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Dear Friends -

It's been a memorable winter here in Atlanta hasn't it? The ice storm arrived the day before my birthday and kept many of you, including my wife, trapped for hours in the traffic.

For a couple of months I had the pleasure of working with an intern from the Art Institute of Atlanta, **Alex Rucker**. I found him to be a quick study, an able musician, and a very good communicator. I wish him well as he goes forward in his career.

About 10 years ago I recorded some demos for a songwriter named **Frank Ortega**. Frank had a few good Nashville connections and was determined to try and see how far he could take his music. The recordings he made here helped open some doors for him, and through his outgoing personality and strong networking skills he has made the national stage. In September 2013 he made his national debut at #57 on the Billboard Country Indicator charts with "*Two Places At Once*." That November, he performed at the official CMA after show party show with Craig Morgan, and this month he opened for The Mavericks at Manuel's 81st Birthday Celebration in Nashville. Congratulations, Frank! Keep on rolling!

When I was located in Conyers, GA, I worked with **Elvin Ross** who was then the musical director for **Tyler Perry**. This was when Tyler was doing more traveling theater, just before he began working in film. Since then, Tyler went on to make numerous box office hits, and in 2013 Elvin premiered his documentary film "*Kunta Kinteh Island: Coming Home Without Shackles*" honoring the captive African who was the subject of the 1977 ABC miniseries "*Roots*." It was a privilege to work with Elvin while he was here in Georgia, and I eagerly look forward to more quality productions from him in the years to come.

Another artist I worked with in the early 2000's was Paul Morton, Jr., or as he is known now, **PJ Morton**. PJ has always been an amazingly talented musician, songwriter, vocalist and performer. It was PJ who brought **india.arie** into my studio to record the song he had written for her "*Voyage To India*" album. He has been the keyboardist for **Maroon Five** since 2010, signed a deal with **Lil' Wayne's YMCMB** label, and now has a brand new CD out called "*New Orleans*." He is touring nationally to promote the single "*Only One*" which features pop legend **Stevie Wonder**. I beam with pride to see how far PJ has come in these few years.

NEW GEAR

Thanks to my long time friend **Susan Taylor**, I have in my possession a recording machine from the 70's: a TEAC A3440 4-track reel-to-reel recorder. This was the first multitrack machine I ever purchased back in 1978 when I began Keynote Writing Service with **Sam Traina**. We would put peoples' poems to music and create demos using this recorder. This particular recorder belonged to my long time songwriting partner **Annette Cotter**, with whom I wrote both of the songs that became national releases for us in the 90's. I am in the process now of having it reconditioned, so don't throw those old tapes away! Convert them to digital, THEN throw them away :-)

By the way, even with the new gear and new recording systems I've used over the years, I still have my first digital audio recording system – Ensoniq PARIS – in good working order. Back in those early years, when I archived songs to disk for people, it was in the native format of the recording platform; in other words, you needed to have Ensoniq PARIS to play everything properly. Nowadays, before I archive things, I make sure that all of the tracks have no edits and they begin at

the same point in time. That way, no matter what system I move to, or whatever studio you would like to use, you know that your tracks can be transferred easily and everything will line up correctly. You can recognize the data disks I give you after a session by the large blue (DVD) or green (CDR) horizontal stripe in the middle of the disk. Be sure to protect these by storing them in a temperate location away from sunlight and magnetic fields. And if you have any older PARIS data discs (white disks, black writing, with no colored horizontal stripe), I can still read them and quickly convert them to the newer format for you.

NEW CD'S/EP's



Bob Bakert
Finger Paintings

Featuring some of Atlanta's finest jazz musicians and great original material, this is a truly enjoyable listening experience. Look for the product very soon at all of the popular digital outlets.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Joseph Arnsdorff recorded a vocal demo of cover songs – “*Who Am I*”, “*Seven Times Seventy*”, and “*Does Anybody Hear Her.*” This guy has a big voice for Christian music.

Doug Astrop finished up his newest CD - “*Emotional Cost It*”, which features some of his previously recorded songs with guest vocalists from around the country. We also added guitar overdubs to two songs that will be featured on the next CD - “*I Miss You*”, and “*More Than Life.*”

We completed the mixing and mastering for **Bob Bakert**'s new original CD - “*Finger Paintings.*” I'm very proud of this one. It's an easy listening jazz-pop record featuring some great tunes and great musicianship. Soon to be available everywhere.

E Gail Cason was back in the studio with brother **Dean Dollar** to record a song written by her mother - “*It's A Gamble.*” It's available on iTunes, [Amazon](#), and CDBaby. It's a family thang!

Jim Chase had the distinction of being a featured artist on Reverbnation at the beginning of this year! We'll usually work up an arrangement and then get our friends **Rick Dovi** and **Jim Hawes** to come in and put the icing on the cake with their harmony arrangements. Jim completed “*The Truth Might Set You Free*”, a country version of “*Party Time In The Country*”, “*Take Myself To Texas*”, and a remake of his previously recorded song, “*The Bride Wore Blue.*”

Rick Diamond remixed four previously recorded songs - “*Where's The Boy*”, “*Forgotten Record*”, “*The Wheel*”, and “*Hard Ball*” for the latest version of his songwriter/artist CD. If you catch Rick live, you'll want to own a copy for yourself.

