mac
Midlands Arts Centre

Recording Studio Hire

2026 - 2027

macbirmingham.co.uk/hire
0121 446 3250

About MAC's Recording Studio

MAC's contemporary Recording Studio offers musicians and bands a professional space to develop and capture their unique, individual sound.

With high-spec equipment and experienced engineers on hand, the studio is fully equipped to take projects from early demos to broadcast-ready productions.

The studio comprises a **central control room** and **two live rooms** that can be hired in various configurations to suit your project.

Recording sessions at MAC benefit from the unique atmosphere of this bustling, multidisciplinary arts centre showcasing theatre, live music, independent cinema, and exhibitions. KILN Café and MAC Bar also offer the perfect place to relax between sessions.

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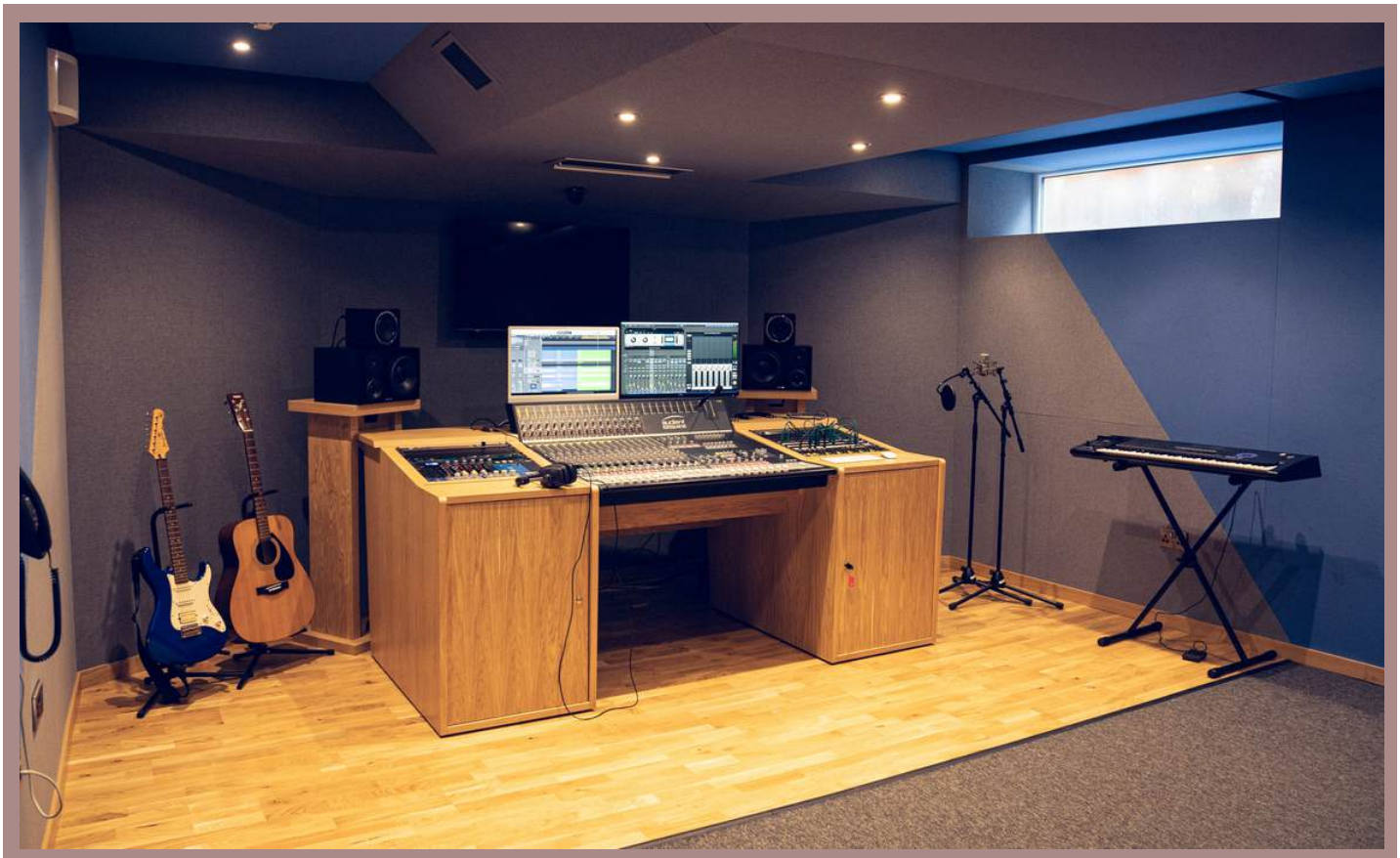
CONTROL ROOM

Our acoustically optimised control room boasts an Audient analogue mixing console, analogue outboard processors, Universal Audio Apollo x16 with UAD plugin suite, Pro Tools, Logic Pro and Dynaudio monitoring.

The space provides a focused and professional setting for production and mixing sessions, and can comfortably facilitate small tracking sessions including vocals, acoustic guitar, podcasts or voiceovers.



LIVE ROOM A

Live Room A benefits from natural light and a great sounding, bright acoustic. It can comfortably accommodate a three-piece band with drum kit or small ensemble. The room features two upright pianos: a modern Irmler by Bluthner and a charismatic 1960s 6-octave Bentley. Both pianos are well maintained and regularly tuned. Live Room A is next door to the control room and connected via 16-channel tie-lines and video link.

