



SONGPHONIC

Overview

The studio facilities at Songphonic[®] Records used to be owned by Phil Manzanera of Roxy Music and operated under the name of Gallery Studios until 1997. The facility was legendary and produced many great recordings by artists like Brian Ferry, Brian Eno, Paul Weller etc..

Between 1997 and 1999 the studios were totally refurbished by the new owner (Osman Kent) under contract to Recording Architects. Osman himself designed the layout, specified the equipment and all the electronic and electrical specifications. He prides himself in knowing every piece of cable in the facility [over 10 miles of it].

The studio is based on ProTools and caters for both acoustic and electronic productions. Being a 'digerati' himself, Osman decided at the onset to do everything digitally with good analog gear to complement the digital.

Everything in the studio is recorded at 24/96 and even 44Khz sources are upsampled to 96Khz for mixdown. Osman (who has a first class honors degree in Electronics and Computer Science) can bore you for hours in the merits of upsampling and other aspects of digital recording.

The studio is used exclusively by artists produced by Osman under his Songphonic label and also for his own private recordings.

Outboard

1x Manley SLAM (with the digital option fitted)
1x Avalon 737sp
1x Avalon AD 2044
1x Avalon AD 2022
5x Oram Octasonic
2x Dangerous 2 Bus (for ProTools summing)

External Effects

2x TC Reverb 4000
2x TC Finalizer 96K
1x TC Helicon VoicePrism Plus
1x TC Helicon VoiceWorks
1x Cranesong HEDD
1x Lexicon PCM 81
1x Lexicon PCM 91
1x Eventide Eclipse
1x SPL Transient Designer

ProTools Setup

1x ProTools HD4 (1 core + 3 process cards in a Magma chassis)
6x 192 I/O (fully loaded with additional AES I/O)
4x ProControl surfaces (1 ProControl + 3 expansion packs)
2x Zsys Detangler Pro
Almost all the plugins ever published (Waves, Sony, TC, all Digi ones etc..)

32 analog ins are routed through 4x Oram Octasonics
32 digital ins are routed through 2x Soundcraft 328 mixers for synths
32 digital ins are routed from various softsynths and logic stations

Monitoring

2x huge custom ATCs with a sub for stereo monitoring
2x KRK V4s for nearfield
5x smaller ATCs for 5.1
1x Martinsound Multimax monitor controller
1x Coleman Audio MP3 monitor controller (for VCA-less stereo monitoring)

Synths

1x Yamaha S90
1x Korg Pa1X
1x Korg Karma
1x Roland XV5080 (fully loaded)
1x Korg TR-Rack
1x Korg Triton Rack (fully loaded)
1x Novation Supernova

1x GigaStudio (dedicated PC) with almost all the libraries (including VSL Pro)
2x Logic Stations (Dual G5)
3x Ableton Live (with 80GB of loops)

Live Room

1x Yamaha C7 Concert Grand with Disklavier Pro (Elton has the other one)
1x Yamaha S90
1x Korg Karma
1x Korg PA80
1x Roland Vdrums Pro (complete kit)
1x Upright Bass
1x PowerBook with Logic and Live
6x Various electric guitars (including a prized PRS)
2x Acoustic Guitars (Larivee and Takamini)
2x Line6 Flex II HD amps
4x Mackie SR450 speakers with 2x 1501 subs
4x Neumann KMS 105s
1x TC Gold channel
Various percussion

Mics

Various Neumanns (U87i, M147, M149, KMS 105)
Various AT 4060s (our standard mic for most situations)
Royerlabs SF-24 (ribbon for stereo piano recordings)

Other

1x Tascam 302
1x Tascam CD4000
1x Tascam DA302
1x Tascam DA45HR
1x Tascam 80 MKII
1x Sony DTC 1000es (first DAT machine in this country)
4x ADAT

2x Snap Appliance Terabyte servers

Facilities

The control room, live room and the vocal booth were all designed by Recording Architects of Greenwich.

The rest of this large facility hosts a flat for visiting artists, various offices, living area, library, meeting room and a 'zen' snooker room. It was designed by well known London architects, Munkenbeck+Marshall.

When not recording, the artists and staff have access to 8 acres of parkland which also houses Osman's modernist home.