tamia, Sarah Vaughan, Brian McKnight, Alfred Rodriguez, Andreas Varady, Jacob Collier, Jon Batiste, Justin Kauflin, Lee England, Jr. Mervyn Warren, Parker Ighile
*No phone calls. No unsolicited material.

CHRIS JULIAN
145 Corte Madera Town Center
Corte Madera, CA 94925 Ste 311
310-924-7849
Email: chris@chrisjulian.com
Web: chrisjulian.com, ImaginePost.com
Styles: rock,pop , AAA, alt., R&B.
Artist development, allbudgets.
*unsolicited material accepted

TIM DAVID KELLY
Los Angeles, CA
Web: timdavidkelly.com
Styles: alternative, metal, americana, rock,

acoustic pop
Notable Projects: Kicking Harold, Shiny Toy Guns, Dokken

DAVID KERSHENBAUM
Web: davidkershenbaum.com
Notable Projects: Signed or worked with Janet Jackson, Bryan Adams, Joe Jackson, Tracy Chapman, Duran Duran, Supertramp, Cat Stevens, Tori Amos

SAMUR KHOUJA
Seahorse Sound Studios
1336 S. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA
909-210-2317
Email: ahorsesoundstudios@yahoo.com
Web: facebook.com/samurkhouja, seahorsesoundstudios.com
Contact: Samur Khouja

KEVIN KILLEN
(5x Grammy Winner)
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
New York, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/kevinkillen
Styles: rock, pop, country, singer- songwriter
Notable Projects: U2, Shakira, Sugarland, Elvis Costello, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Jewel, Duncan Sheik, Suzanne Vega.

GREG KRAMER
(producer, composer, vocal specialist, engineer)
Sofa Songs
Glendora, CA 91741
626-914-2245
Email: greg@sofasongs.com, chris@sofasongs.com
Web: sofasongs.com
Styles: rock, pop, blues, country, bluegrass, contemporary christian and others
Notable Associates: James Guthrie, Barry Rudolph, Daniel Moore, Al Blasek and Chuck Plotkin

STEVE KRAVAC
Hollywood, CA
Email: steve@stevekravac.com
Web: stevekravac.com, facebook.com/hellshalfacrestudio
Styles: rock, pop punk, indie rock, power pop, Americana, roots rock
Notable Projects: RIAA Gold Accredited Producer, Engineer, Mixer, Composer. Blink 182, M.X.P.X., Less Than Jake, Pepper, Bad Religion Tommy Stinson. Label Credits Include: Epitaph, Capitol, Atlantic, Side OneDummy, Fat Wreck Chords, A&M, Tooth & Nail.
*Contact through website

KEVIN LACY
Valley Cottage, NY
845-623-0252
Email: studio@freudiansliprecording.com
Web: freudiansliprecording.com
Styles: indie/rock, folk, pop, country, jazz
Notable Projects: Johnny Bravo, Jackie Tohn, Meghan Cary, Jewtopia, Say Goodnight, Gracie

LEW LAING
c/o Jordan/Balter Music
P.O. Box 27673
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0673
Email: jobamusic@gmail.com
Contact: Van Don Jordan, 213-605-1300, Robert Elliott Balter, 323-804-7071
Styles: Hip-Hop, R&B, Urban Jazz, Pop, Rap, Gospel, Alternative
Notable Projects: Grey Jéan And The Joy Band, Norman Brown ***2022 Jazz Festival Award Winning & Jazz Chart Topping Single***, Raheem DeVaughn, Mission Sugerfix, Althea Rene, Co-Writer and Producer for Grammy Award-Winning Guitarist and Producer Paul Brown, Concord Music Artist Richard Elliot, Peter White, Title track for Sax Artist Jessy J, Melina, Gabriel Mark Hasselbach, Al Gomez, Eloway White, DW3, Najee, Blake Aaron, Debra Laws, Pastor Chuck Singleton, B2K (Pandemonium! and B2k, SONY), 4th Elament, AJ, 4MULA1 (SoBe/Warner Bros.), Jackiem Joyner (AR-Tizen Music Group), Jeanette Harris, Loyiso (South Africa), Galatia (South Africa), IMx, TG4, Neeta-S, Gospel Gangstaz, Coolio, Epicenter, Jesse Powell, Chante Moore, Lariland, Pro2Call (jazz), Sekou Bunch, Carmichael Musiclover, Dee Lucas, Judith Nicholas, Soulcrush and EMG, Raheem Devaughn, Julian Vaughn, Vandell Andrew, Wendy Moten

GEORGE LANDRESS
Emily's Basement Recordings
213-509-3678
Email: george@emilysbasement.com
Web: emilysbasement.com
Styles: alt, acoustic, retro, contemporary
Notable Projects: No Doubt, Gary Wright, Jon B, Laura Nyro, Jimmy Cliff, Art Garfunkel

SCOTT LEADER
Brick Road Studios
7430 E Butherus Dr,.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
480-788-3573
Email: scott@brickroadstudio.com
Web: brickroadstudio.com
Notable Projects: Taylor Jane, Ross M. Levy, Peter and Ellen Allard, Abby Gostein, Todd Herzog, Bryan Zive, Emily Aronoff

DAVID LEE
818.823.8774
11736 Vose St.
North Hollywood, CA 91605
Email: davidlee@soundcheckstudiosnoho.com

BILL LEFLER
323.397.8328
Email: blefl@mac.com

BZ LEWIS
(Producer, Engineer, Composer, multi-instrumentalist, Dolby Atmos approved engineer)
Oakland, CA 94611
415-601-5077
Email: info@studio132.com
Website: studio132.com
Notable Projects: Blame Sally, Roberta Flack, Justin Ouellet, Chlsy, 6 Emmy Awards

BOB LUNA
(Composer, Arranger, Conductor, Producer, Keyboardist)
Los Angeles, CA
310-508-1356
Email: bobluna1356@gmail.com
Web: boblunamusic.net
Styles: all styles, Film/TV, and New Media, last minute emergencies.
Specialties: singer-songwriter demos, including composition, arrangement, production, evaluation

LAWRENCE MANCHESTER
Grammy Winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
New York, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/lawrencemanchester
Styles: Rock, Pop, Hip-Hop, Soundtracks, Broadway Cast Albums.
Notable Projects: The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, the Roots, John Fogerty, Jennifer Hudson. Across The Universe, Red Violin, The Departed, S.W.A.T.

MARIO J. McNULTY
Grammy Winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.

914-777-7677
New York, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/mariojmcnulty
Styles: rock, pop, alternative, indie, singer-songwriter, R&B
Notable Projects: David Bowie, Angelique Kidjo, Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson, Anti Flag, Semi-Precious Weapons

NATE MIDDLEMAN
(Mixing & Mastering Engineer)
RIAA Certified Multi Platinum
Above Ground Studios
3200 Annetta Ave
Baltimore, MD 21213
443-255-5016
Email: abovegroundstudios@gmail.com
Web: abovegroundstudios.com
Styles: Rap/Hip Hop Pop/R&B
Notable Projects: Shordie Shordie, Lil Baby, Tate Kobang, Moneybagg Yo, Nipsey Hustle, Usher, Busy Bee, Lil Mo, Alicia Keys, Wiz Khalifa, Aboogie, Creator of Game Time.

HOWIE MOSCOVITCH/Radio Intimate Productions
(writer, producer, remixer)
615-828-9323
Email: howiemoscovitch@gmail.com
Web: howiemoscovitch.com
Notable Projects: Ginny Vee, Stefanie Black

MELROSE MUSIC STUDIOS
5254 Melrose Blvd., Ste. 108
Hollywood, CA 90038
On the Raleigh Pictures Lot
818-216-5409
Email: melroserecordingstudios@gmail.com
Web: facebook.com/melrosemusicstudios, Melrosemusicstudios.com
Styles: All styles
Notable Projects: George Clinton, Taylor Dane, MTV and American Idol Artists, Pointer Sisters, Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard), Barry Goldberg, Brian Holland, Carmine Appice, Carla Olson, Howard Leese (Heart)

Additional location:

121 S. Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262

MIKE MILCHNER
818-269-7087
Email: mike@sonicvisionmastering.com
Web: sonicvisionmastering.com
Styles: all

THOM MONAHAN
Global Positioning Services
3435 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310-656-1350
Email: info@globalpositioningservices.net
Web: globalpositioningservices.net/client/thom-monahan
Styles: rock, pop, folk, electronic, produce/engineer/mix
Notable Projects: Vetiver, Devendra Banhart, the Donkeys, Peter Bjorn and John, Nina Persson, Mary Epworth, Horse Thief, EDJ, Beachwood Sparks

BRIAN MONCARZ
306-262-6971
Toronto, Canada
Email: soundandvisionmgmt@gmail.com
Web: brianmoncarz.com
Styles: rock, alternative, country, pop
Notable Projects: Bleeker Ridge, Moneen, Yukon Blonde, Circa Survive, Hot Hot Heat, Neverending White Lights.

