

AUDIBILITIES

By Emmet Robinson

King Street Recording Company

Professional Audio Services for Any Purpose You Can Think Of

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What Are You Waiting For?

If you're even remotely typical, somewhere inside of you is a singer, songwriter, poet, musician, radio personality, author, trainer or professional speaker yearning to be free. Deep within your soul is a powerful creative urge trying to get out.

So, what are you waiting for?

Yeah, I know. Real life gets in the way, so you put it off. You wait for the ideal time, a better opportunity, the perfect time to start.

You wait until after exams...

or you're more settled in the new job...

or the kids are older...

or your cold gets better...

or you get a better guitar...

or until the weather gets better – spring, maybe...

or the economy improves...

or your credit card balance is lower...

or until...whatever.

There are so many ways to avoid making the commitment to yourself to start what you really want to do. Popular excuses include:

- All of your original hand-written notes have been lost.
- Your overweight neighbor sat on your guitar and smashed it.
- The dog ate your original song sheets.
- Your computer crashed and lost everything you've ever written.
- The new baby takes all of your time and attention.
- Your company has just transferred you to Finland.

All of these delays seem perfectly logical and reasonable. And then one day it occurs to you that you've waited too long. You're no longer able to sing, speak or play an instrument as well as you used to, and all of your creative opportunities have been lost. How would that feel?

Seldom – if ever – is there a perfect time to do anything. Okay, what does this mean to you?

Millions of creative people never take the bold step of expressing themselves fully – and go to their graves “with their music still in them.”

Don't let that happen to you. Find out what you're truly capable of. Have you written a song? An educational, motivational or training program that needs to be heard? Do you want to be a singer? A radio voice? Professional speaker? Have you written a poem, a novel or short story?

Well, what are you waiting for? Today is the perfect time to start!

Call 610-647-4341 or e-mail kingstreetrecord@aol.com for your free in-studio consultation.

Don't wait any longer. Do it now!

IN THE STUDIO

Words

Man With a Mission

Mustafa Majeed is concerned with ethnically-based hiring imbalances in the media and in the performing arts. “Why,” he wonders, “are so few black and Latino supporting actors and crew members used when filming

a major motion picture in a predominantly black or Latino neighborhood?”

He also has equal concern about America's disappearing manufacturing base – and the resulting decline of decent paying jobs.

In a dynamic interview recorded here, he describes his mission as a long-time activist – he simply wants to restore America to its past glory. That

seems like a worthwhile goal, doesn't it?

Serving Justice

We've done another narrative for a video to be used in a legal proceeding. The carefully prepared images, combined with professional narration, may help to persuade the parties involved to do the right thing.

For Medicinal Purposes

In narrating another training video for the pharmaceutical industry, I've learned how to disassemble, clean, reassemble and operate a sophisticated machine for the manufacture of capsules and tablets. Someday I'd like to see one of those machines in operation.

Stress Relief – in Three Minutes Flat

In a unique recording for web use, two warm female voices offer words and phrases designed to help stressed out listeners release current tensions and simply mellow out – in about three minutes. Appropriate background music supports the mood.

Revised Revisions

For a client's original recorded narrative that's already been revised several times, the most recent revision was also the most interesting: changing a date from 1988 to 1990. Using a selection of recorded dates provided by the client, it was possible to make the change. It just wasn't easy. What might seem like a simple task required two separate computers, two different operating systems, five different software applications – and nearly three hours of careful manipulation of the audio. The effort was justified in the end.

Music

Chris has only been playing the guitar for a few years, but has already begun writing his own songs. In his first session here, he recorded four original tunes plus one cover version.

Because active audio files can be kept available for up to a year, his next session will add new material to his current file. As a safety precaution, and because I don't trust technology,

all sessions are backed up on five external hard drives – plus an archival disk on the shelf.

From the Attic

Music

What a pleasure it was to work with an original recording of an operatic bass baritone. Having been a student of voice for more than fifty years, it's been a long time since I've heard a *perfect* singer. The open reel tape from long ago was a course requirement in a Master's program. The voice had round tone, perfect intonation, rapid, smooth vibrato and an excellent range of expression – he meant every word he sang. Wow! What a treat!

