

MIX

Professional Audio and Music Production

Cups 'N Strings Saves "Live From the Record Plant"

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Chris Stone, founder of Record Plant Recording Studios, has contracted Bruce Maddocks of Cups 'N Strings Studios to restore and archive 50 live radio shows recorded at the Record Plant's Sausalito studios in the 1970s. The live concerts include performances by such artists as Jimmy Buffett, Boz Scaggs, Santana, Fleetwood Mac, and a Jim Keltner jam with John Lennon.

"We had such a scene at the studios on Sunday nights," recalls Chris Stone, the owner at the time of Record Plant's studios in Sausalito, as well as facilities in LA and NYC. "I was going through some memorabilia and found this collection, complete with contracts signed for broadcast rights. Since this has been in storage since way before the Internet, I think we have something that is unique and quite valuable."



Pictured at Cups 'N Strings Studios (L-R)
Bruce Maddocks and Chris Stone.

Stone has contracted Bruce Maddocks, owner of Cup's 'N Strings Studios and a specialist in the recovery of analog assets and hi-resolution digital archival. During the 80s, Maddocks served as Stone's chief engineer at the LA studios, and has since become one of the recording industry's experts on analog to digital conversion and archiving.

"It's common knowledge that analog tapes suffer from sticky-shed syndrome and the backing on the tape begins to disintegrate," explains Maddocks. "But we are also seeing hydrolysis and sticky-shed with the older digital tape formats – DATs especially and the half-inch 3324 and 3348 formats, too."

Many of the analog multitrack original tapes were transferred to the DAT format, which at the time was considered optimum. "Now we know that DAT tapes are a precarious storage medium, so we are moving those tapes to the front of the queue for archiving. Luckily, we have a variety of DAT decks, which gives us the ability to get reliable playback on machines compatible with virtually any tapes."

Maddocks explains the end product of the archiving process: "We go to Pro Tools, creating 88.2 Mhz sample rate 24-bit broadcast WAV files and then store them on MAM-A optical discs, a spinoff from Matsui, which have a projected shelf-life of 100 years, if stored correctly."

For Cups 'N Strings info, tel 310.656.9356 • Visit the website at: <http://www.cupsnstrings.com>