

AUDIBILITIES

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Professional Audio Services for Any Purpose You Can Think Of

King Street Recording Company

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Secrets of Audio Restoration

Contrary to popular opinion, creating a compact disc from a vintage record, reel or cassette is neither easy, simple nor quick. Depending on the form of the original, a complex combination of processes may be required to properly restore and preserve an irreplaceable old recording. Such processes are beyond the abilities of the typical consumer, due to the variety of recorded media and the challenges each provides.

The humble disc record, for example, remains the most durable recording medium ever invented. Someone once brought in an acetate disc recorded in 1937! Although seriously abused over the years, it was still playable! Before attempting to restore the recording, several important factors had to be considered:

- The size, shape and tracking weight of the stylus (needle) used to play the disc. Improper playback equipment could damage a priceless original that might already be in poor condition.
- Determining correct playback speed: 33, 45 or 78 rpm – or something in between.
- The best technique for correcting mis-tracking if the stylus either skips ahead or becomes stuck in one place.
- The precise calibration of the restoration software for reducing or eliminating ticks, pops, scratches and general surface noise. There are several thousand possible combinations available.
- Deciding whether the overall frequency balance should be corrected with parametric equalization.
- Setting the optimum recording level.
- Determining whether the final CD should play through as one continuous program, or if separate numbered tracks should be established for each song or segment of dialogue.

Several hours of detailed, creative effort resulted in a recorded CD the client was delighted with. The task was enjoyable – it just wasn't easy, simple or quick.

Open reel tapes and audiocassettes also have their own special requirements that need professional handling. If you find an old recording in your attic, basement or garage and want it transferred to CD, don't take a chance on harming a priceless original. Bring it here for proper care.

IN THE STUDIO

Words

Dare to Be Different

Creating a demonstration recording for finding work as a voiceover artist is a combination of science and art. A major aspect of the art includes presenting yourself as you really are. There's no point in doing otherwise.

Having a distinctive sound gives Daryl a competitive advantage. There are already many other guys who sound pretty much alike. A little tense at the start – and everyone is – he was cookin' by the end of the session! Using scripts he had provided, we first recorded full-length versions of each

and combined them in an attractive series. With that completed, we then made short versions of the same narrations for prospects who prefer making their booking decisions more quickly. The 60-second version also allows talent representatives to include the demo on their web sites.

It should be noted that although the one-minute demo is a popular idea with agencies, it's not a good one because it forces clients to make decisions on limited information.

Be Yourself

A new client, originally from the deep south, expressed concern that his

natural southern speech patterns might prove problematic in finding voiceover work. That raises an interesting point.

I'm often asked, "What do *they* want? What do prospective clients look for in a voiceover artist?"

From 100 prospects you'll get 101 opinions – and no two of them the same. If voiceover work appeals to you, consider this. Since no one understands how voiceover artists are chosen, remember that you are who you are, and you do what you do. Instead of trying to guess how others might want you to sound, why not do what you do and find folks who want that. Simple, yes?

For a comprehensive 8-page article on developing a career as a voiceover artist, send a check for \$10.00 to P.O. Box 402, Malvern, PA 19355.

Words and Pictures

A growing number of companies have discovered web-based training programs. Although a live seminar is more effective because of the direct interaction between presenter and participant, it's also more expensive. In addition to speaker fees, the cost of travel, lodging, meals and time off the job, a review of the material at a later time requires booking the presenter again for an additional fee.

In contrast, a web-based program requires only a one-time investment. Graphics and audio files may remain available for up to a year for future updates and revisions. Most of all, it can be repeated endlessly at no additional cost.

For this reason, a wide selection of companies – large and small – have been wending their way to Malvern, PA for audio production. Over the last several months we've done product information programs for the health-care and pharmaceutical industries, safety training for several different professions, tech training for the operators of heavy equipment and human resources programs as well. Narrating scripts from so many different industries continues to provide a fascinating inside view on how those industries work.

Music

Guitar Spoken Here

It's been a good season for guitar pickers. Having been a player myself for more than 50 years, I find this to be most enjoyable.

Morgan's first time in the studio was a total success. She understood the instructions from the website and arrived completely prepared. She played four original tunes, all different, and each with something to say. Her excellent guitar work and pleasantly expressive voice made for a most enjoyable session. We were finished in just two hours, including duplication. Since we all need to get our music in front of real people as often as possible, I reminded her of some performance opportunities including *Playing with the Spirit*, a folk coffeehouse hosted by Central Baptist Church in Wayne, PA. For details see: www.playingwiththespirit.webs.com.

FROM THE ATTIC

Words and Music

Show Biz!

