



The Great British Recording Studios

By Howard Massey

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The Great British Recording Studios By Howard Massey

(Book). The Great British Recording Studios tells the story of the iconic British facilities where many of the most important recordings of all time were made. The first comprehensive account of British recording studios ever published, it was written with the cooperation of the British APRS (Association of Professional Recording Services, headed by Sir George Martin) to document the history of the major British studios of the 1960s and 1970s and to help preserve their legacy. The book surveys the era's most significant British studios (including Abbey Road, Olympic, and Trident), with complete descriptions of each studio's physical facilities and layout, along with listings of equipment and key personnel, as well as details about its best-known technical innovations and a discography of the major recordings done there. Seamlessly interweaving narrative text with behind-the-scenes anecdotes from dozens of internationally renowned record producers and a wealth of photographs (many never published before), this book brings to life the most famous British studios and the people who created magic there. Meticulously researched and organized, The Great British Recording Studios will inform and inspire students of the recording arts, music professionals, casual music fans, and anyone interested in the acoustically pristine facilities, groundbreaking techniques, and innovative artists and technicians that have shaped the course of modern recording.

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The Great British Recording Studios By Howard Massey Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the most important books ever written about recording ... a treasure trove of information about the British studio scene during its most explosive period of growth." --Malcolm Atkin, Chair, Association of Professional Recording Services

"The Great British Recording Studios is a sweeping account of the golden age of UK recording. In it, author Howard Massey chronicles the cultural forces and technological innovations that shaped the sound of landmark records by The Beatles, The Who, the Rolling Stones, and many others. His profiles of iconic studios from Abbey Road to AIR to Olympic leave no stone unturned detailing everything from construction history to equipment lists to discographies to sessions anecdotes, including vintage marketing materials and many never-before-seen photos." --Electronic Musician Magazine

"Let's not mince words. As a touring musician-producer-engineer-author-music journalist, Howard Massey is uniquely qualified to do what he has accomplished in writing *The Great British Recording Studios*. He has documented the definitive history of the British recording studios that brought the art of sound recording to a level that spurred, and was spurred by, a breathtaking outpouring of musical creativity in the 1960s and '70s—led, of course, by The Beatles and their insatiable curiosity regarding sound and sonic effects....Too much praise cannot greet *The Great British Recording Studios*. An invaluable historical document, and also one rousing ride through the most incredible musical era of the 20th Century. This book has it all. Mark it essential." - Mix Magazine

"With a foreword by Sir George Martin, former musician-producer Howard Massey has constructed an exhaustive, beautifully presented account of very major studio from those seminal times, giving detailed histories, discographies, layouts, technical breakdown and over 100 memories from the artists and production staff who used them...With most of these studios now gone, this is the first time anyone has attempted such a project. This fascinating tome will now stand as the definitive account." - Prog Magazine

From the Inside Flap

From the time that Thomas Alva Edison invented the phonograph, music has become an integral part of everyday life. The so-called "British Invasion" of the 1960s and 1970s spearheaded what was inarguably one of the most important and creative periods in the development of recorded music. *The Great British Recording Studios* tells the story of the iconic English recording studios of that era--places such as Abbey Road, Olympic, Trident, AIR, Advision, Island, and Apple--and provides a sweeping panorama of the people, places, groundbreaking techniques, and innovative artists and technicians who shaped the course of modern recording.

Meticulously researched and richly detailed, *The Great British Recording Studios* provides comprehensive information about the history, construction techniques, acoustic treatments, room dimensions, and equipment used by the key English studios during those heady times, supplemented with many never before published photographs and more than a hundred entertaining "Stories from the Studio" that take the reader behind the scenes of the making of some of the world's best-loved records.

The Great British Recording Studios is endorsed by and was written with the cooperation of the UK-based Association of Professional Recording Services, headed by Sir George Martin.

From the Back Cover

Back in the "golden era" of pop music -- roughly from the mid-1950s, when rock 'n' roll made its noisy

entrance on the scene, until the late 1970s, when the first digital audio devices such as drum machines made their appearance -- there was a distinct "British sound" that characterized the records being made in Great Britain and distinguished them from those being created in America. In some cases the sonic disparities are striking, in others subtle, but there is little question that the records coming out of the studios in Great Britain sounded objectively different from those emerging from American recording facilities. The Beatles, in collaboration with George Martin and the engineers at EMI, led the way, unceasingly pushing the envelope as they crafted recordings that constantly challenged the limits of what their audience would accept. Other artists of the era followed, incorporating new elements into their music as they constantly tested and stretched the limits of the production tools at hand. By the mid-1960s, the best British recordings were as good as any made in America, or anywhere else in the world, for that matter.

Essentially, then, the "British sound" was derived from a fortuitous combination of the right people being in the right place at the right time, having the right equipment (or lack thereof) at hand to realize their creative vision, and the ability to somehow overcome the convolution of a bewildering series of dueling technical "standards" -- all this, along with a healthy dose of serendipity and misadventure.

A story, in other words, worth telling.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Brown:

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Karla Walker:

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Joseph Singleton:

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Rose Miller:

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