

APRS Celebrates 60 Years of Serving The Recording Industry!

The APRS is marking its 60th anniversary with a series of monthly events that aim to review this ever-changing industry.

Sixty years of representing the recording industry as a trade association is a significant achievement and will be reflected by the events planned for the year ahead. A variety of subjects will be tackled and some important guest speakers have been lined up, including Rupert Neve, Sir George Martin and Giles Martin. The celebrations will also include an APRS 60th anniversary party, which is planned to coincide with the actual date of the occasion in September 2007.

The first of these monthly events has already taken place and proved a huge success. Entitled "The Good Old Bad Old Days", it was held at the end of January at The Bath House in London's West End and featured a panel of well-know studio managers and producers (past and present) who relayed their anecdotes and tales about how they embraced and struggled with evolving technologies. Among them were Dave Harries of Air and British Grove Studios, Malcolm Atkin, Air and Sphere; Ken Townsend, Abbey Road and Tony Platt, engineer/producer of the likes of AC/DC and Bob Marley. Additional input came from Keith Grant, legendary technical manager of Olympic Studios and APRS Chairman, David Hamilton Smith.

"...and how an Abbey Road toilet roll appeared for sale on eBay for £30,000!..."

The evening provided a forum for many legendary tales to be told first-hand. Among them were stories of Sir George Martin's grand piano that should have taken the short journey from Greenford to Kentish Town but

ended up in Japan and how an Abbey Road toilet roll appeared for sale on eBay for £30,000!

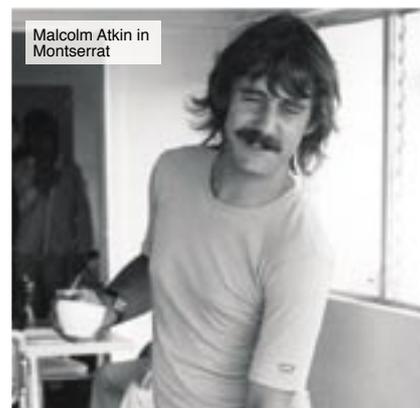
APRS chairman David Hamilton Smith commented, "The success of the first monthly event in our 60th Anniversary year has undoubtedly whetted the appetite for all future evenings being planned. Thanks to everyone involved."



The next event, which is scheduled for March 1st at The Bath House, is a Musician's Evening that will feature a panel of musicians relating anecdotes and taking questions from the floor. This will be followed on March 21st with a talk by Rupert Neve who will discuss the evolution of studio design. Whilst in April, attention will turn to promoting recording studios and services in an event entitled "Media and Marketing".

During this anniversary year, the APRS is keen to learn what its membership wants for the future. It will address this with a special forum in May, entitled The Future of the Association. Full details of each event, including times and venues, will be announced on the APRS website - www.aprs.co.uk.

Anyone interested who registers their details will be sent an email giving information about the next event. Members can also hear highlights of the first event by logging on to - www.aprs.co.uk/60.



Malcolm Atkin in Montserrat



Keith Grant at Olympic



Chris Buchanan on a Neumann VMS66 lathe



Tony Platt Relaxing

Our Recording Heritage

Peter Filleul Ponders on 60 Years of the APRS and the demands of Board Membership.

A PRS celebrates its 60th birthday in 2007, and surprising to some, not all of the Board have been directors of the Association for all that time! All the female Board members are, of course, approaching 35 (from one direction or another) and I am told the very subtle pressure and stress free environment that is the APRS Board actually irons-out wrinkles and fills-in laughter lines – we are the Botox of Boards! Such fun is had whilst pondering our industry’s woes and conjuring peaceful and prosperous futures for our members that some Board members are occasionally late returning to their sarcophaguses (sarcophagae?)

The APRS does enjoy a noble history starting with our first Chairman, Michael Faraday, inventor of electricity. Were it not for his bravery jousting with storm-clouds with a fully loaded kite, no-one would have experienced the joys of SSL’s analogue/digital hybrid or the disappointment of finding the fruits of ones early talent wind-up in a pile of unstuck oxide after a nostalgic play-though of the original analogue 2” tape! However, it does seem that those who still need magnetic tape can find it one way or another and is still definitely needed for archiving if no other reason.

“Were it not for his bravery jousting with storm-clouds and a fully loaded kite...”