Back in 1970, someone had the presence of mind to tape record an elementary school performance of *Mary Poppins*. What a treat to transfer the tape to compact disc! The recording itself was clean, clear – and in stereo. The performance was outstanding. Everyone sang on pitch, and with an enthusiasm that I can only hope lasted into adulthood. The piano accompaniment provided by one of the teachers was truly inspired. All in all, it was an outstanding show – and I had the best seat in the house!

Words

Family Gathering

Forty years ago, a little kid set his battery-operated tape recorder on a kitchen counter while members of his extended family gathered 'round to entertain each other with songs, stories and commentary on current events. Now, the adult man would like the tapes transferred to CD. Seems simple enough, right? Well, almost.

The original recorder, being somewhat unsophisticated, failed to maintain a constant operating speed. In playback, the result was that each side of each tape began sounding like Minnie Mouse on amphetamines, gradually slowing throughout the tape, reaching something approaching normal speed near the end. Fixable? Sure. All it took was *five passes*

through the system, and more than *fifteen hours* of careful, constant attention to produce less than *one* hour of listenable audio!

After seeing so many special effects in TV shows and movies, we've come to believe that digital technology is always instantaneous. Luckily for me, things are different in reality. Otherwise, I wouldn't have a job!

Famous Voice, Meaningful Message

In October of 1967, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was scheduled to speak at a civil rights event at the Spectrum. While he was in the area, someone managed to persuade him to also give a brief address to an assembly at Barratt Middle School in Philadelphia. An original recording of that presentation was brought here on open-reel tape for conversion to CD.

For all young people, especially those born into unfortunate circumstances, the message was both clear and compelling: the way *up* – and the way *out* – is through education. *Stay in school*. Spoken forty-three years ago, that message still rings true in today's world.

Standing Up for Equality

Another fascinating original recording was of a series of interviews with participants in a Freedom March on Selma, Alabama in the early 1960s. The heartfelt comments of those dedicated folks were both stirring and inspiring. Where is that energy and dedication now that we need it?

Reunion

A client in New England sent me a series of open-reel tapes he'd made for his own enjoyment more than forty years ago. Converting the recordings to CD was a genuine pleasure because they represented my own favorites as well – including several artists I've worked with. Having those warm and familiar voices in my studio was like having them here – almost like a reunion.

Story Lady

A good many of the vintage open reel tapes I restore are extremely funny. The story was about the difficulties of raising boys on a farm, early in the last century. Told by someone who lived there more than 90 years ago, the tale recited from memory was hilarious from beginning to end. My favorite part was about the time one of the boys accidentally fed fermented

feed to the turkeys. When the birds all passed out, someone thought they were dead – and plucked them! When the birds awoke from their stupor and began running around the barnyard – naked, as it were – the lady of the house had to knit little sweaters for them all so that they wouldn't catch cold. Captured on tape, the delightful tale was told in a most professional manner by a lady nearing 100 years old and sounding youthful, vibrant and having a wonderful sense of humor. Maybe that accounts for her extraordinary longevity.

Music

In June of 1954, the LaSalle College Glee Club recorded a fine album of popular standards. In restoring and converting the recording to CD, it was a pleasure to hear young men's and women's voices blend so well.

Sweet Harmony

As an enthusiastic fan of vocal harmony, it was a pleasure to restore a forty-year-old open reel tape of some fine amateur singing of familiar standards. Equally divided between duets and trios, the warm acappella voices were a special treat.

Special Announcement!

For those who treasure the glory days of folk music, I'll be performing in concert on Saturday, September 18 in the coffeehouse at Central Baptist Church, 106 West Lancaster Avenue in Wayne – right across the street from the movie theater. The program will include familiar folk favorites, new tunes by writers not yet widely known, an original tune or two, humorous poetry and the occasional witty wisecrack.

The coffeehouse, *Playing With the Spirit*, is a spacious room on the lower level, entered from the rear of the building on West Wayne Ave.

The evening will begin with open mike at 7:30 pm, followed by the one-hour concert at 8:40. Admission is by free will donation, and ample parking is available nearby. For details, go to: www.playingwiththespirit.webs.com.

New Services!

Over nearly fifty years in the small business arena, I've managed to acquire an unusual combination of skills. I've presented them in an additional all-new website. Go to: www.emmetrobinson.com.

New services include consulting services for the small business owner, writing and editorial services, professional voiceover and entertainment services. For details, go to emmetrobinson.com.

Karen Chase: recorded interview about family property and the stories
The final version will be accompanied by carefully restored photographs of the property and the people involved.

And Pictures, too!
Armen Feldman

New Music Mac