

THETA SOUNDS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 31

THE ALMOST YEARLY PUBLICATION OF THETA SOUND STUDIO

SEPTEMBER 2002

25 Years of Magic!

Theta Sound Celebrates its Silver Anniversary

Wow! Time sure flies when you're having fun! Twenty-five years ago, in August of 1977, in a one-bedroom apartment in Downey, California, Randy Tobin made it official and Theta Sound Studio was born. But the studio story actually began in the summer of 1971 when Randy enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. As he recalls:

"The first day of basic training (boot camp), I knew this was not what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my life! I made the decision right then and there that I had four years to plan what I would be doing when I got out. I turned to one of my loves: music. I spent as much off time as possible practicing piano in the enlisted men's service club (they had private piano booths) and participating in on-base Coffee House open jams. After basic training in San Antonio and tech school (electronics) in Biloxi, Mississippi, I was sent to Hamilton Air Force Base in Marin County, California.

"I started amassing music and stereo gear and crammed it all into my shared barracks room. My roommates didn't mind—they liked the music, too. This was a great practice space but I didn't really jump into recording until 1973 when I was sent to Bitburg Air Base, Germany (a small town about 50 km east of the Luxembourg border). At Bitburg, I didn't have a car so I spent most of my time on the base. The Audio Club was a military-subsidized stereo store that offered great deals on stereo and recording gear. I started saving my paychecks and purchased my first 4-channel professional tape recorder, the TEAC A-3340, and other components.

"My barracks soon became a recording studio and home to recording and jam sessions with fellow Air Force musician/songwriter friends. It was during this time that I co-wrote and recorded my first album with Doug Smith, a fellow airman from another U.S. Air Base 15 km away.

"I spent hundreds of hours cutting my teeth on that recorder and today, it and other rare artifacts can be seen in our Museum of Audio History here at Theta Sound."

In 1978, the studio moved from Downey to an apartment in Hollywood, a few blocks south of the Cinerama Dome. In 1979, Theta Sound moved to a big house in Los Feliz on Greenwood Place. The dining room and part of the living room were sectioned off and became the studio for the next eight years. When the Whittier earthquake hit in late 1987, Theta Sound was forced to relocate and the present location in Burbank is the result of that untimely twist of fate.

The time track of Randy's early adventures up through the present can be seen through the Museum, press clippings and the complete Theta Sounds Newsletter archives. The web site at thetasound.com also contains other historical information as well as current services and an audio gallery of selected works by our clients. Of course, the best way to see, hear and taste some theta goodies is by attending our **25th Anniversary Theta Sound Barbeque & Fest**, Saturday, September 28th, 2002! (see back page for all the details) 🎵



RANDY AT THE CONTROLS CIRCA 1977, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA

Mug Club

Most everyone who comes to Theta Sound asks about the wall of engraved coffee/tea mugs that adorn the control room. We call it the **Mug Club** and it's our way of thanking our "frequent flyers" for their patronage.

In the past twelve months we've presented more mugs than in any previous year in our history! We're proud to welcome our newest Mug Club members: Bob Ealy, Marjorie "Maje" Josaphat, Scott Bradberry, Bill Moon, Chris Drizen, Laura Leifield, Justine Sprague, Michele Purpora-Tardi, Tali Tadmor, Ariella Kapelner, Jordan Sax, Ed "Cops That Rock" Riojas, Susan Kohler, Randy Barach, Greg Boutte, Albert Johnson, Brazen, Anna Lively, Lauri Kibby and Morgan Grace.

They join current Mug Club members: Bill Apablaza, Wally August, Elizabeth Barron, Lisa Bell, Tracy Bergin, Albie Berk, Wayne Boon, Gigi Boratgis, Michael Boustead, Mike Boyd, Joe Brooks, Amy Buccellato, Suzanne Buirgy, Chuck Cassey, Clay, Jeff Colella, Shelby Daniel, Dick DeBenedictis, Clare Diane, Bill Elliott, Yve Evans, Valerie Fahren, Sharon Farber, Shanna Fisher, Five Wheel Drive, Charles Fleischer, Scott Fleischman, David Francis, Dean Fransen, Dale Gonyea, Mark Greisen, Ralph Grimes, Sherry D. Hackney, Jamal Haqq, Constance Hauman, Molly Hemstedt, Robert Hernandez, Steven David Horwich, Gordon Hunt, Bob Illes, Jerry Jackson, Al Kasha, Paul Kennedy, Ray Korn, Nancy Krasn, Harvey Kubernik, Gunter Lahn, Tom Lane, Jim Latham, Debi Lee, Lennon Leppert, Michael Le Van, Katheryne Levin, Amanda McBroom, Big Dave McConnell, Arlette McCoy, Daniel McCoy, Pam Matteson, Jackson Millar, Lance Miller, Prince Moore, Nikki Moses, Noelle North, Bonnie O'Malley, Patricia Patrick, Larry Pepe, Sisu Raiken, Jim Rodrigues, Bettie Ross-Blumer, Ron Ross, Pat Rowe, Gloria Rusch, Matthew St. John, Lori Scalise, Andrik Schapers, Tommy Scherer, Harriet Schock, David Schwartz, Misha Segal, Mike Shadow-Sky, Dr. Bob Sheckler, Patrick Shooting Star, Fred Simon, Timo Spekkens, Jerry Sternbach, Billy Tragesser, John Trujillo, Eric Vetro, Viacom Productions, John Weider, Bill Whiteacre, Judy Wieder, David Wilcox, Robin Williamson, Bruce Wilson, Mark Wilson, Sandra Wood, Ulf Wolf, Carol Worthey, Robert Zappia, Michele Zeitlen and Eric & Sheila Zimmermann. 🎵