Not wanting to get too serious in this musing on the ancient order of APRS, I am, I think, unique in being the only APRS member / person in the world to have successfully excavated parts of a recording studio from the path of an erupting volcano. Sir George Martin gave me permission recently to attempt to transfer some soundproofing infrastructure from the legendary AIR Montserrat studio to a space in the new Cultural Centre he has funded on Montserrat. So working for the APRS does have its moments of excitement, something which I sincerely hope we can persuade our newer members to take on board. We need fresh and young ideas and energies to take us into the next 60 years. The industry won’t disappear, but we can expect a degree of change that will seem catastrophic to some and certainly take us all by surprise.

A Few APRS Snippets - & how some things never change!

- ▲ 1947 - First APRS General Meeting; its objects were agreed to promote interest “in the use of electrical recording” and its membership to comprise of “recording studios within the British Empire”.
- ▲ 1949 - Mr Faraday reports to the executive committee that there are a dozen firms at the Radiolympia exhibition, who are offering equipment for the public to “make their own records, record from broadcasts, copy commercial records, etc” - might this damage professional studios?
- ▲ 1959 to 1961 - Wessex, RG Jones and Livingstone studios join membership.
- ▲ 1968 - Embryonic ‘APRS Show’ takes place at The Russell Hotel. Later venues to be Kensington Exhibition Centre and Olympia.
- ▲ 1972 - Sir Geog Solti made President of the Association.
- ▲ 1984 - George Martin succeeds Geog Solti as president.
- ▲ 1993 - APRS launches the colour-coded tape label system, later adopted worldwide.
- ▲ 1998 - Discussions were instigated by Re-Pro and the APRS to improve the protection and monitoring of recorded assets.

We Want your Comments and Stories!

The APRS is keen to gather together all the wonderful stories from the industry over the past 60 years and has created a special forum on its website to collect them. Go to www.aprs.co.uk/forum. Everyone is welcome to contribute!



Photos courtesy of Keith Grant, Frank Owen, Ken Townsend and Denis Blackham at Skye Mastering - www.skyemastering.com

THE FIRST JAMES ACCREDITATION GOES TO... LEEDS MET!



And the JAMES Gang travels north to Liverpool to give a Masterclass at The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

Leeds Met has become the first university to receive a top music industry accreditation for its Music Technology courses from the newly formed JAMES organisation.

JAMES (Joint Audio Media Education Services), was launched by the APRS (The Association of Professional Recording Services) and the MPG (Music Producers Guild), the two main industry bodies responsible for assessing the quality and suitability of Recording, Music Technology and Music Production courses.

Sir George Martin, who was awarded an honorary doctorate in music from Leeds Met in November, is the Patron of this new organisation which was founded to give industry support to educationalists and institutions working in the recording industry.

Cath Orange, Dean of Leeds Met's Innovation North Faculty, said: "Gaining the accreditation allows Leeds Metropolitan University to provide courses that are industry specific allowing our graduates the best career progression opportunities."

David Ward, Policy Director of JAMES said: "We are delighted that Leeds Met has



joined our group institutions offering high quality courses accredited by JAMES."

Innovation North underwent a series of inspections of its facilities and teaching standards to gain the accreditation. The assessment process included meetings with course leaders, staff and students and an inspection of the facilities which included the new state-of-the-art recording studios built by Munro Associates.

As part of JAMES' schedule to provide bespoke Masterclasses, LIPA (The

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) requested a panel of four JAMES working group members to discuss their industry views and experience with their students. Haydn Bendall, Dave Harries, Tony Platt and Dennis Weinreich made up the panel.

LIPA's Jon Thornton showed them around the very impressive facility and put the theatre at their disposal. "It was quite a thrill to be on the same stage that Charles Dickens had once given a reading from!" commented Hadyn. The discussion was very open and expertly moderated by Tony Platt who had designed a format for the day. The conversation ranged from the panel's opinions on how the training and disciplines of producers, engineers, studio designers and owners have evolved over the past thirty years, to the royalty rates one can expect from digital downloads.

What impressed the panel was not only the facility, but the extremely enjoyable and intelligent students themselves, who asked searching questions and made the day very useful to all participants.

For more information on JAMES Course Accreditation, Masterclasses and general information, go to www.jamesonline.org.uk.



DID YOU KNOW...?

CHANGES REQUIRED TO WEBSITES AND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

Effective from January 1st 2007, the government has issued new legislation extending the requirements for companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) to provide certain particulars about themselves on their websites and in electronic versions of all documents. There are penalties for those who do not comply.