BRUCE MONICAL
Email: brucemoni@yahoo.com
Web: facebook.com/bruce.monical
Styles: rock, funk, pop, R&B, soul, country, jazz, classical, scoring, etc.
Notable Projects: Please call for credits

GILLI MOON
Warrior Girl Music
818-448-6277
Email: info@warriorgirlmusic.com
Web: warriorgirlmusic.com
Notable Projects: International recording artists - Gilli Moon, Paulina Logan, Holly Light, Dina Gathe, Rhonda Stisi, Ari Inkilainen, Jessica Christ, Deborah Bishop, Shamballa, Nocy, J. Walker, 100 male and female artists across 15 complilations for Songsalive! and Females On Fire. Songs in Films, TV shows, advertising, games and artist cuts. Vocal production, full music production, and session players available.

MATTHEW MOORE
Summit Studios Pasadena
2016 Lincoln Ave
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626)486-2685
Web: summitstudiospasadena.com

MASTER GROOVE STUDIOS
Nashville, TN
615-562-5329, 818-830-3822
Email: davejavumorse@msn.com
Web: mastergroovestudios.com
Styles: rock, pop, country and R&B
Notable Projects: R.E.M., Commodores, Warrant, Incubus, LA Guns, Bowie, Rose Royce, Earth, Wind & Fire, Quiet Riot, Motley Crue, YES, Badfinger, Alice In Chains, Gene Loves Jezebel
*32-year veteran of mixing and mastering

ADAM MOSELEY
(producer,engineer, mixer)
Artists, Music and Film, Licensing/Sync
Los Angeles, CA
(cell) 323-316-4932
Email: hello@accidentaltalententertainment.com
Web: accidentalentertainment.com
Styles: rock, alternative, eclectic, acoustic, Latin, film, documentary and soundtrack mixing: "The Americans", "The Son"
Notable Projects: Christen Lien, Nathan Pacheco, Otm Shank, Bill Godfrey, Braves, John Cale, Inc., Wolfmother, Nikka Costa/Lenny Kravitz/Prince, Abandoned Pools, AJ Croce, Lucybell, The Cure, KISS, Rush, Roxette, Maxi Priest, Nathan Barr, Spike Jonze

ROB MOUNSEY
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Brooklyn, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/robmounsey
Styles: pop, rock, folk, R&B, classical
Notable Projects: Idina Menzel, Steely Dan, Madonna, Elton John, Rihanna, Usher, Billy Joel, Tony Bennett, George Michael, Aaron Neville, Deborah Cox, James Taylor

RONAN CHRIS MURPHY
Veneto West
PO Box 6363
Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222
310-200-9010
Email: rcm@venetowest.com, liz@lizredwing.com
Web: venetowest.com
Contact: Redwing Management
Notable Projects: Gwar, King Crimson, Steve Morse, Chucho Valdes, Terry Bozzio, Steve Stevens, Martin Sexton, Jamie Walters, Ulver, Pete Teo, Assassin's Creed Brotherhood, Mafia III
*Call before submitting material

TRE NAGELLA
(engineer, producer)
17120 Dallas Pkwy., Ste. 100
Dallas, TX 75248
972-331-7040
Email: info@luminoussound.com
Web: trenagella.com, luminoussound.com
Notable Projects: Ed Sheeran, Travis Scott, A$AP Rocky, Lil Wayne, Vanilla Ice, Jonas Brothers, Camila Cabello, DOC Kirk Franklin, Blake Shelton, Lady Gaga, Monica, Pimp C, Christina Aguilera, Tamela Mann, Chance the Rapper, Young Buck

KENJI NAKAI
(Mixer / Engineer / Producer / Educator / Author)
SONIC LODGE STUDIOS
323-810-2280
Los Angeles, CA 90068
Email: mixkenji@gmail.com
Notable Projects: Tom Petty, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Scorpions, Celine Dion, Boz Scaggs, Bill Champlin, Final Fantasy IX, Mario Kart 8

AERON NERSOYA
Arcadia, CA 91006
Email: info@AbetPublishing.com
Web: abetmusic.com
Contact: Aeron K. Nersoya
Styles: producing, recording, mastering, arranging, concept and packaging
Notable Projects: effusion, 5th Element, Chanson du Soir, Pirates of New Providence, Cherly D. Barnes

JAY NEWLAND
(9x Grammy winner)
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Norwalk, CT
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/jaynewland
Styles: rock, pop, soul, standards, singer-songwriter, jazz
Notable Projects: Norah Jones, Ayo, Gregory Porter, Missy Higgins, Esperanza Spaulding, Melody Gardot, Etta James, Lizz Wright, Richie Havens, Charlie Haden, Linda Thompson

RICHARD NILES
(producer, songwriter, arranger)
Email: richard@richardniles.com
Web: richardniles.com
Notable Projects: Paul McCartney, Cher, Ray Charles, Pet Shop Boys, Pat Metheny, Bob James, Michael McDonald, Tears for Fears, James Brown, Kylie Minogue, BANDZILLA
*No speculative projects

MATT PAKUCKO
Producer-Engineer-Mixer
818-464-5844
Web: https://www.mixcitymusic.com
Email: matt.pakucko@mixcitymusic.com
Notable Projects: Rush Hour Soundtrack, Dr.Dolittle Sountrack, Goo Goo Dolls, DMX, Rage Against the Machine, The Seeds, Def Leppard

TOM PARHAM
Audio Haven
8260 Haven
Las Vegas, NV 89123
702-481-1663
Email: tomparham@mac.com
Web: audiohaven.net

JOHN ANDREW PARKS
512-591-8130
Email: bryanlloyd@planettexasentertainment.com
Web: johnandrewparks.com
Styles: pop, rock, country
Contact: Bryan Lloyd
Notable Projects: call for current roster

PEN STATION STUDIOS
1809 Olympic Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90404
424-238-8800
Email: info@penstation.la
Web: penstation.la
Contact: Peter Barker: Peter@penstation.la
Contact: Kat Neis – Studio Manager
Main Format: ProTools, UAD, Waves, Fab Filter, Sound Toys, Eventide
Description: Located at the site of former legendary studios Flyte Tyme and Windmark Recording, Pen Station Studios is a full-service recording facility located within walking distance of UMG's Santa Monica headquarters. The studio features 3 full tracking rooms plus 3 production suites that are equipped with Neve and SSL consoles along with a great selection of outboard gear, microphones, and monitors.

PITCH BEATS PRODUCTION
Fort Wayne, IN
615-600-7489
Email: pitchbeats2018@gmail.com
Contact: Shamar Johnson (Audio engineer, producer, film composer, sound designer)
Styles: Christian music, Gospel music, Religious music, Contemporary Christian music, Contemporary worship music, Church music, Christian rock, Urban contemporary gospel, Christian metal, Traditional black gospel, Hymn, Spirituals, Christian hip hop, Southern gospel, Black Gospel music, Byzantine music, Spanish Traditional Christian music, Christian country music, Christian adult contemporary, Shout, Nigerian gospel, Latin Christian music, Gregorian chant, Jesus music, Christian alternative rock, Christian punk, Christian electronic dance music, Christian hardcore, Christian industrial
Notable projects: Hzs, Pilgrim, Mary the Activist

PLATINUM STUDIOS
818-994-5368
Email: paulhilton123@sbcglobal.net
Web: pedalsteelforhire.com
Contact: Paul Hilton
Styles: Country, Pedal Steel, rock, blues, All Spanish Language Style, jazz
Notable Projects: Society 1, Los Neighbors, Kanary, Bob Moss, the Dogs, Janet Klein, 'Lectric Chairs, Marshall O Boy, Brian Hogan
*Call for approval before sending material

CHARLEY POLLARD
Dragonfly Creek Recording
Malibu, CA
Engineer, Producer, Mixer
310-753-2067
Web: dragonflycreekrecording.com
Email: charley@dragonflycreekrecording.com
Notable Projects: Wondagurl, Jessie Reyez, Andra Day, Seal, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, AWOLNATION, Ryan Tedder, Justin Timberlake, Robbie Robertson, Phil Ramone / Frank Sinatra.

LUCA PRETOLESI
(Mixing/Mastering engineer)
Notable Projects: Major Lazer/Diplo, SIDEPIECE, Dillon Francis, Carnage, Steve Aoki, J Balvin, Becky G, Ozuna, Prince Royce, Snoop Lion, BigBang, BlackPink, Jolin Tsai

QUEL PRINCE
Ceo Paradise Recording
Syracuse, NY
(315) - 888 - 1027
Email: Paradiserecording.com@gmail.com
Web: paradiserecordingcom.godaddysites.com
Notable Projects: Max B, French Montana, Coke Boys, The Lox, A Boogie With The Hoodie, Young Gravity.