Speaking of great voices, at age 93, Malvern legend Jake Haldeman has finally retired from active performance. His singing, however, lives on in the many recordings he made over the last thirty years, most of which were produced here. For family and friends, he ordered multiple CDs of five different programs, including a pleasant collection of poetry readings.

Several CDs were completed with custom labels, covers and tray liners. Printed materials created by family members were Photoshopped® to correct minor imperfections, and the original templates used here allowed flexibility where needed. All recorded and printed materials are kept on file here for ten years – just in case.

The Real Road to Success

As a long-time songwriter, Robert always had his demos professionally produced on tape. When publishers began requiring submissions by email, it became necessary to begin converting his many audiocassettes to the new format.

In the process, I'm able to hear the hits before they happen. I also enjoy Robert's demonstration of true professionalism. Y'see, young songwriters are impatient, expect instant results, become disappointed and give up quickly. In contrast, Robert knows the importance of perseverance, organizational skills and tenacity. He'll keep submitting his music until one of two things happens:

Option A: He gets the publishing contract he wants, or...

Option B: See Option A

It's a shame so few young hopefuls don't understand those same standards.

A Father's Memories

I was happy to work with a large collection of audiocassettes, many of which had been recorded long ago by the client's father. Born in Poland in 1914, he was the youngest of six children and faced the challenges of growing up in difficult times. He described hearing gunfire in the streets, bartering for food, wearing hand-me-down clothes and living without electricity. Listening while transferring the tapes to CD, I gained a new appreciation of just how fortunate I've been!

Nothin' to It!

About seventy years ago, Bob and Frank gained access to a record cutting machine and recorded their voices on metal discs. After being listened to a few times, the discs were put away. Recently discovered by one of their sons, the discs were brought here for restoration and conversion to CD.

What I received wasn't in the best of condition. The original groove was so shallow that tracking was difficult, and a full selection of expensive diamond stylii was required to maximize recovery of the sound.

Although miracles may be accomplished with digital technology, mis-tracking must still be done the old fashioned way – by hand.

Full Circle

The music on the two old audiocassettes seemed familiar. Perusal of the label told me why: these tunes had all been recorded *here* – twenty-nine years ago – by a young songwriter who was ahead of his time. Tony's vision of his music was far more sophisticated than the studio was then, so we improvised.

Using two open-reel recorders, we created multitrack results without multitrack equipment. Recording basic voice and guitar on one recorder first, we'd feed that to the second machine while Tony added a lead guitar part or harmony vocal. Additional passes back and forth added more sound and led to a finished demo. The result was quite pleasant – and educational for us both.

Backward

In restoring a college audition tape from 1963, I found that the open reel tape had actually been recorded backwards! I have absolutely no idea as to how it was done that way. The solution was to improvise with tape path

on a large professional playback system. The result was worth the effort in the form of some extremely sophisticated cello playing.

A Lovely, Lengthy Concert

The *long* play tape from fifty years ago had been recorded in an old format known as four-track monaural. The seven-inch tape contained four separate ninety-minute recordings – a total of six hours of music! In transfer to compact disc, I heard an excerpt from *Faust*, an outstanding piano concert and a lovely soprano. All in all, an enjoyable afternoon!

Hank's Hits

What a pleasure it was to convert Hank Sable's original open-reel tapes to CD. Recorded in the late 1970s, his original country tunes were sung with real heart. The process took quite a long time, as there were more than 100 tunes. The final discs were sent to his office in Memphis.

Client Comment

"Thank you for your time, expertise and promptness. Without you, I would have never heard the music."

Videos

A Very Extended Family

The largest video assignment thus far has been transfer of 24 original VHS tapes of family events to video disk – DVD. In this uniquely diversified family, there seemed to be representatives of every nationality on earth!

In contrast to the popular perception of digital technology, total processing time ran nearly seventy hours!

Most of the completed discs were compilations containing images from several tapes. The client received two copies of each disc, with a third set made for archival storage here in the studio. Computer video files remain open and active for 30 days; archival discs are kept for ten years.

More New Toys

Video playback units for both formats of 8mm videotape.

In the Photo Shoppe

My work is never dull. Processing 35mm color slides from a pathology lab provided wonderfully colored squiggles. I've no idea what they were. After careful scanning, the images were recorded as JPGS on a CD.