Rob Duffin contacted me from the web to help him transfer some tracks for him. These were from his old band and were recorded with my old favorite digital recording platform – Ensoniq PARIS.

I created two tracks and arrangements for **Phil Eyer** - “*One Poor Boy*”, and “*The Gift.*”

Jana Rose Hart created a new version of an older song she wrote called “*I've Got A Love.*” This one has a positive Christian message.

Congratulations to **Omar Rozay** on being a new daddy! We just finished the dedication song, "*I'm Born Again*" about a week before little Omar's birth.

Britt Jackson and her crew have been busy lately. Britt sang lead vocals on two pop/R&B tracks - "*The Hole That You Made*", and "*Love Me Love Me Not*" while **G Lucciano** sang "*Do Ya*" and the slow jam "*Let's Make Love.*" They are working with Nashville publisher **Ralph Murphy** on song placement.

Cliff Johnson began a new demo of his tongue-in-cheek song "*Redneck Riviera.*"

Rapper **Poster Child** created a new 12-song mixtape CD - "*Who Cares?*"

Rock trio **The Cliq** came in the studio and recorded 9 songs in one sitting! The members are **Jim Lynch** (guitar), **Pat McGinnis** (drums), and **Steve Timpson** (bass).

Mike McCarroll continues to add tracks to his upcoming CD. We recorded a new version of Steve Earle's "*Taneytown*" featuring **Jody Worrell** and **Wendell Cox** on guitars. He also chose an Amanda Williams song - "*Children In the Garden*" to which we gave a more of a CSNY "Woodstock" feel. We also began two originals - "*You And Me*", and "*On The Borderline.*"

Ben Mironer is now in LA involved in post production audio work on his film project, "*The Sound Of Magic.*"

Marty Nickel is beginning work on a new CD with a relaxing island tune - "*As The Rum Went Down.*" I'll be joining him May 3 in a live broadcast performance on **Tiki Island Radio**. Tune in if you can!

Benz Paul recorded two songs to showcase his voice. He did covers of Evanescence's "*My Heart Is Broken*" and Miley Cyrus' "*Wrecking Ball.*"

Danny Krown was in the studio to mixdown and master "*Get Down*" featuring talented rapper **Kardiak Major**.

Kara Reddick brought the family in to record "*You Said,*" a song she wrote on a dare. Son **AJ** handled the raps, daughter **K'La** sang, and my intern **Alex Rucker** created the final beat.

Bill Robbins tweaked his previously recorded song "*Life Is Good*" with a new lyric and melody. He also recorded basic demos for two new ones - "*I'm Your Guitar*", and "*Fly On The Wall.*"

I mixed and mastered two EDM tracks for **Alvis Searcy** - "*Wanna Be Brother*", and "*Brothers Method.*" I also took a song we recorded back in 2004, "*Hold Me,*" and created a printed piano score.

Jeff Silver and his cowriters have been making some great music lately. He and **Derek Toomey** brought in country recording artist **Samantha Stroh** to sing "*I Ain't Crazy*", and "*Beer And Skynyrd.*" Both songs were picked up by country sister act **Southern Halo**, who were finalists in the 2014 Texaco Country Showdown contest. Philadelphia artist and songwriter **Carly Krantz** traveled here to record four songs - "*Fairy Tales*", "*Little Lies*", "*Living The Dream*", and "*Ink And Whiskey.*"

Speaking of traveling, **Steve Simkins** was in town from Mississippi to record some rewrites on a few previously recorded songs.

Rapper **Slam Dunkz** has released his latest single, "*Fake Friends.*"

Russ Stanziale recorded his newest Americana song, "*Getaway Girl.*"

Talented teen writer/artist **Kaitlin Stark** is following her new EP with the original single, "*When I'm With You*"

Russ Still is wrapping up production on some songs he recorded in Nashville. He has replaced the original demo singers' voices with his own and even got his son, **Ben Still**, to add background vocals. Ben is an experienced recording engineer in his own right, having worked at Atlanta's Tree Sound Studio's and Nashville's Blackbird Studios.

Talking Drums Music principal partner **Bola** brought in songwriter and rapper **Duce Jose** for the final mix and master of the new single "*I Luv Da A.*" Man, this is one catchy tune!

TruMotiv traveled here from his native Houston to record vocals, mixdown, and master three new songs for upcoming live shows. "*Hate*", "*Working*", and "*IDGAF*" really showcase his raw energy and quick rapping style.

Kate Thompson never stops writing! Over the past couple of months she recorded the Christian music songs "*I'm In Deep*", "*You're The One*", "*Best Gift Of All*", and "*My Hope Is In You.*" Then while working as an actor in an upcoming film, she wrote and recorded a song for the film called "*Secrets And Lies.*"

Tonsta Records' **Stan Killian** brought in Houston rapper **TruMotiv** for the finishing touches to their pop CD release,

“New Anthem.”

13-year old [Carley Vogel](#) was featured on the Lifetime TV series “*Kim of Queens*” where she won the talent competition by singing both ends of the spectrum - rock and opera. I helped with editing the classical piece “*Caro Mia Ben*” for her performance.

[Jennifer Hillman](#) recorded her vocals for “*Beauty For Ashes*,” a song performed by her and her family as **Allstar Medicine Show**.

I appreciate very much being a part of your musical creations. Keep on putting one foot in front of the other – you just never can imagine where you'll wind up! And always remember...

Keep your ears open!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.