PAUL RISER
c/o IMC Entertainment Group Inc.
19360 Rinaldi St., Ste. 217
Porter Ranch, CA 91326
818-700-9655
Email: sr@imcentertainment.com
Web: imcentertainment.com, sylvesterrivers.com
Contact: Sylvester Rivers
Notable Projects: Motown Records, Dennis Edwards (the Temptations)
*No unsolicited material

DAVID Z RIVKIN
David Z Company
651-755-7944
Email: info@davidzproducer.com
Web: davidzproducer.com
Clients: Prince, Buddy Guy, Etta James, Jonny Lang, Collective Soul

RICHARD P. ROBINSON
1628 Morton Ave.
Echo Park, CA 90026
323-839-7293
Email: Rich@richmixmusic.com
Web: soundcloud.com/richmixmusic, richmixmusic.com, linkedin.com/in/richmix
Styles: rock, blues, reggae, jazz
Notable Projects: 4 Grammy- Nominated CD's including Pinetop Perkins & Eddie Kirkland. Also, Sandollar Sound, Aggrolites, Dee Dee O' Malley, Fleetwood Mac, Izzy Chait, Ryan Eglash, Rivers Cuomo/ Weezer, Jenny Lewis, Nelsen Adelard, Andrew Loog Oldham, Mackshow, Kozzy Iwakawa, Ana Victoria, Diego Verdauger, Amanda Miguel, John O'Kennedy, Michael Oosten, John M., Sammy Rimington, Big Bill Bissonette, Alex Chilton , the cramps, Bobby T, Nelsen Adelard,Telarc Blues, Whiffenpoofs of Yale

SYLVESTER RIVERS
c/o IMC Entertainment Group, Inc.
19360 Rinaldi St., Ste. 217
Porter Ranch, CA 91326
818-700-9655
Email: sr@imcentertainment.com
Web: sylvesterrivers.com
Contact: Sylvester Rivers
Notable Projects: Motown Records, The Temptations, Diana Ross, Dennis Edwards
*No unsolicited material

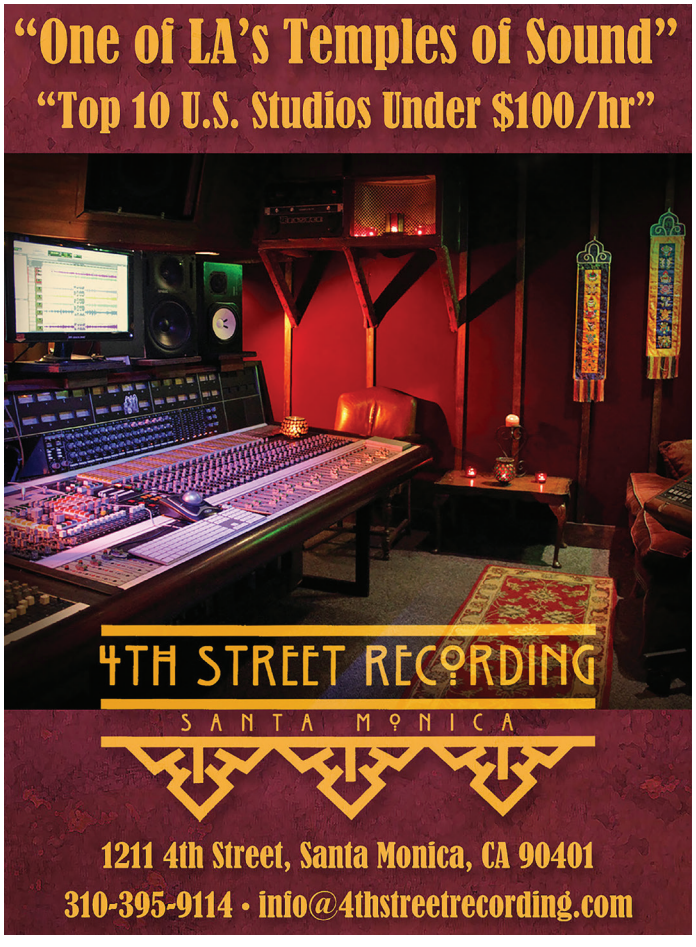
ROCKZION RECORDS
673 Valley Dr.
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310-379-6477
Email: rockzionrecords@rockzion.com
Web: rockzion.com/productionco.html
Contact: Dennis

GLEN ROBINSON
(producer, mixer, engineer)
New York
917-698-6298
Email: glenrobinson1@mac.com
Web: glenrobinson.tumblr.com
Notable Projects: Voivod, the Ramones, the Steve Miller Band, David Bowie, ACDC, Keith Richards

DAVID ROSENBLAD
DRM Sir Reel Sound/Thirteenth Moon Studio
Austin, TX
469-360-1443
Email: drmuzik@mac.com
Web: lotusrosehealingarts.com/david-rosenblad-demos
Notable Projects: The Vast of Night (Amazon feature film), The Ghost Who Walks (Netflix), You Are Me & I Am You (documentary short), numerous AXS-TV Music Specials, also check out David Rosenblad, artist on Spotify, Apple, Amazon, Pandora etc.
Clients: AXS-TV, PBS, HBO, MTV, History Channel and wide variety of music artists such as Herbie Mann, Sara Hickman, Chrystabell, Bad Company, Freddy Fender, Everclear, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Allan Holdsworth, Cheap Trick, the Flaming Lips, Maynard Ferguson, and Brave Combo.

BARRY RUDOLPH
TONES 4 $ STUDIOS
c/o Music Connection
3441 Ocean View Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91208
Email: barry@barryrudolph.com
Notable Projects: Pat Benatar, Hall and Oates, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Rod Stewart
*No unsolicited material. Email only.

MARK SAUNDERS
United Kingdom
Email: ms@marksaunders.com
Web: marksaunders.com
Styles: electronic, rock
Notable Projects: the Cure, Tricky, Depeche Mode, Erasure, Marilyn Manson, David Byrne, Shiny Toy Guns, Neneh Cherry, Siouxsie & the Banshees, the Human League, Gravity Kills, Femi Kuti, the



Mission, Yaz, Madness, Robert Plant, Lisa Stansfield, the Sugarcubes

RAFA SARDINA
(engineer, mixer, producer, musician, 10-time Grammy winner)
Email: info@rafasardina.com
Web: rafasardina.com/bio-1
Notable Projects: Stevie Wonder, Elvis Costello, Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson, Rodrigo Y Gabriela, Placido Domingo

ELLIOT SCHEINER
(7x Grammy Winner)
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Weston, CT
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/elliotscheiner
Styles: rock, pop, adult contemporary, singer-songwriter
Notable Projects: O.A.R., Beck, Foo Fighters, Steely Dan, Donald Fagan, the Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Paul Simon, Van Morrison, Sting, Queen, James Brown, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Buffett, Dan Fogelberg

ANDY R. SEAGLE
Phoenix, AZ 85020
602-371-8992
Email: cca@amug.org
Web: andyseagle.com
Notable Projects: Paul McCartney, Lyle Lovett, Placido Domingo, Yo Yo Ma, Hall and Oates, George Strait, Phil Ramone, HBO

SIMONE SELLO
RedRum Productions
Los Angeles, CA
310-428-6209
Email: simone@redrumproductions.net
Web: redrumproductions.net
Styles: rock, pop, electronica
Notable Projects: Hannah Montana-Hits Remixed, Billy Sheehan, Warren Cuccurullo, Vasco Rossi

F. REID SHIPPEN
310-876-2689
P.O. Box 23108
Nashville, TN 37202
Email: reid@robotlemon.com
Web: robotlemon.com
Contact: Robot Lemon
Notable Projects: Accident Experiment, A Fine Frenzy, Aron Wright, Atticus Fault, Danyew, Death Cab For Cutie, Eric Benet, Eric Church, Flyleaf, India Arie, Jonas Brothers, Jonny Lang, Low Millions; Marc Broussard, Mat Kearney, Matt Wertz, Mercyme, Plumb, Robert Randolph, Steven Curtis Chapman, the Afters, Toby Mac, Trent Dabbs, Mickey Guyton, Dierks Bentley, Kenny Chesney, Lainey Wilson, Carrie Underwood, Jelly Roll, Avenue Beat, Lanco

SILENT ZOO STUDIOS
736 Salem St, Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 484-5222
Holden Woodward
Studio Manager: Victor Janacua
Web: silentzoostudios.com
Email: contact@silentzoostudios.com
Notable Projects: https://www.silentzoostudios.com/about-4

