

Studio Preparation

This document was prepared so that we can capture the most desirable recordings.

If possible, please provide the following prior to entering the studio:

1. The general direction you want the song(s) to go. Give me the names of some artists and some specific recordings that capture what you would like to achieve sonically. Links to YouTube are encouraged.
2. Any demos/home recordings/previous albums you have put out.
3. Are you playing live anytime soon?
4. A list of songs titles you are recording.
5. The instrumentation and desired feel of each song.
6. What is the purpose of these songs- a single? An EP? An LP? Demo songs? Mixtape?

Things to consider:

1. **Know the songs.** This will save a large amount of time and will result in better feeling, tighter songs. *This is probably the most important item on here.*
2. **Bring a Mac-compatible USB 3.0 hard drive.** USB 2.0 will work as well, but can be very slow. We will keep archives of your recordings, but you will receive all of the files and mixes at the end of each session for backup purposes. You will be responsible for keeping these backups once the recording process is complete. Sessions can range from 1GB to 30GB, so be sure there is enough space; be it a thumb drive or traditional external harddrive.
3. **Bring the proper files.** Are you bringing in a stereo track or beat? Are you able to get the complete multitrack files? You can often get these from whoever made the beat. These will make it easier to mix and things will sound better in the end. Try to bring in “.wav” files, Mp3s are usable, but they do not sound as good. Have your files ready on your hard drive prior to the session.
4. **Bring some snack and drinks.** These can help keep a session going. We can always stop for a lunch or dinner break, but it is nice to have some food and drinks around to keep everyone going. Of course, we will have the standard tea and water. There are many fine dining establishments in the area, and a host of good order-in food options.
5. **Use your network.** Bring a photographer or videographer in to take photos/video of you in the studio -if you're comfortable with that. If you've got a friend with an unbelievable voice, feature them on a song, or bring them in to help fill out a chorus. Note that bringing in a large group of friends not involved in your music can become very counterproductive and make for an un-focused session. Keep this in mind before you bring in your group of friends.
6. **Get some sleep and leave some time open.** Don't rush this. A recording is (usually) forever. Come well rested and leave some time open afterwards in the case that the session runs late.