Swing Set

Radio Show Brings Jazz & Kids Together

What better way to introduce the world of Jazz to kids (8 and up) than with a lively and entertaining educational radio program called *Swing Set!* That's just what executive producer **Lauri Kibby** had in mind for jazz singer **Anna Lively** as the on-air host of this new conceptual show. Producer/director **Larsen Jay** was brought on board and the project was brought to **Theta Sound** for production of the pilot. **Randall Michael**



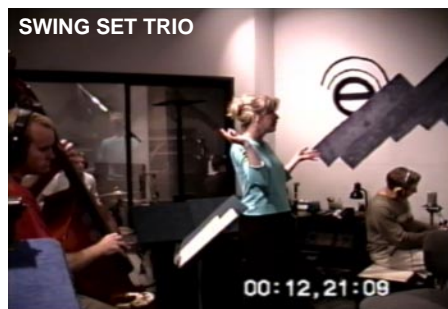
Tobin became more than just the engineer on the project, writing the music and collaborating on the lyrics for the show's swingin' theme song.



Each show focuses on a different instrument or vocal style. The pilot features a demonstration of drums and percussion with drummer **Derek Syverud**, an interview with music professor **Joe La Barbera** on the history of percussion in jazz, classic and modern recordings of famous jazz drummers and solos, a live recording of **Anna** and the **Swing Set Trio** (**Shelley Markham** - piano, **David Hughes** - bass and **Derek** on drums) singing *I've Got Rhythm*, Mr. Know-it-All trivia question, the Jazz Calendar and more, all packed into a well-paced 30 minutes!



After reading all about it, wouldn't you like to hear the show right now? We thought so! The pilot is currently being presented to radio prospects.



We think it's a great opportunity for kids (and adults) to become interested and excited about the wonderful world of jazz, swing

and big bands. And we look forward to producing many such shows for syndication across the United States and Canada. 🎵



Testimonials • Raves • Wins • Successes

Dear Randy,

I just wanted you to know I spoke with my vocal coaches, Lee and Sally Sweetland who are kind of icons of the industry here and I knew that I needed to have them listen and critique the CD (*Cocktail Napkins*). They have called me and they cannot stop raving about how much they love it! They said it is so enjoyable! One of the things Lee said about it technically was how well it was done and that the balance of everything on every song was fabulous! He said, "Can I have the name of the recording studio where you did it because they've done a marvelous job and I'm always looking for places to refer my students and for some things that I need to do."

(and 9 days later...)

Things went really well back east. People were really impressed with the CD. People heard me perform and wanted the CD right away. Everybody commented on how wonderful the quality was. "Oh! It was excellent!" they said. "And you sound so clear!" they said. I said, "Well, that had a lot to do with this wonderful sound engineer I have."

Susan Kohler

Dear Randy & Cyndie,

Thank you so much for the coffee mug! I'm very touched by this gift, as well as your friendship and support. Nothing is impossible to accomplish with friends like you!

Ariella Kapelner

Dear Randy & Cyndie,

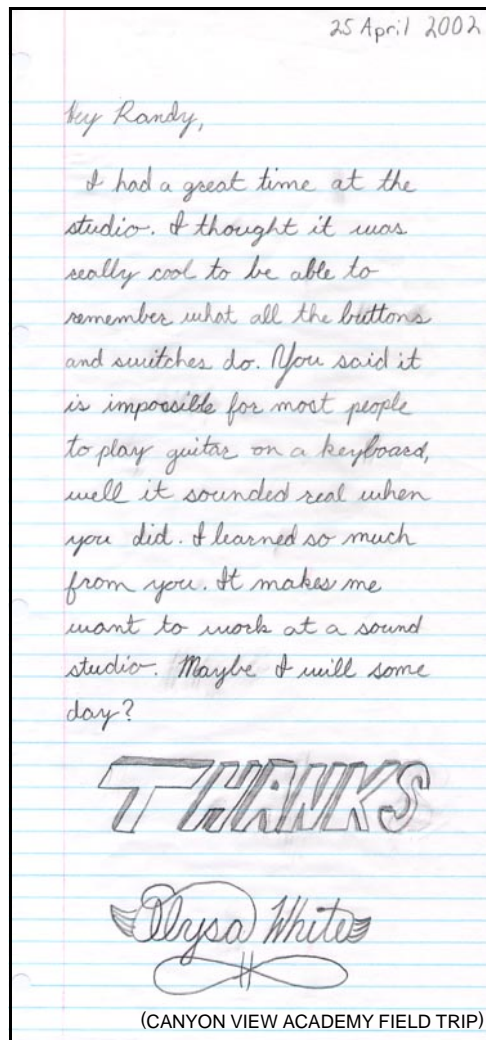
Thanks so much for your patience and support on my project. And thanks for the beautiful arrangements.