SKYWALKER SOUND
Leslie Ann Jones
(engineer, mixer, producer)
Northern California and the world
415-662-1000, 415-407-1477
Email: info@skysound.com
Web: skywalkersound.com
Styles: Acoustic: classical, folk, jazz, blues.
Notable Projects: 4 Grammy Awards including 2 for Best Engineered Album-Classical, Rosemary Clooney, Kronos Quartet, Chanticleer, Cris Williamson, Mason Bates, C.F. Kip Winger

KEVIN R. SMITH
(producer, engineer, writer)
Chicago
919-274-2486
Email: kevin..rossman.smith@gmail.com
Styles: Singer-Songwriter, Indie, Pop, Jazz

DAVID SNOW
Little Hipster Music
Van Nuys, CA
818-570-3499
Email: davidsnow.littlehipstermusic@yahoo.com
Web: HipKatmusic.com
Styles: All styles. Truly versatile, multi-instrumentalist.
Notable Projects: Faith Hill, Arista, EMI, Sony, BMG, singer-songwriters/indie artists

JOE SOLO MUSIC+ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
Joe Solo - Record Producer+CEO
818-267-7656
Email: info@joesolo.com
Web: joesolo.com
Styles: Pop, EDM, Hip-Hop, Rock, Cinematic/Score, Hybrids, New Style Invention & Signature Sound Development.
Client Roster includes: Michael Jackson, Macy Gray, Fergie, Sony, Universal, Atlantic, Apple, many others.

STONECUTTER RECORDING STUDIO
Chris Steinmetz
(Producer, Engineer, Stonecutter Recording Studio Owner)
1719 S Clinton Street,
Chicago IL, 60616
Phone: (312)-451-7576
Web: Stonecutterstudios.com
Email: Stonecutterrecording@gmail.com
Email: Chris@stonecutterrecords.com
Notable Projects: KISS, Rhianna, Alice in Chains, CupcakKe, Miles Davis, BB King, Charli XCX, Kanye West, Jamie Foxx, Common, Mary J. Blige, Acoustic Chicago, Limp Bizkit, Nas, R. Kelly, Misfits, Disturbed, Twista, Lil Jon, Usher, Twista, Robert Fleischman, Paramore

STUDIOPROS
Studio City, CA
310-928-7776
Web: studiopros.com
Contact: Katy O'Toole
Services: Music Production

STARK RAVING RECORDS
P.O. Box 1451
Beverly Hills, CA 90213
805-701-4890
Email: jeffw@starkravinggroup.com
Contact: Michael Clark,
323-485-4722
Styles: R&B, jazz, pop, latin, rock
*Unsolicited material accepted

SHELDON STEIGER
180 Scarborough Rd.
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10501
203-456-4979
Email: sheldon@majorwho.com
Web: majorwho.com
Styles: indie, rock, pop, contemp. classical
Notable Projects: Joe Jackson, David Sanborn, Diane Birch, Care Bears On Fire, Paula Valstein, Eric Hutchinson, Kathleen Supove

DEVON STEELMAN
818-465-3357
Email: devon@steelmanstudios.net
Web: steelmanstudios.net
Clients: steelmanstudios.net/clients

STUDIO 5109
1110 N. Western Ave., Rm. 206
Hollywood, CA 90029
323-462-1250
Contact: Mike Wolf
Styles: hip-hop, R&B, rock, pop, all

STUDIO DMI
6839 Ponderosa Way
Las Vegas, NV 89128
702-860-6180
Email: service@studiodmi.com
Web: studiodmi.com
Contact: Ronnie Lee (CEO), Jacob Mork (Service Coordinator)

RIKKI SWIN
ECLECTIC LADY LAND RECORDING
Producer
Email: info@EclecticLadyLandRecording.com
Web: eclecticladylandrecording.com, grikki.com
Notable Projects: "Blind Leading Blind," "Earth Ship," "You," "The Air You Breathe"

KEITH SYKES
Ardent Producer Management
2000 Madison Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
901-725-0855
Email: info@ardentstudios.com
Web: ardentstudios.com
Contact: Jody Stephens
Styles: All styles

Grayson Thomas
Dragonfly Creek Recording
Malibu, CA
Phone: 310-924-2535
Email: graypol@icloud.com
Producer, Songwriter, Engineer, Mixer
Clients: Sofia Silvestri, Meghan Chen, Hailey Wild, Moray, Tower Twelve, Samson, Kody Jordan

RANDALL MICHAEL TOBIN
Theta Sound Studio
2219 W. Olive Ave., Ste. 226
Burbank, CA 91506
818-955-5888
Web: thetasound.com
Styles: solo and group vocals, pop, rock, R&B, jazz, alternative and country
Notable Projects: "The Heart & Soul of Mel Carter" - Mel Carter; "A Magical Time of Year" - Bettie Ross; "Across the Waters" - Isla St. Clair, Cabar Feidh Pipe Band; "BARK! - the musical;" "My Favorite Gentlemen" - Susan Kohler; "Rain on the Roof" - Margaret MacDonald, "Vocalessence" by Amy, "At the Corner of God and Broadway" - Katheryne Levin; "The Snow Queen - ballet redefined" - RM Tobin

TOM TOMMANASIN
Monterey Park , CA
626-633-2736, 323-721-0511
Email: tommanasian@gmail.com

DAVE TOUGH
615-554-6693
Email: dave@davetough.com
Web: davetough.com
Styles: country, pop
Notable Projects: Come & Go, Cindy Alter, Matt Heinecke, Craig Winquist

ALEXANDER TRACK
(producer, engineer)
Track Entertainment Studios
Sherman Oaks, CA
818-259-7244
Email: trackentertainment@yahoo.com
Web: facebook.com/ trackentertainment-studios
Contact: Alexander Track
Styles: all, Pro Tools recording, mixing, mastering, music videos, post production sound, scoring for film/ television/radio. Grammy-winning producer-engineer
*Please see web for more info

TRIPOPS MUSIC PRODUCTION
Las Vegas, NV 89104
702-985-2278
Email: tripops@poppermost.com
Web: tripops.com
Contact: Alex Oliver, Roy Rendahl Styles: indie, singer-songwriter, folk, pop rock, rock, vocal, and instrumental music

TTAM TROLL
55 Pebble Beach Ln.
Pottstown, PA 19464-7200
Email: info@floatingfish.com
Web: floatingfish.com
Styles: electronic
Notable Projects: Any Questions?, Punch Drunk, Obomatic, Imbued Vagary

CHRISTOPHER TROY
TRAHAN MUSIC
P.O. Box 451762
Los Angeles, CA 90045
818-694-9057 Fax 818-782-1499
Email: troy_trio@yahoo.com
Web: facebook.com/christophertroy.
producer
Styles: Pop, Dance, Trap, R&B, Blues, Rock, Jazz & Zydeco
Notable Projects: Gold and Platinum credits: K-Ci & JoJo, Teena Marie, Charlie Wilson, Troop, Kevon, Nona Gaye, Alexander Oneal & Cherelle, Rhonda Clark, Karyn White, Zac Harmon (blues), Freddie Jackson, Three Style, Munyungo Jackson, Karen Briggs, Jazz In Pink (smooth jazz), BLU (R&B/Hip-Hop), Gail Jhonson (Jazz), Salena, Techeeta Lopez (Latin), Black Uhuru (Grammy Nomination), Whispers, Ojays, Comedian Kevin Hart/Blockwood, Ronnie & Debra Laws, Gap Band, Parliament Funkadelic Alumni.
Seeks: Singer-Songwriter and Self Contained Bands: Lawrence, Snarky Puppy, Mint Condition, Earth, Wind & Fire to Maroon 5.
Complete Studio Tracking and Mixing Facility, Analog Tape Restoration: STUDER 2" 24 track, STUDER 1/2" Master recorder, ProTools, Yamaha Grand, Hammond & Leslie, Moogs, ARP, Wurlitzer 200, Clavinets, AKG, Neuman, Sure, ElectoVoice, Audio-Technica.

