



## **Recording Studio Contract**

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**Troubador Music**

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Welcome to Troubador Music, Kaufman County's *Premiere* Music Teaching and Recording Studio! We are honored that you have chosen us to record your demo. Listed is our pricing information, along with our system of recording you or your band. Please read carefully so you know what times you are being charged for and what times are non-recording times (no charge).

Without proper planning and preparation recording can become very expensive. We want you to have a killer experience when recording at our facility so here are our recommendations to help keep that cost at a minimum:

- **Make sure you have all your material ready ('songs down').** If possible, try a 'pre-recording' of yourself so you know what you sound like and work all the bugs before setting up your session, even on a portable recorder such as a "zoom" can be helpful. Remember: Once we start recording the clock starts running so be prepared.
- **Have a plan.** Know what tunes you're going to do and the order you're going to do them in. Are you using acoustic or electric guitars? Will amps be mic-ed or are you going to use effects processors? Are you going to do the vocals all at once, or do scratch vocals and record them later? (If you're new to recording and all of this makes no sense, don't hesitate to make schedule a consultation with us so we can sit down and help you map out your project).
- **Make sure all of your equipment is in proper working order.** A professional recording will pick up bad frets, untuned drums, worn reeds, and dead strings and will make a big impact on your recording. Check your equipment and electrical connections, put fresh batteries in your stomp boxes, have spare reeds, strings, drumsticks, etc.
- **Get a good night sleep before you record.** This is important especially for vocalists. Be fresh and read to go.
- **Arrive on time.** We give an hour load-in and set-up time (with some flexibility). After this we start setting levels for your recording and you billing time begins. We start charging at the time agreed upon on your contract so be sure everyone involved in your recording project knows your appointment time. We like to start with levels on bands with the drummers so have your drummer here first and help them load-in. We can start setting levels on the rest of the band as they get set-up.
- **Keep friends and family at a minimum.** If you have an agent or a producer that's wonderful and they need to be here. But remember you're here for a purpose. While we all need the support of our friends and family, having too many opinions can be frustrating and distracting. This can rob you of your creative flow and that can slow the process down. Stay creative, fresh and positive!

(The above are suggestions only. Troubador Music assumes no responsibility for problems that arise from your own equipment failure.)

## Recording Pricing

<b>Hourly Recording</b> .....	<b>\$35 per hour</b>
<b>Mixdown Time (including Final Mixdown Time)</b> .....	<b>\$35 per hour</b>
<b>90-Minute Preliminary Mixdown Consultation Session*</b> .....	<b>Free of Charge</b>
<b>Music File Archiving</b> .....	<b>\$30</b>

### **Load-in / Load-out Time**

Load-in / Load-out Time is the time it takes for you or your band to get set up and ready to record. We allow a one-hour load-in set up time before we start setting recording levels. If you're running a bit over, don't stress, we are flexible with set-up times. As a courtesy Load-in / Load-out Time is not charged for but should you reach the two to three hour mark.... Sorry guys, we're gonna have to charge for that and it will be billed as part of your Hourly Recording Time.

### **Hourly Recording Time**

This is the time that we start setting levels and get the raw product recorded. There are always exceptions to every rule and we will work with you in exceptional situations as far as time charged is concerned. But be aware that in most cases we are charging once we start setting levels. Also note that coming in to overdub (re-record parts), re-doing vocals, etc, are charged at the \$35 per hour rate.

### **Mixdown Time**

Mixdown time is where the Recording Tech sculpts your product by setting EQ levels, reverbs, and smoothing out rough edges. On an average, plan on an hour of mixdown time per tune. (Again there are exceptions to this. The better your recording and performance, the less the recording tech will have to do). Your product will be done with a preliminary mixdown, and then you will be contacted to set up an appointment for you to come back in to listen. Your input is extremely important during this process. Don't hesitate to give feedback and suggestions as this is "your sound". The Recording Tech will give helpful suggestions to guide you and take note of your input to help get your product "dialed in."\*

### **Final Mixdown**

This is where the Studio Tech takes the final suggestions and applies them to the finished product. An appointment is made so the product can be reviewed.\* Once you are happy with the product, we go in and produce three master copies of your material. We also give you all of the audio files, so if you decide later you want to do more with the project, you have the files to bring back to us. We will only hold the files on our hard drive for 30 days, but for a small additional cost we can archive your files. (See pricing). Final Master Copies are given after any and all fees are paid in full.\*\* **No Exceptions.**

## Payment Process

### **Recording Blocks**

Recording is done in **blocks of time**. Most sessions are booked in 4 or 6-hour increments. A contract must be signed before recording takes place and payment of the session is due upon completion of those hours on the day of recording.

*Please make checks payable to: Kevin Curtis / Troubador Music.*

### **Mixdown Time**

Mixdown time is paid in two increments. One payment is due after the Preliminary Mix has been completed and the remaining balance is due when the Final Mix is done. When the full balance has been paid demo masters and musical files will be given to the client.\*\*

\* We allow a 90-minute free consultation session to help you with this process should you need it, but restrictions do apply on this Session. Client will be charged \$35 per hour past the initial 90 minutes if further consultation is needed.

\*\*Note all fees must be paid before demo masters and musical files will be relinquished. No exceptions.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, enter into contract with Troubador Music for the purpose of recording time for \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

Recording time is scheduled on the date of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ am/pm to \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ am/pm,

My Load-in Time is from \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ am/pm to \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ am/pm, with recording to start at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ am/pm.

I am aware that \$\_\_\_\_\_ is due at the end of this session and, if needed, another block of time will be scheduled if more recording is required.

I am aware of the additional Preliminary and Final Mixdown costs at \$35 per hour that will be billed according to the length of time it takes to finish said product. I am also aware that I have two Mix Down Consultation Sessions (90 minutes each free of charge) and that if these sessions go beyond the allotted 90 minutes I will be charged at \$35 per hour.

I am aware that the product that I am receiving is of demo quality (demo quality being that the quality is for representation to acquire engagements, etc., but not of quality for air-play or retail CD mastering).

Furthermore, I am aware that Troubador Music is bound only to record the performance given by \_\_\_\_\_ (group/artist) and that Troubador Music cannot enhance the performance beyond normal and reasonable recording techniques.

I am aware that no CD masters or musical masters shall be given to me until all fees are paid in full and that I will receive three master copies and two musical file copies.

I am also aware that for an additional fee of \$30 my/our files can be archived with Troubador Music.

- I wish to have my files archived for an additional fee of \$30.*
- I decline the archive offer and understand that Troubador Music will only hold my files for 30 days after the completion of my product.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Artist/Group Representative (Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Artist/Group Representative (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troubador Music Representative (Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troubadour Music Representative (Signature)