Marjorie "Maje" Josaphat

Dear Randy,

Jon showed me the web site and I can't begin to tell you how blown away I am by it. You did an absolutely awesome job! It's awesome! I've seen a lot of web sites—Britney Spears, Jessica Simpson—and I'm just so impressed! You did an awesome job! Thank you so much!!!!

Joanne Sprague regarding daughter Justine's web site: AllAboutJustine.com



Randy,

"We are really, really pleased with the work you've done [CD mastering for Amanda Ambrose's new album of vintage live and studio tracks]. It's so much better than I even anticipated and I had pretty high hopes. Thank you so much. It's just beautiful. We're just absolutely thrilled! Thank you so much for your loving care."

*Stephanie Hamilton and
Amanda Ambrose*

(forwarded by Kate Levin, producer of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church Praise Singers *Voices of Praise* CD:)

Life so rarely genuinely has pure victories. Once in a great while, what we plan for, what we dream of, what we aspire to, actually occurs. Magic. Listening to the CD in my car I was struck by how truly terrific it sounds. Unequivocal. Exciting. Inspired. Satisfying. Entertaining. Just right.

How did this happen? Let's face it, the singers weren't always at their best.... But listening to the CD is like a dream come true. The band sounds TERRIFIC. The leads are inspired. The song selection varied and genuinely interesting. But the X Factor is the mix. Somehow or other it all came together in the mix. It sounds like a million bucks. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? I don't know, but it is what it is. A great record!

Studio Notes

Welcome to this edition of Theta Sound's Studio Notes covering all the things that have been going on here since our last issue!

Album Projects

Several independent album projects have been produced here during the past 12 months and many of them can be seen, heard and purchased on www.CDBaby.com.

Ragtime Renaissance is the new album by composer and ragtime piano man **Ron Ross**. The CD also features a vocal cameo by 1920's stylist **Janet Klein**.

Cocktail Napkins is the debut release from jazz vocalist **Susan Kohler**. The album features several popular standards arranged by pianist **Nick Fryman** with **Randy Landas** on bass and drummer **Rod Harbour**.



As **Olivia Hackney Cade** grows, a new album is created in celebration of her birthdays! This year's edition entitled "2" features words and music written by **Sherry Hackney Cade** and friends, performed by **Tom Fair** on vocals and acoustic guitar.

Cops that Rock is the final CD release by this ten member high-energy R&B band comprised of members of local police, sheriff and Highway Patrol agencies. This is a great party album with many classic dance and groove songs.

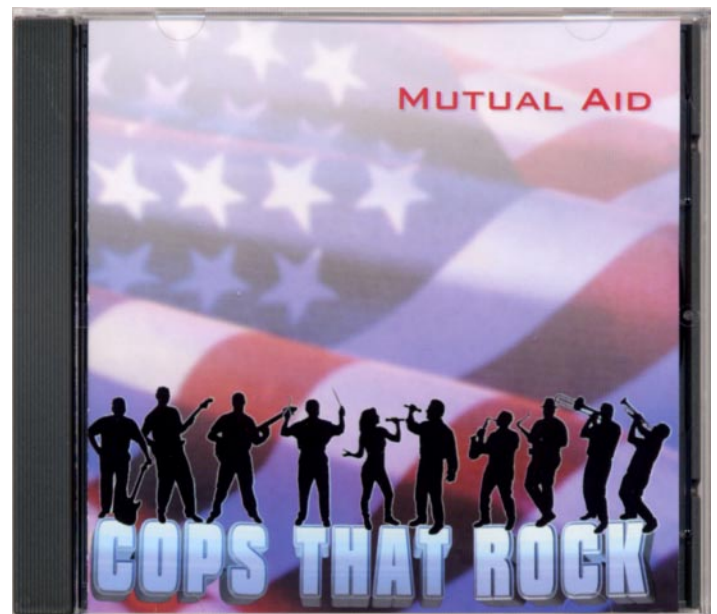
Art McAllister & Gospel One spent many a late night at Theta Sound and the result is their new album, *Make a Change*. This group represents a powerful new force on the Contemporary R&B Gospel scene.