TONY VISCONTI
Grammy Winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
875 Mamaroneck Ave., Ste. 403
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
914-777-7677
Web: jdmanagement.com/tonyvisconti
Styles: rock, pop
Notable Projects: David Bowie, Morrissey, Kaiser Chiefs, Razorlight, Dashboard Confessional, Fall Out Boy, Angelique Kidjo, Alejandro Escovedo, T. Rex, the Moody Blues, Thin Lizzy, Strawbs, Gentle Giant, Sparks

DUSTY WAKEMAN
Mojave Audio
1118 Chestnut St.
Burbank, CA 91506
818-847-0222
Email: dusty@mojaveaudio.com
Web: mojaveaudio.com, mojaveaudio.com/about-us/dustys-corner
Styles: americana, rock, country, world, jazz
Notable Projects: Dwight Yoakam, Lucinda Williams, Jim Lauderdale, Anne McCue, Buck Owens

JAMES WALSH
Threshold Recording Studios NYC
517 West 45th Street
New York, NY 10036
212-244-1871
Email: Thresholdstudiosnyc@gmail.com
Web: majorwho.com
Styles: rock, singer-songwriter, blues, Broadway, Musical Theatre
Notable Projects: Paul Simon, Ricky Martin, Todd Alsup, Paula Valstein, Wes Hutchinson, Shayna Zaid, Alec Gross

CHRIS WASH
(producer, composer, head engineer)
Sofa Songs
Glendora, CA 91741
626-914-2245
Email: greg@sofasongs.com, chris@sofasongs.com
Web: sofasongs.com
Styles: rock, pop, blues, country, bluegrass, contemporary christian and others
Notable Associates: James Guthrie, Barry Rudolph, Daniel Moore, Al Blasek and Chuck Plotkin, Asylum Records, Warner Bros. Publishing, Bass Player Rick, Pages

TOM WEIR
4412 Whitsett Ave.
Studio City, CA 91604
818-505-9368
Email: bookings@studiocitysound.com
Web: studiocitysound.com
Notable Projects: Rod Stewart, Scott Weiland, Heather Youmans, Josh Freese, Phantom Planet, Michael Damian, Eric Clapton, PBS World Cafe, Nightmare & the Cat, Juke, Kartel, Shaggy, Light: Celebrate Hanukkah Live In Concert, Brian O'Neal, Warren G, Biffy Clyro, Vertical Horizon, Weezer, Tom Morello, Runner Runner, Chris Cornell, No Doubt, Neil Peart, Chuck Negron

VOX FOX PRODUCTIONS STUDIOS
Becky Willard
801-874-5112
Email: becky@voxfoxproductions.com
Web: voxfoxproductions.com
Contact: Becky Willard
Styles: covers, pop, rock, indie, singer-songwriter, folk, rap, vocal
Notable Projects: Madilyn Paige, Timyra-Joi, Maddie Wilson, Shadow Mountain Records, BYU A Cappella Club, Colby Ferrin, Monica Moore Smith

MICHAEL WOODRUM
818-848-3393
Email: michael@woodrumproductions.com
Web: woodrumproductions.com, facebook.com/michael.woodrum
Notable Projects: Prince, Eric Clapton, Joss Stone, Snoop Dogg, Wayne Kramer, the Neptunes

INDEPENDENT ENGINEERS

WOODY
Allied Post Audio
310-392-8280
Email: info@alliedpost.com
Web: alliedpost.com
Styles: rock, jazz, remixes, hip through trip-hop, sample friendly
*No unsolicited material

ROBERT SCOTT ADAMS
Director of Job Placement & Student Services
Omega Studios' School of Applied Recording Arts & Sciences
12712 Rock Creek Mill Road, Ste. 14A
Rockville, MD 20852
301-230-9100
Email:nicks@omegastudios.com
Web: Omegastudios.com
Notable Engineers: Jim Curtis, Scotty OToole, Phillip DiMercurio, Malcolm Jackson, Bill Mueller, Neal Keller, John Melvin, Isaac Breslau, Andrew Mastroni,

ARIES OF NOHO PROMOTIONS
P.O. Box 16741
North Hollywood, CA 91615
747-256-8911, 818-220-3423
Email: Shelby@ariesofnoho.com
Web: ariesofnoho.com/home
Contact: Shelby (producer, engineer)
Format: Analog & Digital, Pro Tools, Tascam, Fostex
Styles: R&B, Soul, Funk, Old School, Gospel, Jazz, World Beat.
Services: Studio & Video Productions, Voice Overs, Sound Design, Foley, Audio Transfers, Tape Repair.
Notable Projects: Bill Sheffield (Texas Tornados), Tarsha Rodgers (Rev. James Cleveland), Karen Meeks (Marshal Tucker Band), Patty Lacey (Luther Vandross), Dot Shelby (The Sounds of Blackness)

ARDENT STUDIOS
Keith Sykes
2000 Madison Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
901-725-0855

Email: info@ardentstudios.com
Web: ardentstudios.com
Contact: Jody Stephens

KIM ARMSTRONG
KC's Independent Sound
5318 E. 2nd Street #747
Long Beach, CA 90803
562-438-9699
Email: kimdar@verizon.net

ES AUDIO
Donny Baker – Chief Engineer/Owner
1746 Victory Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91201
818-505-1007, 800-880-9112
Email: studio@esaudio.com
Web: esaudio.com
Notable Projects: Crazy Town, Taylor Dayne (My Heart Can't Change - Dance and Club Remixes), Shifty, Tino Coury, Sky Felix (producer), Alex Cantrall (producer), Rhona Bennett, Brandy, 40Gloc, Dina Rae. *We accept all types of music submissions **Please call for a studio tour and to meet with the producers

DUSK BENNETT
Producer/Engineer
310-413-0845
dBU Ranch Recording Services
San Diego, CA
Email: duskb@yahoo.com
Web: duskbennett.com
Notable Projects: The Black Eyed Peas, Five for Fighting, Motley Crue, Sixx AM, Mike Love, Chicago, Barry Manilow, Vitamin C, the History, Travel and Discovery Channels as well as TLC, among many many others.

LENISE BENT
(producer, engineer)
Los Angeles, CA
Email: soundflo@aol.com
Web: linkedin.com/in/lenisebent

Styles: Americana, Blues, World, Rock, Pop, Jazz
Notable Projects: Blondie, the Knack, Suzi Quatro, Robert Fleischman, Primal Kings, Rich DelGrosso, Gary Allegretto, Lance Baker Fent, Steely Dan, Supertramp, Janiva Magness

CLIFF BRADLEY
(Producer/Programmer)
Bradley Entertainment, LLC
Email: cliffbradleyent@gmail.com
Web: cliffbrodsky.com
Styles: Rock

ANDREW BUSH
Grandma's Warehouse
355 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
213-484-8844
Email: andrew@grandmaswarehouse.com
Web: grandmaswarehouse.com
Styles: all

CAZADOR RECORDING
(Top L.A. Producer, Audio Engineer, Studio LIVE Drummer/Programmer, Studio Vocalist, In-Studio Vocal Coach, Composer, Songwriter) Owner of Cazador Recording (ProTools10 HD6)
Hollywood, CA
323-655-0615
Email: cazador.jimmy@gmail.com
Web: jimmyhunter.com, jimbojamz.com
Styles: rock, pop, R&B, most styles, live drumming or programming,
Hunter has produced 5000+ songs since 1986
Notable Projects: JIMBOJAMZ (my solo projects), Todd Stanford (4 Country CDs), Ivy Lite Rocway (85 songs), Savannah Phillips (many songs), Tim Fleming's Selective Amnesia, Mark R. Kent (3 CDs), Dr. Alias, the West Hollywood Cheerleaders, Dre Charles, Lisa Gold (1 CD), Thorn/Aerial School, Tom Powers, Carl Summers (Cix Bits), the Della Reese (UP church UFBL weekly Ministry)

ROB CHIARELLI
(mix engineer, producer, musician)
Final Mix Inc.
2219 W. Olive Ave., #102
Burbank, CA 91506
Email: rob@finalmix.com
Web: finalmix.com
Notable Projects: Kirk Franklin, Will Smith, P!nk, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Christina Aguilera, Angelique Kidjo, Tamela Mann, Stokley, Andra Day, Mary Mary, Charlie Wilson, Jonathan McReynolds, Lalah Hathaway, Charles Jenkins, Musiq Soulchild, Madonna, The Jacksons, LeAnn Rimes, Janet Jackson, Ray Charles, Ice Cube, Luther Vandross, Keiko Matsui, Dave Hollister, Luther Vandross, Johnny Gill

STEVE CHURCHYARD
(Record Producer, Recording Engineer, Mixer.)
Churchyard Real Audio Productions.
Email: steve@stevechurchyard.com
Web: stevechurchyard.com
Notable Projects: INXS, The Eagles, Billy Joel, The Sex Pistols, Meat Loaf, Yoshiki, XJapan, Train, Jason Mraz, Taylor Swift, Keith Urban, Shakira

