

workspace



Whip Records is located in Berkeley, California, just across the Bay Bridge from downtown San Francisco. “The studio was completed in August 2001,” says owner **David Landon**. “It was designed with the artist’s comfort in mind — intimate, but it can easily accommodate a variety of groups. Musicians can record live with excellent isolation between instruments.” The studio has a spacious control room, a live room, an iso booth, and a drum room built on a floating floor with full visual contact between the musicians and the engineer.

Keyboard readers, feast your eyes on this gorgeous Steinway model L grand. “Arguably it’s one of the finest recording pianos in the Bay Area,” says Landon. “Last May, all action parts — hammers, wippens, shanks, and flanges — were replaced with the finest quality German-made Steinway parts. The action and keyboard have been carefully weighted and balanced. The piano is currently tuned and voiced to concert specifications.” And that’s not the only amenity Whip provides. “We have independent temperature control systems for each room, satellite mixing stations for independent headphone mixes, and a beautiful landscaped garden and sitting area.”

Landon tells us the studio took two years to build. He, architect Robert Remiker, and acoustical engineer Bob Skye designed the space from the ground up. “It’s not a converted office space or garage,” Landon says, “but a carefully designed acoustic space. It was truly a labor of love, where every aspect of the design and construction was undertaken with care and attention to detail.”

The studio is anchored by a Pro Tools Mix Plus system running on a Mac G4. A Mackie D8B console is the mixing companion. “We also have 32 tracks of ADATs available, but ever since the Pro Tools system was

installed, most people prefer to use that. I chose Pro Tools because it seems to be accepted as the industry standard and I wanted to be compatible with other high-end studios. This way clients would be able to work at Whip Records on the same projects they may have started at another studio. The Mackie D8B seemed like an obvious choice for a mixer because of the automation and other great features found only on much more expensive consoles. We have the Argosy Nevis series desk to hold the D8B. This, along with a Herman Miller Aeron chair, makes working long hours in the studio a pleasure.”

Among Landon’s most-used plug-ins are Bomb Factory and Drawmer compressors and Focusrite EQs. “We also have great outboard gear, such as two original Urei 1176s, a Lexicon PCM 90, and TL Audio preamps.” In the mic cabinet are a pair of Neumann U87s (“I like to use those on the piano”) and a Neumann U67 (“great for vocals”).

David says he built the studio “to record live musicians and bands, as opposed to a lot of MIDI and electronica. There are great sight lines and isolation and the vibe is intimate and relaxed. I specialize in acoustic instruments and bands, and try to capture the music just as it sounds out in the live room.”

David is also a recording artist, having released a pair of solo CDs. He also composed and recorded music for various commercials and TV programs, such as *The Miss America Pageant*, *Fox Extreme Sports*, and others. For info, call 510-528-5440 or visit www.whiprecords.com and www.davidlandon.com. GREG RULE

Do you have a home studio or rig that deserves our spotlight? Send info and pics to Greg Rule, c/o Keyboard, 2800 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403, or email gregrule@musicplayer.com.