

MATTHEW GRAY MASTERING

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Matthew Gray Mastering offers online mastering

Brisbane, Australia: Producers and artists across Asia can now access high-quality and affordable mastering through Matthew Gray Mastering's new online service.

Clients can simply upload their music to a secure server at www.matthewgraymastering.com, have their songs mastered, and then download the finished product. As Brisbane's only dedicated mastering suite, and with a client list including Singapore-based producer Leonard Soosay (John Lennon, Kylie Minogue, West Grand Boulevard, Inch Chua and Jon Chan) and Australian bands Powderfinger, Jet and Butterfingers, it is now easier than ever to have Matthew Gray Mastering take your final mix to the next level.

For head mastering engineer and business owner Matthew Gray, mastering is a specialised area of production that requires detailed full-range monitoring, an acoustically neutral space, specific mastering processors (rarely found in recording studios) and a trained set of ears detached from the recording and mixing process to make the overall mix sound better.

"I started the business eight years ago and offer my clients exceptional service, excellent communication and a finished product that is world class, and all for a reasonable price," said Gray.

Gray draws on his 15-year career as a professional musician and sound engineer — where he recorded Australian artists including Jet, Eskimo Joe, Killing Heidi and Evermore, and played on various albums and EPs — to deliver a professional result

"There are many mastering engineers who have the technical knowledge but lack a music background. This makes it difficult for them to understand the most important aspect of mastering, which is to represent the band musically," said Gray.

Singapore-based artist Inch Chua chose Matthew Gray Mastering for her EP *The Bedroom* and was impressed with his musicality, technical skills and professionalism.

"I was immensely happy with the results as everything sounded better and Matt was kind enough to constantly check if the masters were pleasing to us," said Chua.

"Most mastering studios just run everything through presets if you're not 'important' enough so Matt obviously has a lot of heart in what he does."

Additionally, Gray's services for booking customers include a free mix evaluation prior to the mastering process. Clients can upload their music and Gray will identify any potential problems within the mix and offer suggestions for fixing or minimising these areas before the mastering session takes place. This helps to ensure the artist will end up with a superior result.

Well-respected Singapore-based producer Leonard Soosay took up this service for his current project, the second album from the band West Grand Boulevard.

"The band sent out a mix of their song to several mastering studios in the USA and Australia, and Matthew's treatment of the song was the best," said Soosay.

"What impressed us the most was his dedication and professionalism, in particular, providing suggestions for improving the levels and frequencies at the mix stage. He was the only mastering engineer to do this and the end result was truly fantastic.

"Another project of mine was running behind schedule and Matt worked around the clock so we could meet our deadline – that impressed me a lot too."

According to Gray, home recording enthusiasts can also benefit from mastering, particularly those recordings intended for radio play, as a CD demo, or to be placed on websites including Myspace or Facebook.

"Mastering can often take the project from being demo quality to release quality," said Gray.

The Matthew Gray Mastering facility boasts a hybrid of analogue (valve and solid state) processors with digital outboard and plug-in processors designed specifically for mastering. Most of the audio 'sweetening' is done using analogue processing including compressors and three specialised mastering EQs.

"Of particular note is the Sontec MES-432C EQ which is the 'Holy Grail' of analogue mastering EQs," said Gray. "It's sound is unmistakable on numerous hit records, the original units are quite rare and can be found only in the most elite mastering facilities around the world."

Two analogue tape machines are available including an ATR-102 half inch machine with mastering grade heads and class A electronics, and a more traditional quarter inch Studer machine for those looking for a 'retro/vintage' sound reminiscent of The Beatles or early blues-style recordings of the 1960s.

"I receive many requests to process digital recordings through analogue tape as it offers a very desirable sound that can be heard on all the classic albums from the pre-digital era," said Gray. "I've tried a number of digital tape emulators but nothing sounds as good as the real thing."

For Gray, digital processing still has an important role to play in mastering, and he uses a Weiss DS-1 MK3 compressor/limiter/de-esser and other digital

processing equipment for making small precise changes and dissecting and correcting problems within a mix. The studio incorporates the best A/D and D/A conversion available to interface all the analogue equipment with a ProTools HD system to ensure every nuance of analogue processing is captured back into digital.

"I conduct a lot of research before buying gear for the studio and am always listening to and researching new gear and software. It has to sound fantastic, be versatile enough to suit all musical styles, integrate with the rest of the gear and work well musically.

"I also like to keep in tune with new equipment and the latest in mastering techniques."

Matthew Gray Mastering also offers a CD replication and duplication service as an extension of the mastering process. This involves sending the final masters for replication as a DDP image to ensure the data integrity is upheld right to the point of manufacturing the CDs and personally delivered without compromise.

Matthew Gray Mastering is a one-stop shop for all of your mastering needs encompassing high-quality affordable mastering; free mix evaluation prior to mastering; a quick turnaround; and a CD replication and duplication service. As Australia's fastest growing dedicated mastering suite with an ever-increasing international client list, Matthew Gray Mastering's online mastering service is now accessible to everyone.

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