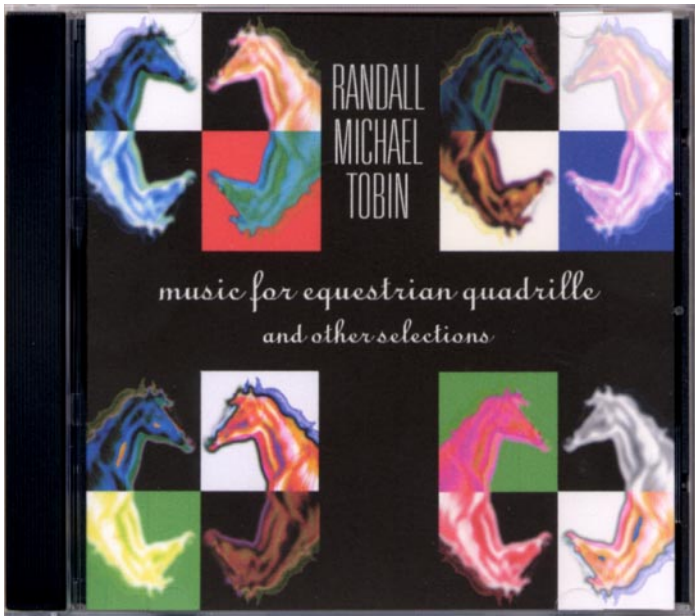
Robert & Nancy Daley's *Hot Mamas* is the new "Women Coming of Age" musical receiving rave reviews in and around Los Angeles. The new cast album is now available featuring **Nancy Daley**, **Sisu Raiken** and **Colleen McNamara**.

Singer/Songwriter **Chris Drizen** recorded three of his cutting-edge originals with **Ray Brinker** on drums, **Basil Fung** on guitars and **Randall Michael Tobin** on bass and keyboards as well as producing the tracks. Chris added material from his live shows at The Crooked Bar in Hollywood and released his first album! Chris returned a few months later with new studio and live material and created his second CD!

Brentwood Presbyterian Church Praise Singers under the direction of **Katheryne Levin** released their new CD, *Voices of Praise*, a collection of contemporary inspirational pieces.

Jazz singer **Anna Lively** recorded her second project here, *It's a Little Bit Funny*, showcasing a collection of humorous standards. Anna is also the host of *Swing Set*, a new educational radio show that brings jazz and kids together (see page 2).





Music for Equestrian Quadrille and other selections is the first new CD release by **Randall Michael Tobin** since 1998. It features *Caribbean Carnivál*, the quadrille soundtrack that helped **The Riding Company at Robele Farms** win the National Championship in 2001! Also included is *Safarican*, the new quadrille (with Swahili lyrics) and nine other selections to take listeners on journeys around the world and beyond!

After nearly two years since the first session, *Vocalescence*, the impressive debut CD by **Amy**, is finally here! Featuring ten original songs plus two remakes, this album entertains with its variety of styles and its celebration of the voice. **Randall Michael Tobin** wrote/co-wrote the new songs and produced the album.

Vocal quartet sensation **Chairmen of the Chord** have wrapped up the recording side of their forthcoming album release, *IPO (Initial Public Offering)* and are finalizing the package and manufacturing details. (“Mug Shot” on page 6)

One-man-band and songwriter **Randy Barach** finished recording a collection of original songs for his new album with Randall Michael Tobin producing.

Composer **Marty Buttwinick** teamed up with pianist **Gigi Boratgis** on *the Julia Etudes*, a children’s instrumental album.

Singer/songwriter/actor and one-man acoustic rock band **Jordan Sax** tracked his **Adrenaline Rush** compilation album of popular tunes. Catch the Jordan “rush” weekends at various Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf stores in the Redondo Beach area.

Gospel singer **Greg Boutte** is finishing up his debut album with Randall Michael Tobin producing.

The **Jane Warner School Band** under the baton of **Leigh Clay**, had us come out for a location recording of their new album, *School Spirit*. The tracks were mixed and mastered here.

Singer/songwriter **Clare Diane** brought tracks for her new album, *Child on a Ferris Wheel Ride*, for mixing and mastering.

Hungarian recording artist, **Elisa Gallay**, recorded an album of her American songs entitled, *Sound of E.G.* (photo on page 8)

Film, Television and Radio

When composer/conductor **Sharon Farber** wasn’t in her native Israel, she was busy recording the score for an independent feature entitled *Running at Midnight*, creating a compilation CD of her film short score for *The Brother’s Grim* and conducting an a cappella choir singing her arrangement of *The Third Mother*.

Anna Lively hosts *Swing Set*, the new educational radio show that brings jazz and kids together (see feature article on page 2).

Producer **Robert Hernandez** was in for audio post services with another video feature in *The Truth About Kids and Drugs* series: *Marijuana the Myth*, part of the **Narconon™ Drug Education** program for school-aged kids.

