
The Palace Room Studios

Recording Arts for Educators

Professional Development Workshop Series



Prepared by: Damon de Szegheo and The Audio Recording Academy

Instructor: Damon de Szegheo



Introduction

The Palace Room Studios, in partnership with TARA – The Audio Recording Academy (Accredited with the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities as a Private Career College), has created an exciting and innovative workshop series entitled “*Recording Arts for Educators*”. This unique series focuses on teaching music educators the basic fundamentals of music recording and production.

The workshop is designed in two streams or levels, a beginner level and a slightly more advanced for those with some previous experience. Prior to attending, participants will choose the most appropriate level to help ensure that the learning experience is tailored for groups with similar experiences and knowledge of Recording Arts.

Throughout the workshops, participants will be instructed on the essential “ins and outs” of setting up, recording and mixing for the music students they teach.

The workshop takes a straightforward approach, demonstrating that with even just a few microphones, basic soundboard and software; good quality recordings can be achieved.

Overall, “*Recording Arts for Educators*” gives music educators enough theory and knowledge of concepts and techniques to introduce the subject into their music classes as part of a well balanced music curriculum.



Subject Outlines

Morning Session – Recording Theory

The Morning Session will introduce participants to a brief history of Recording Arts, the basic theories, elements and terminologies used during the recording processes. The topics from the morning will be applied during the Afternoon Session – Recording Applications.

Introduction to Recording Arts – History and Social Context

Level 1 covers:

- Origins of recording arts and engineering – Classical recordings
- Recording Arts in the 1950's – The connection between Rock 'n' Roll and Classical Music
- Recording to wax, the first tape machines and multi track recording
- The introduction of digital recording in the 1990's; recording outside professional facilities becomes much more affordable
- Downloading and the impact to the music industry – New ways to be exposed to music

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- MP3's and the internet allows new opportunities for musician

The Basic Components of a Recording

Level 1 covers:

- Microphones and microphone types – uni-directional, omni-directional, cardioid mics
- Dynamic vs. phantom powered microphones
- Cabling – Balanced vs. Unbalanced
- The soundboard: Faders, EQ, buses, master fader

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- Recording using outboard gear – Effects, compression

Building the Song: Multi-tracking and Mixing

Level 1 covers:

- Recording each instrument to one track on the soundboard
- Ideal levels (DB), recording level
- Mixing to a stereo track – Ready to burn to CD

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- Mastering and final EQ techniques



Afternoon Session – Recording Applications

In section 2, all the theory learned in section 1 will be put to use in recording environment. The class will have to opportunity to record some tracks with a musicians, as well as, put a basic mix together on analog and digital recording equipment.

Basic Mic Techniques and Set-up of the Recording Environment

Level 1 covers:

- Mic techniques for different instruments – Drums, guitar, bass, piano, vocals, wind and stringed instruments
- Line in micing: using a DI box on bass, keyboards, effects
- Basic room acoustics – Room separation and gobo placement

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- Recording sound effects for movies and television
- The mathematics of room acoustics
- Advanced mic techniques

Recording to Analog and Digital

Level 1 covers:

- Differences in format between analog and digital recording
- Non linear editing in digital recording powerful tool for arranging
- Sending the audio from the instrument to the tape machine or computer
- Analog magnetic strip vs. digital binary code (0s & 1s)

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- Using both analog and digital recording together for the ideal sound

Mixing, Effects and Creating a Master

Level 1 covers:

- Mixing the individual tracks through the soundboard
- Using EQ on recorded information; placing instruments in the frequency field
- Compressors, reverb, delay effects; giving the tracks ambiance
- “Bouncing” the final mix to a stereo track for burning or posting on internet

Level 2 is a review of Level 1, in addition to:

- Mixing for television and movies
- Mastering techniques and sound enhancing



Workshop Agenda

Time	Workshop Subject
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Intro to Recording Arts – History and Social Context
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	The Basic Components of a Recording
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Building the Song: Multi-tracking and Mixing
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Basic Mic Techniques and Recording Set-up
1:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Recording to Analog and Digital
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Mixing, Effects and Creating a Master

Workshop Fee and Additional Details

- The fee for either the Level 1 or Level 2 workshops will be \$150.00 per participant.
- Space is limited to 10 participants per session, with a minimum requirement of 6.
- TARA will provide lunch for all participants.
- All participants will receive a certificate upon completion, indicating that they successfully completed *“Recording Arts for Educators”*.

The Palace Room Studios

The Palace Room Studios is a fully functioning, professional recording facility located in downtown Toronto. With over 4,000 square feet, it is outfitted with “state-of-the-art” analog and digital recording equipment and industry leading software, such as Pro-Tools and Logic, as well as, top quality outboard gear, both new and vintage. In order to accommodate the needs of all who visit, we’ve gone to great lengths to offer a world class, leading edge, comfortable educational and recording experience.

Our Instructor

Over the past decade Damon de Szegheo has produced and engineered over 150 recordings for independent and major label artists. Damon previously owned a record label and toured Canada with country music legend Stompin' Tom Connors. Damon also has an honors undergraduate degree in philosophy & literature from Trent University. Damon is currently a resident producer and instructor at The Audio Recording Academy in Toronto, Ontario.

Complete the attached registration form and either mail or fax to:

The Palace Room Studios

554 Queen Street East

Toronto, ON M5A 1V2

Phone/Fax: (416) 603-3338

Email: info@thepalaceroom.com

Attention: Shannon Murray



Registration Form

Name: _____
School Address: _____
City: _____ Prov: _____ School: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone #: () _____
E-mail: _____

General Background Questions

I would like to register for (Check appropriate box):

Level 1 **OR** Level 2

If Level 2, please provide a brief description of your previous experience:

I would consider my Recording Arts experience level to be (Check appropriate box):

Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Have you participated in music recordings in a studio or elsewhere?

YES NO If yes, in what capacity? _____

What is your favourite music related web site? _____

What is your favourite music related publication? _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions or allergies? If so, please indicate: _____

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

The Palace Room Studios
554 Queen Street East
Toronto, ON M5A 1V2
(Please make cheques payable to: ***The Palace Room Inc.***)

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____