

Recording Learning Tracks with Tim Waurick
Harmony College Northwest: July 23, 2011
Tim Waurick, Instructor

I. Introduction

- A. Quickly discuss each class member's barbershop/recording experience.
 - 1. Name, chapter affiliation, and number of years in the Society.
 - 2. Experiences, quartet or chorus, as well as directing.
 - 3. Do you have any recording experience?
 - 4. Do you have any experience with recording learning tracks?
 - 5. Do you have aspirations to record tracks, or are you here just for fun?

II. Recording all of the parts

- A. A Hobby – You can learn a lot from recording yourself for fun!
- B. Recording for your chapter – Make learning tracks for your chapter!
- C. A Business – Recording learning tracks for others

III. Singing all parts

- A. How does one go about singing all of the parts?
- B. Learn from the best! Focus on those who sing their part well!!
- C. Practice What You've Learned!
- D. Practice What You Preach!

IV. Tim's philosophy on learning tracks

- A. Learning tracks should be fun and enjoyable to listen to
- B. Learning tracks MUST provide a positive example of Vocal Production, Vowels, Sync, Musical Line and Expression.
- C. Learning tracks should inspire the singer to WANT to learn the music (Whether they know they're learning or not!)

V. Equipment that you'll need!

- A. Computer
- B. Microphone
- C. Recording Software
- D. High Quality Sound Card or Preamplifier
- E. Microphone Stand, Cables, etc.
- F. Headphones

VI. Tim's Equipment

- A. Guitar Center:
 - 1. Microphone – Neumann U87 (approx. \$3,000)
 - 2. Preamplifier 2 – MOTU Traveler (approx. \$900.00)
 - 3. Cables for microphone/hook-up (approx. \$40.00)
 - 4. Pop Filter (Approx. \$50.00)
 - 5. Microphone Stand (varies)

- B. Online
 - 1. Magix Music Studio 10 Deluxe (approx. \$90.00) (New versions available)
 - 2. Sound Card - Creative Sound Blaster 2, by Audigy (approx. \$120.00)
 - 3. ProTools (www.digidesign.com)

- C. Affordable Microphone/Preamp
 - 1. Microphone – Audio Technica AT3035 (approx. \$300.00)
 - 2. Preamplifier – Eurorack UB802 (approx. \$50.00)

VII. Preparing to record

- A. Getting set up – Connecting everything together properly
- B. Methods of recording
- C. The most comfortable voice part
- D. The most difficult voice part
- E. Singing each part with character
- F. When and when NOT to record!
- G. Warming up

VIII. Recording

- A. Getting started on a song
- B. How to approach a song from the start to maximize the final product
- C. Taking breaks!
- D. Being picky!
- E. Punching In & Out
 - 1. Different programs have different ways to Punch In & Out
 - 2. Finding the correct places to “punch”
 - 3. Where NOT to “punch”
- F. Patience
- G. Focus
- H. Discipline

IX. Editing

- A. Check for wrong notes. We make mistakes, so thoroughly check all parts for errors.
 - 1. Meticulously go through each part 1-3 times to insure that all notes and rhythms are correct.
 - 2. Fix or re-record ALL wrong or inaccurate notes.
 - 3. Listen back to the full mix and pay close attention to each chord. Sometimes there may be even MORE to fix!

- B. Crossfading – Blending 2 takes together.
 - 1. When to use a crossfade

- C. Pitch bending
 - 1. How to use a pitch bending tool to help with the editing process.
 - 2. The positives of pitch bending
 - 3. The negatives of pitch bending

- D. Timestretching
 - 1. How this can help you sync up your tracks

- E. Pitch straightening
 - 1. What is pitch straightening?
 - 2. What is auto-tuning?
 - 3. Is pitch straightening a good thing or a bad thing?
 - 4. Is auto-tuning a good thing or a bad thing?

X. Finishing Up & other Important Terms

- A. Volume/Fading
- B. Equalization
- C. Compression
- D. Panning
- E. Reverb
- F. Exporting or Bouncing to Disk
- G. Finalizing the tracks

XI. Listen back and critique your final product. You'll find things to work on during your next project. Make sure you also take time to ENJOY listening back to your hard work!