Harriet Schock wrote and recorded the song, *Everyone Knows But Me*, for an indie film produced by **Bonnie Buckner**.

Bill Levey and actress **Victoria du Plarr** created an audio synopsis of Bill’s latest script, *Curse of the Purple Monkee*.

Writer **Danny Lukic** of Gotham City Films and composer **David Francis** teamed up on songs for the musical short, *Dogs*.

Randall Michael Tobin has composed two soundtracks for the L. Ron Hubbard Pulp Fiction Adventure Series Theatre live readings: *Trouble on His Wings*, which played in May and *A Can of Vacuum* for the WorldCon Sci-Fi Convention in San Jose. Randy is currently writing the music for *The Big Cats* which plays September 28th at the Pulp Fiction Adventure Theatre.

Singers, Songwriters, Composers & Bands

Never underestimate the power of a song! These writers and performers recorded their projects here with the production, engineering, musical performance and sometimes co-writing help of Randall Michael Tobin. At the very least, the role of a producer is to get the best performance possible from the artist and create an environment in which they can do so. That's exactly what we do here at Theta Sound!

Andrea Ross-Greene recorded *Too Far Away*, a powerful song about a doomed father trapped in the towers on 9/11.

Singer/songwriters **Shellah Garrett** and **Tom Fair** were in tracking Tom's beautiful ballad *Moments Like These* along with a second song, *My Good-byes*.

When Human Rights Guardian, **Andrik**, is not in Europe or Mexico, he's been recording new songs for the cause. *Lead On America* celebrates our country's role in setting the standard for Human Rights in the world. *Un Mundo Feliz* validates the results of the Second Chance Program recently implemented in the Tijuana Prison in Baja Mexico. At a recent graduation of over 100 inmates from that program, we saw the results first hand! What were once the most hardened criminals—murderers and drug dealers (and users)—were now proud human beings, many of whom go on to supervise the program in other prisons. Randy Tobin recorded some of the inmates singing the chorus of the song and used it for the final mix. A video is also in the works. You can learn more about how art can help promote human rights at the Art for Human Rights web site: www.ahrt.org

Singer/Songwriter **Albert Johnson** teamed up with groovemaster Randall Michael Tobin on three songs: *In the Middle of the Night*, *What It Be Like* and the soon-to-be smash dance hit *The Shiver*.

Baritone **Bill Chapman** was in tracking several of his originals including *Romance Serenades* and *Gambler's Songs*.

Power metal band **Brazen** finished tracking and mixing two originals, *Over and Over* and *Get Your Body Moving*.

Candy Peak recorded *One Hand, One Heart* (from *West Side Story*) to be played at her own wedding!

Jazz singer **Suzanne Kelly** was in with **Karen Hammack**, **Bill Markus** and **Paul Kreibich** tracking her new demo.

Singer/songwriter **Christa Stephens** collaborated with husband **Austin Buff** and Randall Michael Tobin on three songs, *Forever*, *Is It Time* and *Velvet Silence*.



Songwriter/guitarist **Chris Ehst** and vocalist **Ashley Powell** teamed up to record *Donna's Song* in dedication to the recently departed soprano, **Donna Davidson**.

Author/poet/acoustic guitarist **Ulf Wolf** has been steadily recording his collection of songs for his web site **UlfWolf.com**.

Young talent **Justine Sprague** recorded her versions of *When Doves Cry* and *Dream Out Loud*. *Doves* can be heard on her web site **AllAboutJustine.com**. The site, designed by Randy Tobin, also features an animated opening and video clips of Justine's recent performances.

Holly Fisher and friends recorded songs for the spirit with *Amazing Grace*, *Supra Ghatam* and *Mother O Mother*.

Singer **Eriko Yoshimura** recorded *On My Own* and *Glitter and Be Gay* with **Jeff Rizzo** at the piano.

Bob Hand tracked live drums in our main room for the upcoming Christian Rock album by **Weed**.

Fred Simon of the band **XXL** brought in a new lead singer to record *Where's Mama* and *Gimme Three Steps*.

Singer/songwriter/pianist **Morgan Grace** is working on her latest, *Hard to Be Me* with Randall Michael Tobin producing.

Between appearances as Belle in a local production of *Beauty and the Beast*, **Laura Leifield** recorded her latest demo featuring *Phantom of the Opera Medley*, *A Whole New World*, *Journey to the Past* and *A Child's Prayer*.

Songwriter **Jordan Bowers** kicked off the holiday season in style with his recording of *Christmas Fun - fa la la la lum la lay*.

Singer/songwriter/pianist **Nancy Daley** recorded her latest, *Love Never Dies*. Nancy is also the co-writer of *Hot Mamas*.

Songwriters **Rob Trabin** and Randall Michael Tobin updated a song co-written with **Pat Rowe**, *Love Can Do It*.