Already required on business letters and order forms, companies and LLPs must now disclose their name, place of registration, registered number and the address of their registered office on their websites and any documents delivered in electronic format, such as email.

FACTS SUPPLIED BY

CRONER CONSULTING

The APRS Business Support Helpline FREE to all Cat A, B & C members.

Employment
Tax & VAT
Health & Safety

Others are using it to help run their businesses, why don't you - it's just a phone call away.

Prominent MPs and Lloyd Webber add weight to the growing DDR Debate

Pressure Grows on Ofcom to re-think UHF Auction Plans.

PMS (Programme Making and Special Events) sector concerns about Ofcom's proposed auction of over 30% of terrestrial TV's UHF allocation have made national media headlines over the past month, with theatrical composer/impresario Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber among those voicing their reservations. There is a distinct possibility that access to interleaved spectrum could be lost if the broadcast agency's plans, as detailed in the Digital Dividend Review (DDR), go ahead without major alterations.

Significantly, growing awareness among UK parliamentarians has prompted an Early Day Motion Issue. EDM531 was tabled by Andrew MacKinlay, the Labour member for

Thurrock, and expresses the concern that Ofcom's plans are "likely to damage irreparably a world leading industry and lead to the end of live performances and events". It urges the government "to guarantee that sufficient quality and quantity of such spectrum be available to prevent the collapse of such a renowned and valuable UK industry".

Meanwhile, Lloyd Webber - who addressed a Westminster presentation in December - has suggested that a forced return to cabled microphones could prove unacceptable to



modern audiences of musical theatre. Ofcom's consultation period is due to end in late March, by which time the PMSE Pro Users Group - the 'umbrella' identity adopted by BEIRG (British Entertainment Industry Radio Group), the PSA (Production Services Association) and other affected organisations - is set to have produced a comprehensive response.

The above is extracted from an article in February's issue of Pro Sound News Europe. For the full version, go to www.prosoundnewseurope.com

member's news

APRS Behind the Scenes with Ofcom

The APRS has recently been instrumental in coordinating efforts to ensure Ofcom got the right message regarding auctioning-off analogue wireless frequencies. Using our membership of the Music Business Forum, we gathered together a formidable collection of interested parties, some of whom were BEIRG (British Entertainment Industries Radio Group) members and others who, until then, had been making individual efforts. The MBF/APRS meetings succeeded in consolidating the campaigns of the key organisations, as well as adding the weight of thousands of individual practitioners to the lobbying campaign through their trade unions. Thanks must go to Sir George Martin and Andrew Lloyd-Webber who attended the Parliamentary lobby in December on our behalf.

Digital Audio Co. supply Audio for Best Drama Production

Coastal Productions were recently awarded Best Drama Production by the Royal Television Society for Wire in the Blood, starring Robson Green. The audio, supplied by The Digital Audio Company had already been receiving favourable reviews. The Mail on Sunday had written, "It's easy to take the technical side of TV for granted, so the quality of sound on Wire must have been really exceptional for me to say it's the best of any drama on the box, and it is the tension and atmosphere this brings to the piece." www.the-digital-audio.co.uk

A Busy Time for Phoenix Sound

Phoenix Sound continues working with an exciting, diverse and expanding client base. Dombey Street Productions used the studios for a couple of weeks for rehearsal and pre-production prior to shooting Sweeney Todd. Paul Gemignani supervised the proceedings which included visits from Director Tim Burton and Composer/Lyricist Stephen Sondheim. Fremantle Media spent time recording and mixing for Simon Cowell's X Factor as well as Granada TV recording for Soap Star Superstar with Musical Director Ray Monk.

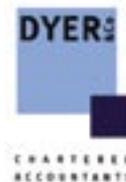
Wes is About to get Stung!

Wes Maebe takes a break from studio work and mastering to hit the road this month in charge of FOH for Sting's "Songs from the Labyrinth" tour. No Marshall stacks needed for the two archlutes, 8-voice choir and the man himself. Wes + DPA 4023s will cover around 5,800 miles over 16 dates in Europe's finest classical venues. No Iron Maiden T-shirts this time then! See www.myspace.com/ghqmastering and www.sting.com.

Corporate Sustaining Members



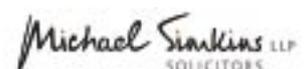
Benefit Providers



020 8308 0777
Neil Dyer



01372 462226
Martyn Fisher



020 7907 3000
Richard Taylor



020 7731 1454
John Silcock