

# NEW ARTIST/MUSICIAN FAQ

## Hi, I'm New Here

### **I'm new to recording, do I need to be a professional to use your studio services?**

We are dedicated to serving everyone in our local community regardless of talent, age, or ethnic background. We want everyone to be able to share their love and passion for music. In addition, we coach and mentor our clients during the recording process, so even if you have never sung into a microphone before we got your back!

### **Resources for New Artists:**

<http://mbfilmmusic.ca/en/music/programs>

<http://mbfilmmusic.ca/en/music/programs/faq>

<http://www.manitobamusic.com/funding>

<http://www.manitobamusic.com/resources>

<https://www.factor.ca>

<http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants>

<http://www.socanfoundation.ca>

<https://www.starmaker.ca>

### **Engineering vs Producing**

Just as all great movies have a director, all great records have a producer: someone that casts a vision for the project, and oversees it from beginning to end, making it a reality. Sometimes the artists themselves serve as their own producers, but usually, a more experienced and unbiased person in that role will better serve the project.

John's approach to Production is primarily that of collaboration and communication. He strives to fully grasp the vision of the artist and bring it to life. He can help the artist get to where they want to be soundwise and is not limited to just one genre, he has worked with all styles and instruments.

### **Why are the rates for an Engineer and Producer different?**

The functions and responsibilities of an engineer and producer are different. Where the engineer handles the technical aspects of the production process, a producer works with the artist/band to get the best performance from the vocalist and musicians.

## The Process

### **What is the Production Process?**

The production process looks at different areas that affect the overall project. This is where we clarify the vision and work out the details. Some of the things we talk about are what sort of sound the artist/band is going for, the songs and how they're arranged. It's important to remember that your project is unique and there will be other elements of the process that come up.

### **What is involved in Production Process?**

Music production involves a wide range of steps that gets your music from lyrics on a napkin to a mastered track. The easiest way to lay out the process is to describe it in 5 stages. There is Pre-

Production, Tracking/Recording, Editing, Mixing, and Mastering. The process is designed to continuously define, refine, and prepare your music for others to enjoy.

### **What is Pre-Production?**

Pre-production is when the artist collaborates with the producer to create and refine their musical ideas, selects which songs they want to record, and begin to come up with a vision for their project. Other steps involve song writing and arranging (which will probably have ongoing adjustments to improve the songs; this would include co-writing, structural arrangements, instrumentation, tempo, progression and more).

### **What is Tracking?**

This is when all the performances are recorded. There are several ways that the tracking can be done, one way is when the performances are captured “live off the floor” (this is when all musicians are playing together). Another way is when musicians are tracked individually, or a combination of the two.

### **What is Editing?**

This is when the performance that has been recorded is refined. During editing, the recording performances are enhanced qualitatively in respect to pitch, rhythm, and other musical nuances. Editing is different for every project as is it based on what the artist is looking for and wants to hear.

### **What is Mixing?**

So, you've recorded a few takes of your vocals and instruments, now what? It's time to mix your song. Mixing is the process of taking your tracks and blending them together using different techniques using EQ, compression, and other processes that will get the best sound for your music.

### **Why is Mixing Important?**

Mixing is important because this is the step where your song will take on its final form. Once the mix has received its last edit, it will move on to be mastered.

### **What is Mastering?**

“The term mastering is used to refer to the process of taking an audio mix and preparing it for distribution.” This is just a fancy way of saying that the mix is adjusted so that its volume, balance and other sonic characteristics are nice to listen too. There is a big difference between the songs you hear on the radio and what they first sounded like when recorded.

### **Why is Mastering Important?**

Mastering focuses on the achieving the correct amount of equalization, compression and signal processing to the overall mix. The process aims to smooth out the audio, making it 'pleasant' to listen too.

## **Prepping for a Session**

### **What Do I Need to Bring When Recording?**

Make sure to bring your “A Game”. You want to make sure your vocals are good, and your instruments are tuned.

**Should I Have My Lyrics on Paper?**

Vocals come out their best when memorized. If you don't have your vocals memorized, please have some sort of reference on paper.

**Any advice before coming in for my session?**

Yes! When you're first starting out it's easy to think that 2, 5, or 10 hours is plenty of time to record a few takes and be on your way, but in reality, there are a lot of things that a studio does to make sure you get the best out of every session. You don't want to waste your time and hard-earned money because you were unprepared, and we don't want that for you either.

**How can I be better prepared for my session?**

Very good question. Do an internet search of "Preparing for a recording session". There are lots of great articles and blogs that can offer you advice on how to get ready for a recording session. Reading them will save you time and money.

*Resources:* <https://www.merriammusic.com/studio/faqs/>