STEVEN BARRY COHEN
c/o Lake Transfer Artist & Tour Management
12400 Ventura Blvd. Suite 346
Studio City, CA 91605
(818)-508-7158
Email: info@laketransfer.com
Web: laketransfer.com
Recent Projects: Sheree Brown (Expansion Records UK), James Holvay (Conqueroo / Mob Town Records), King SK (Big Money Records, L.A.), Candyboy f/ Mari Y. (Lake Transfer Music ASCAP)), Trina McGee-Davis (Boy Meets World ABC/Disney), Jacky Cheung (Hong Kong /Univ Music Grp), Sylvia St. James (House of Blues), UNIV/NBC ("Let It Grow" film), "13" (The Band - Rock), Taylor Dayne (Arista/BMG), Friends of Distinction (RCA Legacy/ BMG), El Chicano Project (The Brown Sound / SOLA Label), "Fair Game" (Film score Michael Whaley), Shanice Wilson (Motown/UMG), Patrice Rushen (w/Sheree Brown), Evelyn Champagne King (RCA Legacy /Sony), Sam Salter (LaFace/Sony) Evelyn Champagne King (RCA/BMG), Tattoo Ink (Notorious Enemy Records)

ERIC CROSBY
Chao Pack Entertainment
Atlanta, GA
404-465-4413
Email: chaopack@gmail.com
Web: chaopack.com
Styles: Rap, Hip-Hop, R&B, Soundtrack, TV/Film/video game composer, Mixing

JIM D.
Pyram-Axis Digital
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310-869-8650
Email: music@pyramaxis.com
Web: pyramaxis.com
Styles: All styles - Mix+Mastering Specialist, Remote, Distribution
Notable Projects: Indie, Sony, Universal, Grammy

MARK DANGER
ARDENT STUDIOS
MEMPHIS, TN
Email: mark.danger@ardentmusic.com'

JULIAN DAVID
(engineer, mixer, producer)
Germany/Europe
Email: jd@juliandavid.org
Web: juliandavid.org
Notable Projects: aVid*, Andy Gillmann, Any of Both, Biohazard, Bud Shank, Fraunhofer IIS, Larry Goldings Trio, Pacific Symphony, Patrick K, the Spyderz, Trenchtown, UCLA Bruins Band, Walter Trout

CHRISTIAN DAVIS
Sly Doggie Productions
Nashville, TN
Email: christian@slydoggie.com
Web: slydoggie.com
Contact: Christian Davis Stalnecker
Styles: All

HANS DEKLINE
Culver City, CA
310-621-1896
Email: hdekline@gmail.com
Web: hansdekline.com
Styles: Mastering for all genres
Notable Projects: U2, Burna Boy, Pixies, mewithoutYou, Veruca Salt, Lisa Loeb, etc.

MARC DESISTO
MIX LA STUDIO D
TARZANNA, CA.
Email: marcdesistoaudio@gmail.com
Web: marcdesistoaudio.com
Notable Projects: U2, Don Henley, Ivan Neville, Melissa Etheridge, Stevie Nicks, Dwight Yoakam, Tommy Emmanuel
Professional Recording, Mixing/Producing and Mastering all genres of music

JAMES DUNKLEY
169-B Belle Forest Circle
Nashville, TN 37221
615-662-1616
Email: pr@clynemedia.com, robert@clynemedia.com
Web: clynemedia.com
Notable Projects: Anthrax, Fun Lovin' Criminals, Amon Amarth

LUCAS FACKLER
Email: lucasfacklermusic@gmail.com
Web: lucasfackler.com
Styles: pop, rock, indie, electronic

JOHN FALZARANO
Los Angeles, Nashville, Atlanta
818-419-0323
Email: recordingtruck@aol.com
Web: recordingtruck.com
Styles: All
Notable Projects: call for details

NICOLAS FOURNIER
(Engineer, Mixer, Producer)
Email: nickjfour@gmail.com
Web: nicolasfournier.com
Styles: rock, alternative, indie, pop, R&B, hip-hop
Notable Projects: Death Cab for Cutie, The Vaccines, Of Monsters and Men, At The Drive-in, Biffy Clyro

MAURICE GAINEN PRODUCTIONS
4470 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 177
Hollywood, CA 90027
323-662-3642
Email: info@mauricegainen.com
Web: mauricegainen.com
Styles: Any/all musical styles, film, TV, etc.
Notable Projects: Starbucks (Mastered 185 CDs), Spoon, Rita Coolidge, Rafael Moreira, Alex Skolnick, Andy McKee, Darek Oles w/ Brad Mehldau, Jim Hershman w/ Lee Konitz, Patty Austin (Sound Design), the Hues Corporation, Angela Carole Brown, Little Wilie G, Joe Bataan, Orchestre Surreal, Mighty Mo Rodgers, Paul Fried, Disney, KCRW, Ron Powell, Mark San Filippo, Tim Fenton, Ari Giancaterino, Dale Fielder, Nori Tani, Doug MacDonald, Mike Clifford

ARNIE GEHER
(producer, mixer, engineer)
Port Hueneme, CA
818-763-7225
Email: arniegeher@gmail.com
Web: reverbnation.com/arniegeher

DAVID GIELAN
Recording Academy Member
Web: gielan.com/producerengineer
Styles: all, pop, rock, alt, hip-hop, electro, Film/TV/video game composer, singer-songwriter, audio post-production, studio owner.
Notable Projects/Clients: Joey Lawrence, Universal Music, EMI, Animal Planet, Poor Yorick, Wayne Stylez, Arturo G. Alvarez, Lorelei Carlson, Caviar Content, iQimedia, Vox Pop Films *Email for more information

BILLY GRAZIADEI
(producer, engineer)
Fire Water Studios
Co-Founder of Biohazard.com
310-354-5901
Email: info@firewaterstudios.com
Web: firewaterstudios.com
Notable Projects: 9 Biohazard Records, Cypress Hill, Onyx, Hate Breed, Life of Agony, Pantera, Sick of it All, SlipKnot, Sid # 9, Type O Negative, Agnostic Front

DON GRIFFIN
Studio VMR
5818 S. Archer road
Summit, il 60501
708-267-2198, 312-286-5018
Web: https://www.studiovmr.com
Email: don@studiovmr.com

ROSS HOGARTH
Hoax Productions
Web: hoaxproductions.com
Contact: Ross Hogarth
Styles: all
Notable Projects: Van Halen, Keb' Mo', Ziggy Marley , The Doobie Brothers, Gov't Mule, Roger Waters, John Mellencamp, R.E.M., Jewel

THOMAS HORNIG
(freelance mixer, producer)
Tomcat On The Prowl Productions
Canaoga Park, CA
818-533-8669
Email: studio@tomcatontheprowl.com
Web: tomcatontheprowl.com
Styles: singer-songwriter, pop, americana, country/folk, rock
Notable Projects: Jamila Ford – The Deep End (Engineer/Mixer), Matt Doherty – Dignity (Mastering), Red Bull Media – Blood Road (Post)
Web: tomcatontheprowl.com
Styles: singer-songwriter, pop, americana, country/folk, rock
Notable Projects: Jamila Ford–The Deep End (Engineer/Mixer, Matt Doherty–Dignity (Mastering), Red Bull Media–Blood Road (Post)

CHRIS JULIAN
145 Corte Madera Town Center
Corte Madera, CA 94925 Ste 311
310-924-7849
Email: chris@chrisjulian.com
Web: chrisjulian.com, ImaginePost.com
Styles: rock,pop , AAA, alt., R&B.
Artist development, allbudgets.
*unsolicited material accepted

KEVIN KILLEN
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677, (cell) 914-522-1174
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/kevinkillen
Styles: rock, pop, alternative
Notable Projects: U2's The Unforgettable Fire and Wide Awake In America, Peter Gabriel's So, Bryan Ferry's Bete Noir, Patti Smith Dream of Life, Kate Bush's The Sensual World, Elvis Costello's Mighty Like A Rose, The Juliet Letters and Kojak Variety, Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello's Painted From Memory and Duncan Sheik's Phantom Moon

STEVE KRAVAC
Hollywood, CA
Email: info@stevekravac.com
Web: stevekravac.com, facebook.com/hellshalfacrestudio, twitter.com/stvn_bradley
Styles: rock, pop punk, indie rock, power pop, Americana, roots rock
Notable Projects: RIAA Gold Accredited Producer, Engineer, Mixer, Composer. Blink-182, M.X.P.X., Less Than Jake, Pepper, Bad Religion Tommy Stinson. Label Credits Include: Epitaph, Capitol, Atlantic, Side OneDummy, Fat Wreck Chords, A&M, Tooth & Nail
*Contact through website

HOWARD (HOWIE) LINDEMAN
131 Quail Hollow
Sanford, NC 27332
239-269-3277
Email: howardlindeman@gmail.com
Notable Projects: Mixing and Production:

Sybil Thomas, Breathe (CD), Live mixing 2019, Michael Bolton, Elvis Presely and the Royal Symphony Orchestra 2019 UK Tour hosted by Priscilla Presley, Rocktopia 2019-2020 , The Drummer Loves Ballads (TDLB) John Armato, Johnny Lee Long "The Walk" produced and mixed
*Accepts demo tapes.