Marjorie "Maje" Josaphat recorded her first demo featuring *This Time I'll Be Sweeter*, *Delila* and *Shape I'm In*. She also had Randy Tobin design her web site **maje-music.com**.

Singer/songwriter/guitarist **Steve Petersen** was in tracking guitar/vocal versions of songs for his upcoming album project.

Songwriter **Terra Roeschke** recorded *I'll Sing Anyway* for entry in a song contest.

Jon Dohring recorded a new song written by Randall Michael Tobin, *Every Day with You (Is Christmas for Me)*.

CD Duplication, Graphics & Packaging

Quality audio/video reproduction and packaging is key to making a good impression. Clients we have provided these services for include: **Marty Buttwinick** - *The Julia Etudes*, **Joy Graysen** - *This Wildflower Garden*, **Sisu Raiken** - *Trouble on His Wings*, **Shanna Fisher** - *Singer/Songwriter*, **Calvin Remsberg** - *The William & Mary Chamber Singers*, **Marlitta** - *America, Wake Up!*, **G.C. McPhee** - *Demo*, **Elisabeth Waldo** - *On the Turquoise Trail, Viva California*, **Olivia Hackney Cade** - *2*, **Susan Kohler** - *Cocktail Napkins*, **Ron Ross** - *Ragtime Renaissance*, **Cops That Rock**, **Chris Drizen** - *Live & Studio*, **Jordan Sax** - *Adrenaline Rush*, **J. St. Clair** - *Soul Mates*, **Bill Elliott** - *Give America Hope*, **Bonnie O'Malley** - *When You Feel (The Way I Feel)*, **Justine Sprague** - *Demo and Video*, **Laura Leifield** - *Demo*, **Hall & Ysara Marston** - *Hoppysaurus*, **Marjorie Josaphat** - *Maje*, **Bridge Publications** - *Isaac Hayes Dianetics Radio PSA*, **Scottie Haskell** - *Voice-over Demo*, **Sherry Hackney Cade** - *Composer/Conductor Demo*, **Fred Simon** - *Simon-Medrano Project*, **Jordan Bowers** - *Christmas Fun - fa la la lum la lay* and **James Rodrigues** - *Sound of the City*.

Audio Cleanup & Restoration

Digital technology has allowed us to perform near miracles when it comes to removing background noise and bringing old recordings back to life.

Merrilyn Hilton had us transfer vintage mini-reels of her family letters-on-tape to CD.

Calvin Remsberg brought in a vintage reel tape for restoration to CD of **The William & Mary Chamber Singers**, a madrigal quartet he was a part of in the 1970s.

Bettie Ross-Blumer brought vinyl discs her dad recorded in the 40s and 50s for us to clean up and preserve on CD.

Geoff Levin sent over several vintage tape reels of **Celestial Navigations** and its earlier incarnation, **The Great American Entertainment Show** for archiving to digital tape.



Show, Recital, Ambience & Backing Tracks

Theta Sound keeps busy providing whatever it takes to make live shows a success—from a class of young students to full-blown professional productions! Here are some of the performers and producers who have used us to help create their tracks:

Comedienne **Pamela Matteson** updated her show backing tracks with new parodies of Destiny's Child and Liza Minelli.

Brian Sharp and **Sam Trego** of Imagination Entertainment were in tracking vocals for various industrial and cruise shows.

Carol Thorne returned for the fifth year to edit and assemble all the backing tracks for the *Sulphur Springs Variety Show*.

Arlene Kennedy had us edit a dance track of *Smooth Criminal* for **Paul Kennedy's Life Celebration** memorial. We also edited *Everything Must Change* for **Indira's** number.

David Francis was in creating backing tracks for two contestants of the Miss Tennessee pageant. He also tracked a series of solo piano hotel lobby themes for another project.

Heavyweight bodybuilder **Will Harris** returned to create backing tracks for the *Mr. USA Contest* in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Divita Dutton and **Divita Wright II** were in editing and assembling tracks for the 2002 Hal Jackson Talented Teens California pageant.

Singer **Helen Curry** made a CD with backing tracks for *Never Give Up* and *This Is Your Life*.

Singer **Valerie Fahren** had tracks of *The Star Spangled Banner* adjusted to her key for a live performance on July 4th.

Choreographer **Victor Grimaldo** returned to edit more tracks for his **Ballet Folklorica Viva Panama** troupe.

Voice students of **Valerie Fahren** coming in for the creation and editing of their backing tracks for Valerie's famous industry showcases include: **Jessie Willner**, **Kirsten Schultz**, **Laura Leifield**, **Justine Sprague** and **Tara Thompson**.

Voice-over & Jingle

Voice-over and Theta make a great combination. Our ability to accurately capture and edit narration, coupled with Randy's objective ear for clarity and content, means top notch results.

Veteran actor **Michael Roberts** lent his voice talents to the *Valley 1K* video program designed to help better the community.

