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# CAREER LINE

by Robert Bullock

## DIRECTORY OF AREA RECORDING STUDIOS

This month we present you with a useful guide to multi-track recording studios in the Binghamton and Ithaca areas. I hope you find a studio (among the ones listed) that will fit your needs and budget.

### Neo-Sync Labs (Johnson City)

Contact: Bob Damiano

Phone: 729-0844 Rates: \$30 per hour

Neo-Sync offers 16-track recording on 1" tape with a variety of mix-down options, including DAT and Sony f-1 formats. The studio also includes an impressive MIDI Composition Center where your songs can be worked out in detail before you put anything on tape. I've found that this is the best way to go, even when recording "guitar songs", since the keyboard and drum machine tracks can be left out of the final mix.

Neo-Sync is a very professional outfit. Although the studio is equipped with high-grade gear, it's really the engineering talent of Bob Damiano that makes the difference here. In my opinion, Bob is the best engineer and producer that I've come across in the Binghamton area, and a credit to our local music scene.

### Calf Audio (Ithaca)

Contact: Al Grunwell

Phone: 272-8964 Rates: \$60 per hour; project discounts offered

The award winning Calf Audio is a 24-track studio located in the beautiful and curvaceous Ithaca, New York. Calf's facilities are top-rate, with 24-tracks on 2" tape (for plenty of headroom) and a variety of mix-down options (1/2", DAT, F-1, etc...). Although the studio isn't the most high-tech of the ones listed here, they produce recordings with a special warmth and brilliance that is often missing in today's digitized world.

If you want to record heavy metal, I wouldn't recommend Calf Audio, but they are great for just about anything else. If you want to record acoustic music, look no further. Calf simply can't be beat when it comes to acoustic styles and is quite good with electric guitar driven rock (NOT metal) and pop as well.

### Pyramid Sound Recording Studio (Ithaca)

Contact: Alex Perialas

Phone: 273-3931

Rates: 24 track - \$100 per hour. 48 track - \$130 per hour.

Also located in Ithaca is the famous Pyramid Sound Recording, home to many great metal acts. Pyramid is a 48-track studio with an honest-to-goodness Neve Console with flying faders and total recall...not a good place to record your first demo unless you're rolling in cash. The tape machines are 100% Studer and you can take your choice of five mixdown options.

Pyramid is without a doubt the most expensive recording studio in our area, but also the only one I know of that has produced many albums for major recording labels. In other words, this isn't the place for garage bands. If you have the money and the talent I can highly recommend Pyramid Sound for your project.

### Audio Arts (Vestal)

Contact: Jeff DaBella

Phone: 748-8223 Rates: unavailable

Audio Arts is an 8 track studio adjoining the House of Music on Vestal Parkway East. The studio is planning to go to 16 tracks soon. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of information to share with you about this studio, but a good friend of mine tells me that they do a good quality job for reasonable rates. I imagine it would be worth your while to look into this studio.

### Charles St. Recording (Binghamton)

Contact: John Kanazawich

Phone: 723-2932 Rates: call

Charles St. Recording is a 16 track studio located on (would you believe it) Charles Street in Binghamton. I have to be objective here and tell you that this studio is not the best quality of those listed here, but it is useable and affordable. It's a good first studio to record in since you can learn about the multi-track recording process without spending a fortune. It's also a good studio to use if you're a very good engineer because you have more control in this studio than any other in town and you can block out an entire week for around \$500.00.

In addition to the studios mentioned above, there is also a good quality studio located in McNeil Music in Vestal. It is a sixteen track studio (Fostex), but as of this writing the studio was changing ownership so they were unable to provide specifics about their rates. If you would like to learn more about this studio, you can call either Marc Lalli or Steve Pufky at (607) 729-1548.

Well, that does it for this installment of Career Line. If you know of any studios not included here that you think should be, or if you own a studio you would like included in the future, please send some information about the studio to the address you will find on page two. And once again, good luck to you all.

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