

# MIX

PROFESSIONAL AUDIO AND MUSIC PRODUCTION

## AESNYC

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**Andy Wallace**

**THE MIXER'S MIXER**

A PRIMEDIA Publication

Alicia Keys, "Krucial" Brothers  
in The Oven Studios, NYC



## IN SEARCH OF A NEW ATMOSPHERE NYC ENGINEER LAUNCHES SONOSPHERE

More than 20 years of 12-plus-hour workdays, compiled with the daily stresses of Manhattan life, can certainly take its toll on a person. Just ask engineer Bryan Martin, who *was* that guy until early this year, when he and his family moved to the more laid-back environs of Montreal. Admittedly burnt out on recording but still infected by the music bug, Martin opened Sonosphere ([www.sonosphere.ca](http://www.sonosphere.ca)) and promptly carved himself a niche as the progressive city's only existing mastering facility. "Quality of life and dumb luck coincided," says Martin, whose wife is a Montreal native. "I'm an audio lifer, so I couldn't *not* be in audio. But I couldn't continue and make records in a computer. Now, I don't have to compromise. I can be excellent every day."

Located downtown in a converted industrial space, Sonosphere doesn't compromise in terms of acoustics. Martin hammered "every nail himself," creating a warm, acoustically correct environment within the building's massive concrete framework. Martin's Sonic Studio system is augmented by Prism Sound ADA-8 24/96 converters, a Manley Variable Mu compressor/limiter, Maselec MEA2 stereo equalizer, Weiss DS1-MK2 24/96 dynamics processor, Z-Systems routing and EQ, and a monitoring system comprising Bryston 4B amplifiers and BP20 preamps and Dynaudio Special 25s. Sonosphere can accommodate most analog and digital formats, and should begin handling 5.1 projects by the end of the year.



Owner/engineer Bryan Martin (inset) works on a Sonic Studio mastering/editing system in his Montreal studio, Sonosphere.

Aside from broadening his client base of Montreal-based and regional acts, Martin plans to design and build custom EQs and preamps for the studio—something he finally has time for now that his workdays fall closer to a reasonable eight-hour shift. "And when we build our own stuff," he adds, "again, no compromise."

### BEHIND THE GLASS

## CUTTING LOOSE MCLAUGHLIN TRACKS NEW CD



From left: assistant engineer Anthony Gallo, Chris Griffin, Dennis Chambers, Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin

Guitar virtuoso John McLaughlin has been cranking away on his forthcoming CD, working at various facilities with fellow greats such as Michael Brecker, Bill Evans, Ada Rovatti and Eric Johnson. Recently, he stopped by the Cutting Room (New York City) for percussion and guitar overdubs.

Percussionist Zakir Hussain strolled in with a set of tablas, and drummer Dennis Chambers brought a kit that included six toms. Engineer Chris Griffin says that McLaughlin incorporated MIDI with his signature complex riffs. "He pulled up stock synths in Logic Audio, then used that to trigger, along with his audio," Griffin says. "He sent me MIDI through his Roland rig—then just went to town."

## THE JUNIOR SENIOR MIX DANISH DUO VISITS EAST IRIS



Taking time out from mixing, from left: artist Junior, East Iris studio manager Mike Paragone, mixer David Leonard and Senior in East Iris' Studio B

Danish duo Junior Senior brought their latest batch of indie Euro dance tunes to East Iris in Nashville, where they mixed with engineer David Leonard. Leonard mixed to Pro Tools on the studio's SSL 4000 E Series console, which comes paired with a 16-channel sidecar. Shuttling rough mixes back and forth between Denmark made the process somewhat challenging, Leonard says, but fun nonetheless. Look for their album on Crunchy Frog Records ([www.crunchy.dk](http://www.crunchy.dk)).