TOM MANASIAN
2338 S. Garfield Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754
323-721-0511, 626-633-2736
FB: tomsonicsrecordingstudio
Email: tomsonics@att.net

MARIO J. McNULTY
Grammy Winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc. 914-777-7677
New York, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/mariojmcnulty
Styles: rock, pop, alternative, indie, singer-songwriter R&B
Notable Projects: David Bowie, Angelique Kidjo, Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson, Anti Flag, Semi-Precious Weapons

BILL METOYER
(engineer, producer)
16045 Sherman Way, Unit H #132
Van Nuys, CA 91406
Lake Balboa, CA 91406
818-780-5394
Email: bill@skullseven.com
Web: billmetoyer.com, skullseven.com, facebook.com/bill.metoyer
Notable Projects: Slayer, WASP, Fates Warning, Armored Saint, D.R.I., C.O.C. **Company:** Skull Seven Productions

MIKE MILCHNER
818-269-7087
Email: info@sonicvisionmastering. com, mike@sonicvisionmastering.com
Web: sonicvisionmastering.com
Styles: all

ERIC MILOS
Owner/Engineer Clear Lake and Fever Recording Studios
North Hollywood
O:818-762-0707 C: 216-390-0063
Email: Eric@clearlakerecording.com
Web: clearlakerecording.com, feverrecording.com
Styles: Singer-Songwriter, Film Scores, Rock, Metal, Jazz, Big Band
Services: Engineering, Mixing, Production, co-writing
Notable Projects and Clients: Chaka Khan, many major motion pictures, Van Hunt, Colin Devlin, Jerry Lee Lewis, Blue Elan Records, Warner Music Group, Sony Music Group, Metal Blade Records, and many many more.

BRUCE MONICAL
Email: brucemoni@yahoo.com
Web: facebook.com/bruce.monical
Styles: rock, funk, pop, R&B, soul, country, jazz, classical, scoring, etc.
Notable Projects: Call for credits

ROB MOUNSEY
(producer, engineer, mix, arranger, composer, musician and film composer)
Grammy Nominated
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Email: joe@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/robmounsey
Styles: All genres
Notable Projects: Produced Jackie Evancho's 2011 Christmas album, arranged Celtic Woman's 2011 Christmas show, MD\ Arranger for Idina Menzel live shows, Steely Dan, Madonna, Elton John, Rihanna, Usher, Billy Joel, Tony Bennett, George Michael, Aaron Neville, Deborah Cox, k.d. lang, Michael jackson, Mary J. Blige, Trisha Yearwood, Toni Braxton, James Taylor and scores of others

TRE NAGELLA
(engineer, producer)
17120 Dallas Pkwy., Ste. 100
Dallas, TX 75248
972-331-7040
Email: info@luminoussound.com
Web: facebook.com/pages/Luminous-Sound/118076174889761
Notable Projects: Ed Sheeran, Travis Scott, A$AP Rocky, Lil Wayne, Vanilla Ice, Jonas Brothers, Camila Cabello, DOC Kirk Franklin, Blake Shelton, Lady Gaga, Monica, Pimp C, Christina Aguilera,Tamela Mann, Chance the Rapper, Young Buck

JAY NEWLAND
(producer, engineer, mixer)
9-time Grammy winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Email: joe@jdmanagement.com/ jaynewland
Web: jdmanagement.com
Styles: Rock, Pop, Soul, Standards
Notable Projects: produce, engineer and mix Norah Jones first two albums (32 million sales), Ayo two No. 1 debut releases, Missy Higgins smash debut release, recorded Esperanza Spaulding's Grammy-winning debut release, Rob Thomas, Etta James, Lizz Wright, Richie Havens, Charlie Haden, the Little Willies, Linda Thompson, Herbie Hancock/Michael Brecker/Roy Hargrove, Clarence "Gatemouth" Bowen

MATT PAKUCKO
Producer-Engineer-Mixer
818-464-5844
Web: https://www.mixcitymusic.com
Email: matt.pakucko@mixcitymusic.com
Notable Projects: Rush Hour Soundtrack, Dr.Dolittle Sountrack, Goo Goo Dolls, DMX, Rage Against the Machine, The Seeds, Def Leppard

Charley Pollard
Dragonfly Creek Recording
Malibu, CA
Engineer, Producer, Mixer
310-753-2067
Web: dragonflycreekrecording.com
Email: charley@dragonflycreekrecording.com
Notable Projects: Wondagurl, Jessie Reyez, Andra Day, Seal, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, AWOLNATION, Ryan Tedder, Justin Timberlake, Robbie Robertson, Phil Ramone / Frank Sinatra.

CHRISTOPHER J. ROBERTS
Dba Signal Flow Productions
818-915-4557
Email: cjreq@earthlink.net
Styles: Everything but polka
*Studio and live sound production and engineering

RICHARD P. ROBINSON
1628 Morton Ave.
Echo Park, CA 90026
323-839-7293
Email: Rich@richmixmusic.com
Web: soundcloud.com/richmixmusic, richmixmusic.com, linkedin.com/in/richmix
Styles: rock, blues, reggae, jazz
Notable Projects: 4 Grammy- Nominated CD's including Pinetop Perkins & Eddie Kirkland. Also, Sandollar Sound, Aggrolites, Dee Dee O' Malley, Fleetwood Mac, Izzy Chait, Ryan Eglash, Rivers Cuomo/ Weezer, Jenny Lewis, Nelsen Adelard, Andrew Loog Oldham, Mackshow, Kozzy Iwakawa, Ana Victoria, Diego Verdauger, Amanda Miguel, John O'Kennedy, Michael Oosten, John M., Sammy Rimington, Big Bill Bissonette, Alex Chilton, the cramps

BARRY RUDOLPH
TONES 4 $ STUDIOS
c/o Music Connection
3441 Ocean View Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91208
Email: barry@barryrudolph.com
Notable Projects: Pat Benatar, Hall and Oates, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Rod Stewart
*No unsolicited material. Email only.

KIMBERLY SAMUELS
k.i.m.s. Productions
(Tracking Engineer, Pre-Mix Engineer, Producer, Musician)
ATLHD Studio
Atlanta, GA
404-594-1255 or 678-587-8207 (Booking)
Email: kims@kimsproductions.com
Web: kimsproductions.com
Notable Projects: Nivea (Upcoming 2022 Project), Foevakt (Feat: Young Dro "11pm"), Doxie Irene (Feat. Omeretta the Great "In Real Life"), Doxie Irene ("Austin Powers"), Krystal Parker (Getitman Polo's - "Louisiana Dreaming"), Bryttain ("Speakin Facts" & "So Tempted"), Rixhydagoat (Album - War Volume 2 & Single "Red Light"), BrooklynBito ("Floods", "Soul", & "Work It Out"), Indigo Phoenyx ("Queen's Gambit")

SKIP SAYLOR
P.O. Box 280010
Northridge, CA 91328 818-300-0400
Email: skipsaylor@gmail.com
Web: skipsaylor.com
*See HITMIXERS MANAGEMENT

ELLIOT SCHEINER
(7x Grammy Winner)
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc. 875 Mamaroneck Ave., Ste. 403
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
914-777-7677, (cell) 914-522-1174
Web: jdmanagement.com., jdmanagement.com/elliotscheiner
Styles: rock, pop, adult contemporary, singer-songwriter
Notable Projects: O.A.R., Beck, Foo Fighters, Steely Dan, Donald Fagan, the Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Paul Simon, Van Morrison, Sting, Queen, James Brown, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Buffett, Dan Fogelberg

ALEX SOLANO
(Certified UMG Atmos Mixer)
Email: alex@alexpromix.com
Web: alexpromix.com
Styles: Pop, Afrobeats, Indie Pop, Indie Rock, Alternative, Latin, Indian Music, World Music
Notable Projects: T.I. Davido, Billy Lockett, The Maine, Jack Cassidy, 1da Banton, renforshort

STAGG STREET STUDIOS
Trent Statton
Producer • Engineer • Writer
(213) 949-7957
15147 Stagg Street
LA,CA 91405
Web: staggstreetstudio.com
Contact: Trent Statton
Email:studio@staggstreetstudio.com
Styles: All
Notable Projects: Ramones•Dig•Rod Stewart•Tigran Hamasyan•Tupac Shakur•Sugarcult
Artists and Producers/Engineers: staggstreetstudio.com/clients

DEVON STEELMAN
818-465-3357
Email: devon@steelmanstudios.net
Web: steelmanstudios.net
Clients: steelmanstudios.net/clients
Styles: Pop, Pop Rock, Metal, Jazz