Ari Ross recorded some Public Service Announcements to help with the relief efforts in New York City.

Man of a thousand voices (and faces), **Jim Meskimen**, edited his latest voice-over sampler CD.

Field Trips

This is the fifth year that Theta Sound has welcomed groups from local schools and scouting allowing children to get a first-hand look and feel of what our recording studio is all about. This past year **Canyon View Academy** brought their group in and the kids especially liked the way we transformed their voices into tiny chipmunks and huge monsters (see center letter, page 3)!



ELISA GALLAY

Live In-Studio Performances

Our fabulous **Theta Sound Coffee House** live performance series continued this past year with two unique performers at the piano. **Ron Ross** played his original ragtime music and sang a few of his songs as well (see *Ragtime Renaissance* page 4). **Mark Kelly Greisen**, also an accomplished songwriter and tunesmith, blended eras old and new with his original pieces.

Multimedia, Interactive & Web Files

John Trujillo and **Bill Apablaza** of **Redbone Media** returned with two animatronic soundtrack projects: *Health Royale* (an educational Hollywood Squares-like game), and a series of voice-over files for Johnson Hospital's talking characters.

Kris Colt had us create three digital excerpt files of songs from her album, *The Voyage*, for use on her web site.

Spoken Word

Spoken Word and Audiobook masters are produced here at Theta Sound using state-of-the-art digital editing/mixing tools.

Marietta Melton tracked her debut album of poetry, *Celebrating Rhythms*.

Vocal Reduction Process

Many clients have taken advantage of our ability to reduce the vocal from certain CDs so that they may use the tracks for their own demos or live shows. They include: **Elizabeth Abrams**, **Tonya Pinkins**, **Marjorie Josaphat**, **Jessie Willner**, **River Loughnane** and **Raven Kane**.

Transcriptions & Music Prep

Taking a song from a recording and putting it into sheet music form (in the original key or a different key) so that others may perform it, is what transcription is all about. Music prep is taking an existing piece of sheet music and creating a clean copy that's more easily read and played. Both services are available here.

Shanna Fisher had us do music prep for her four original songs so she could do a live showcase at the Martini Lounge.

Compilations, Samplers & Transfers

Theta Sound is the place to create compilation CDs of your material, be it songs, compositions, voice-over, jingles or comedy. Clients utilizing this service include: **Dean Fransen** - *Musta Funk*, *Port of Call*, **Angel Higgs**, *Love of the World*, **Lennon Leppert** - *America the Beautiful*, **Mark Greisen** - *Listen*, **Jessica Fried** - *No Secrets* and **Natalie G** - *Live Excerpt*.

Classical & Opera

With our impeccably maintained Yamaha C5 Conservatory Grand piano coupled with the comfortable atmosphere here at Theta, opera singers, aspiring virtuosos and accompanists have found a unique place to record demanding material.

Composer **Carol Worthey** brought pianist **Akiko Suga** in to play two of Carol's pieces, *Decision (Nocturne)* and *Pastoral*.

Sopranos **Rebecca Tomlinson** and **Ciera Lamborn** came in together and recorded separate CDs. Rebecca sang *O zittre nicht, mein lieber Sohn*, *No Word from Tom*, *Nebbie*, *Or sai chi l'onore* and *Ständchen* while Ciera performed *Wie nahte der schlummer*, *Io son l'umile ancella*, *Du bist der Lenz*, *Sure on this Shining Night* and *Mai*.

Soprano **Hila Plitman** and pianist **Tali Tadmor** teamed up to record a pre-show classical recital in front of a live audience here at Theta. The international program included selections by Purcell, Faure, Mozart, Newman, Ben Haim and DeFalla. Tali has also been working on her solo piano project here.

Soprano **Alexys Schwartz** sang *O Mio Babbino* and *American Lullaby* with **Sharon Farber** accompanying on piano.

Mezzo Soprano **Emma Sabean** recorded a program of arias and German classical selections with **Dan Bridston** on piano.

Soprano **Sara Edwards** tracked a program of Russian Songs with **Tali Tadmor** accompanying on piano.

Video Production

Our video services continue to expand with the latest technology and the expertise of veteran editor/director Randy Tobin!

Shortly after 9/11, **Harvey Schmiedeke** and a team of business consultants flew to New York City to help businesses get back up to speed. With footage from the area in hand, Harvey and Randy Tobin produced the *New York City Back In Business* video which was shown at the Hubbard College of Administration in Los Angeles.

Producer **Ariella Kapelner** is finishing up a series of three videotapes entitled: *On Raising Children with Yoka Reeder*. Randall Michael Tobin edited and composed the theme music.

Randall Michael Tobin directed and edited the winter 2001 edition video of the *The Snow Queen - ballet redefined*.

Justine Sprague utilized our video services as we edited together a reel of her past singing performances.

Lauri Kibby brought in an MPEG file of **Larsen Jay's Dude Food** to be converted and transferred to VHS videos.



Randall Michael Tobin and cameraman Craig Houchin went on location to the Los Angeles Equestrian Center to shoot **The Riding Company at Robele Farms** performing the quadrille *Caribbean Carnival* (see top of page 5). Copies of the finished video are available from **Robele Farms** (818-834-5818).

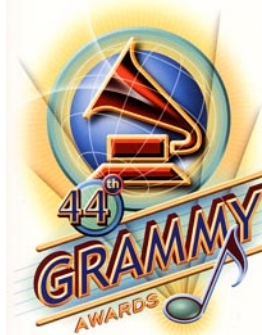
CD Album Mastering

In addition to all of the albums mentioned at the beginning of Studio Notes, we also have provided precision CD mastering services on the following projects: **Steve Schalchlin** - *Beyond the Light*, **Amanda Ambrose** - *In the Meantime*, **Celestial Navigations** - *Live at the Matrix*, **Valerie Fahren** - *December 2001 Showcase* and **Joy Graysen** - *This Wildflower Garden*.

When we did the CD Mastering for the *Lionel Hampton Live at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre* 2-CD set in 2000, little did we know what significance that project would hold. The set, featuring Lionel's last live concert performance and his final recording, was released earlier this year. A written request was also submitted to the Recording Academy (Grammys) for Lifetime Achievement recognition. Unfortunately, Lionel passed away in August before any such recognition was bestowed. The album is up for Grammy consideration in the Large Jazz Ensemble Album category. (See photo above and Grammy article this page)

25 Years of Magic

WOW!!! All that in just the past 12 months! Not bad for our 25th year! We want to thank you for being a part of our legacy of the past, for continued friendship and support in the present, and for being creators of the future that we all look forward to enjoying. Come join us at our 25th Anniversary Barbeque and Fest, September 28th and celebrate the past, present and future in style! (see back page for details). And, of course, visit us anytime on the web at thetasound.com (and Randall Michael Tobin's new site, randallmichaeltobin.com)! 🎵



Grammy Consideration

More CDs from Theta Sound featured in Entry List Book

February 27, 2002, marked the date of the 44th Annual Grammy Awards

show where albums released during the previous October-to-September fiscal year received recognition. The first part of that process is the Entry List book sent to all voting members of The Recording Academy (formerly NARAS). From there, top vote-getters become finalists and the winners are announced on the day of the telecast.

In this year's 44th Annual Grammy Awards Entry List, **Shadow Sky's** self-titled album was featured in eight categories including Album of the Year!

For the upcoming 45th Annual Grammy Awards Entry List, Theta Sound is well-represented with six outstanding albums: Best R&B Album - *Cops That Rock* by **Mutual Aid Cops That Rock**; Best Pop Instrumental Album - *Ragtime Renaissance* by **Ron Ross**; Best Jazz Vocal Album - *Cocktail Napkins* by **Susan Kohler**; Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album - *It's a Little Bit Funny* by **Anna Lively**; Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album - *Make a Change* by **Art McAllister & Gospel One**; and Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album - *Lionel Hampton Live at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre* by **Lionel Hampton and his Orchestra**.

Congratulations to all of these fine artists for being part of 24 Grammy listings from Theta in the past four years! 🎵

WANT TO SEE
THIS NEWSLETTER
IN COLOR?

visit our web site at
thetasound.com

designed & published by THETA DATA
photography by RANDY TOBIN except
page 2 - RODERIGO GONZALEZ and
page 4, 5 and 9 - compact disc covers
© 2002 THETA SOUND STUDIO



THETA SOUND STUDIO

2219 WEST OLIVE AVE. #226
BURBANK, CA 91506

818-9-555-888

thetasound.com

FORWARDING & ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*Annual Barbeque & Fest,
25 Years of Magic,
Studio Notes,
and much more
in this issue...*



Theta Sound Studio Annual Barbeque and Fest!

When: Saturday, September 28th, 4 to 10 p.m.

Where: 1309 Riverside Drive, Burbank. Parking on Griffith Park Drive or Riverside Drive. Enter through alley—look for the blue bus!

What to bring: Something for you and your party that's easy to barbeque like boneless, skinless chicken, steak, burgers, sausages, grill-cut veggies, etc., **plus** something for the pot-luck table based on your last name:

A-F Dessert **G-L** Munchies **M-R** Side/Salad **S-Z** Drinks
(no diet drinks that contain Aspartame/Nutrasweet, please).
We'll have the famous BBQ sauces on hand and a simmerin' pot of Randy's secret recipe baked beans.

Who to bring: Yourself and anyone you feel should be here.

Kids are welcome (adult escort required for studio tour).

More info and RSVP: Call 818-9-555-888

• FRIENDS • FAMILY • FOOD • FUN • MUSIC • VIDEOS • THETA •