DAVE TOUGH
5801 Tee Pee Tr.
Nashville,TN 37013
615-554-6693
Email: dave@davetough.com
Web: davetough.com
Styles: country, pop
Notable Projects: Come & Go, Cindy Alter, Matt Heinecke, Craig Winquist

Grayson Thomas
Producer, Songwriter, Engineer, Mixer
Dragonfly Creek Recording
Malibu, CA
Phone: 310-924-2535
Email: graypol@icloud.com
Clients: Sofia Silvestri, Meghan Chen, Hailey Wild, Moray, Tower Twelve, Samson, Kody Jordan

JEFF VAUGHN
Sonic Fuel Studios
El Segundo, CA
310-499-9274
Email: team@sonicfuelstudios.com
Web: sonicfuelstudios.com
Styles: scoring mixer, recording engineer, Film/Television/Games. *Call for current roster

TONY VISCONTI
Grammy winner
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
New York, NY
Email: info@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com, jdmanagement.com/tonyvisconti
Styles: rock, pop
Notable Projects: David Bowie, Morrissey, Kaiser Chiefs, Razorlight, Dashboard Confessional, Fall Out Boy, Angelique Kidjo, Alejandro Escovedo, T. Rex, the Moody Blues, Thin Lizzy, Strawbs, Gentle Giant, Sparks

DUSTY WAKEMAN
Mojave Audio
1118 Chestnut St. Unit 104
Burbank, CA 91504
818-847-0222
Email: dusty@mojaveaudio.com
Web: mojaveaudio.com
Styles: americana, rock, country, world, jazz
Notable Projects: Dwight Yoakam, Lucinda Williams, Jim Lauderdale, Anne McCue, Buck Owens

TOM WEIR
4412 Whitsett Ave.
Studio City, CA 91604
818-505-9368
Email: bookings@studiocitysound.com
Web: studiocitysound.com
Styles: all
Notable Projects: Rod Stewart, Scott Weiland, Heather Youmans, Josh Freese, Phantom Planet, Michael Damian, Eric Clapton, PBS World Cafe, Nightmare & the Cat, Juke Kartel, Shaggy, Light: Celebrate Hanukkah Live In Concert (PBS), Brian O'Neal, Warren G, Biffy Clyro, Vertical Horizon, Weezer, Tom Morello, Runner Runner, Chris Cornell, No Doubt, Neil Peart, Chuck Negron

MICHAEL WOODRUM
818-848-3393
Email: michael@woodrumproductions.com
Web: woodrumproductions.com
Styles: all
Notable Projects: Prince, Eric Clapton, Joss Stone, Snoop Dogg, Wayne Kramer, the Neptunes

TOBY WRIGHT
Web: tobywrightmusic.com
Styles: Rock, Metal, Pop, Reggae, Jazz
Notable Projects: Alice In Chains, 3 Doors Down, The Wallfowers, Metallica, Korn, Chris Whitley, Primus

JOE ZOOK
Joe D'Ambrosio Management, Inc.
914-777-7677
Studio City, CA
Email: joe@jdmanagement.com
Web: jdmanagement.com/joezook
Styles: rock, pop, R&B, indie, alternative
Notable Projects: One Direction, Katy Perry, OneRepublic, P!nk, Dashboard Confessional, Modest Mouse, Plain White T's, Kelly Clarkson, Serena Ryder, Brooke Fraser, Mary J. Blige.

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Maximize Your Merch Sales

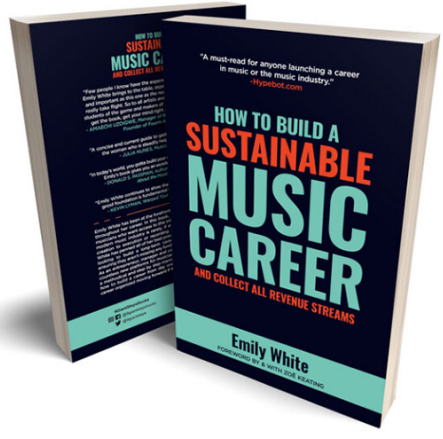
Excerpted from the 2nd Edition of Emily White's hit book, *How to Build a Sustainable Music Career & Collect All Revenue Streams*, out with Hal Leonard in the first quarter of 2024. Pre-order your copy on Amazon.

We touch on merchandise throughout this book, in particular when building your pre-order to generate income before your music release. Now let's discuss best practices to maximize your sales.

Creation
In an ideal world, give yourself a few months lead time to design and create your merch, as supply chain issues can arise at any time. However, the most cost effective merch, and often the most creative items, are the goods you create yourself. Let's break down your options so you're fully informed on which path, or hybrid route, make sense for you.

DIY and Self Printing
If you don't have much of a budget, this may be to your advantage. You can create handwritten lyrics, write a letter to fans, bake them cookies, write a song (charge a lot for this), do a dedicated video shout-out, and/or create a custom voicemail. The sky's the limit here. These are items you can charge upwards of $50 USD for and doing so doesn't take much more than your time. Most artists also know how to find a local print shop, if you want to go that route as well. I encourage you to start simple, as you'll have to pay for goods up front. I also heard from a band that sources their merch shirts from Goodwill, which is better for the environment, cheaper for the band and their fans love it. Many print shops will help you create stickers and buttons/badges or you can buy a button/badge maker. Posters are a really cost-effective item that you can charge more for if the poster is autographed and even more if it's personally autographed.

There are also countless online and local T-shirt options. Many artists opt to print in the U.S. or countries that pay a fair wage. If you do so, note this publicly. Because if this is important to you, it's likely important to your fans. Also ask the print shop you're working with if you can provide the raw goods, as they will mark up any goods they provide otherwise. Also be mindful of how expensive it can be to print with a multitude of colors. Remember that you can have sleek merch with a more simplified design. Similarly, when ordering any merch, including vinyl, ask where the price breaks are so you can make smart decisions and keep some stock for your live shows and webstore.



On-Demand Merch With Fourthwall
On-demand merch is a newer option where you'll have a lower profit margin, but your fans can place orders piecemeal so you're not stuck with unsold stock if you're not sure what quantities to begin with. This is a great concept for new artists in theory. I say in theory because with any merch company, but especially on-demand companies, please ask for samples before working with them. I've seen terrible on-demand merch over the years that is misprinted or falls apart. However, a new player in the game, Fourthwall has been changing that. Fourthwall prides itself on retail-quality on-demand merch for creators. So much so that when I interviewed their COO Eli J. Valentin on this book's podcast, an artist said, "Fourthwall has entirely changed my merch offerings for the better! Not having to manage stock allows me to be more creative in what I can offer." Although you'll make more money with a DIY or traditional merch store, Fourthwall is a great partner to get rolling with as you grow your career.

Traditional Merch Companies and Earth Conscious Merch
I love the company Ambient Inks. As of this writing they have committed to shipping all webstore orders in upcycled, compostable and/or eco-friendly packages while using no plastic film in the screen developing process and utilizing environmentally-conscious chemicals/inks. As well as working with brands that exceed industry certifications for sustainable and ethical manufacturing. In addition to upcycling all misprinted shirts into test prints or shop rags and all misprinted posters into notebooks and other items. Ambient Inks is also using a filtration system that makes all water used in production drain-safe. So if you're to the point of working with a traditional merch company—go with Ambient Inks if you are generating strong enough merch numbers that you're overwhelmed and need help with fulfillment and tours. Traditional merch companies will receive a commission in the range of 20-30 percent for fulfilling your online merch store and you can buy stock directly for live shows.

Merch Gone Wild and Data Collection Alert
When your career grows and you have more cash flow, that is the time to go wild with your merch. You can create hats, scarves, lingerie, hair extensions, cannabis paraphernalia, long-sleeve shirts, hoodies, bandanas, beanies, temporary tattoos, patches, socks, phone cases, pens, backpacks, keychains, sunglasses—whatever you want. Again, if any of these items are crafts that you or an artisan created, let your fans know that and mark up the price a bit accordingly. And if you are doing something limited edition, be sure the merch company lists this important detail on your webstore. Also always ask your merch company to share fans' email addresses with you and then ask the fans if it's OK to add them to your email list.

Sales/Specials and Promotion
Everyone loves sales and special items! So keep that in mind for holidays and especially for your birthday. They're your fans, so why not give them a reason to celebrate you? Fourthwall COO, Eli confirmed they see a massive sales spike when artists do this because unlike a holiday special, your birthday sale is unique to you.

EMILY WHITE is an Amazon No. 1 best-selling author and host of the No. 1 Music Business podcast globally, How to Build a Sustainable Music Career & Collect All Revenue Streams. She's the Founder of #iVoted and a Partner at Collective Entertainment.

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