Live Room A can be hired independently as a rehearsal space, or as a dry-hire for recording work using your own equipment.

LIVE ROOM B

Live Room B is the larger of the two live rooms and benefits from a bright, yet controlled, acoustic which can be dampened down with adjustable wall panels and acoustic screens. The room comes complete with a Yamaha U3 upright piano, Premier XPK drum-kit, Zildjian A-Custom Cymbals, Pearl Sensitone Snare, and Martin Audio fold-back speakers. Live Room B is next door to the Control Room and is connected via 16-channel tie lines and video link.

Live Room B can be hired independently as a rehearsal space, or as a dry-hire for recording work using your own equipment.

Technical Specifications

CONTROL ROOM

Room - 4.7m x 6.3m
Doorway - 0.95m x 2m

Equipment
- Audient ASP4816 Mixing Console
- Apollo X16 Thunderbolt Audio Interface
- Apple iMac 24" M1 running Logic Pro X 11
- Dynaudio LYD48 Monitors
- Avantone Mixcube Monitors
- Art Headamp6 PRO Headphone Amplifier
- Tascam MH-8 Headphone Amplifier
- Focusrite ISA TWO Preamp
- 3 x Trident 80B 4 Band EQ
- 2 x DBX 560A Compressor
- Warm Audio Bus-Comp Stereo VCA Compressor

Patch and Comms
- 42” screen and camera into Live Rooms A & B
- Bantam Patchbay
- XLR/TRS Patchbay handling ties from live rooms and headphone routing
- 4 independent stereo headphone mixes available

Microphones / DI / Headphones

- 2 x Neumann TLM102
- 2 x Austrian Audio OC818
- 2 x Warm Audio WA84
- 2 x Golden Age R1 Mk3 Active Ribbon
- 2 x AKG C5900
- 2 x AKG C1000 (MIA)
- AKG D112
- Shure Beta 91A
- Sontronics DM1-B
- Sontronics DM1-S
- 3 x Sontronics DM1-T
- 4 x Shure SM57
- 6 x Shure SM58
- 2 x SE1a
- 2 x SE Magneto
- 1 x ART Active DI Box

(more DI boxes available on request)
- 7 x Beyer Dynamic DT150 Headphones

(more headphones available on request)

Plugins
Pro Tools and Logic stock plugins

Universal Audio Plugins
- Ampeg SVTVR
- API Vision Channel Strip
- Antares Auto-Tune Realtime Access
- Antares Auto-Tune Advanced
- CS1
- Fairchild 660
- Fairchild 670
- Galaxy Tape Echo
- Helios Type 69
- Manley Vox Box
- Marshall Plexi Classic
- Neve 1073
- Oxide Tape
- Precision Channel Strip
- Precision De-Esser
- Precision Delay Mod
- Precision Enhancer Hz
- Precision Enhancer kHz
- Precision Limiter
- Precision Reflection Engine
- Pultec EQP-1A
- Pultec HLF-3C
- Pultec MEQ-5
- Pultec-Pro
- Pure Plate
- Raw Distortion
- RealVerb-Pro
- Teletronix LA-2
- Teletronix LA-2 Grey
- Teletronix LA-2 Silver
- Teletronix LA-3A
- UA 1176 Rev-A
- UA 1176 AE
- UA 1176 Rev-E
- UA 175-B
- UA 176
- UA 610-A
- UA 610-B
- V76

Technical Specifications

LIVE ROOM A

Room - 4m x 5.45m
Doorway - 0.865m x 2m

Instruments
• Irmler SP126 Piano
• Bentley Upright Piano (6 Octaves)

Patch & Comms
• 42” screen and camera into Control Room or Live Room B
• 16 x Mic Ties to Control Room
• 4 x XLR Return Ties; 4 x Headphone Ties; 4 x Cat6 Data Ties; 2 x SDI Ties; 1 x HDMI ties

LIVE ROOM B

Room - 5.7m x 10m
Doorway - 0.9m x 2m

Instruments
• Yamaha U3S Upright Piano
• Roland RD300GX Stage Piano
• Drum Kit: Premier XPK Drum Kit (Early 1990s, Made In England, Eucalyptus Shells)

- Rack Tom 1: 12” x 9”
- Rack Tom 2: 13” x 10”
- Floor Tom: 16” x 15”
- Kick: 22” x 15”

• Snare Drum: Pearl Sensitone 16” x 5.5”
• Cymbals: Zildjian Avedis A-Custom 14” Hi-Hats, 16” & 18” Crashes, 20” Ride

Foldback
• 2 x Martin Audio Blackline x12 Active
• Alesis Multimix 10 Mixer (with Bluetooth Audio)

Patch and Comms
• 42” Screen and Camera to Control Room (2-way)
• 16 x mic ties + 4 x PA mic ties
• 4 x return XLR; 6 x headphone ties; 4 x cat6 data ties; 2 x SDI ties; 1 x HDMI ties

Meet MAC's Recording Engineers

JAMES COVELL | SENIOR RECORDING ENGINEER

James is a recording/mix engineer and musician of over 20 years' experience with BBC Radio 2/6music credits and countless hours of studio time under his belt. His approach to recording is centred around creating the right atmosphere for artists to give their best performance while maintaining a focus on the overall coherence and spirit of the track.

At MAC, James has experience recording string quartets, singer-songwriters, post-punk, alt. folk and rap, as well as supporting MAC's community music outreach projects.

As a musician and producer, James has recently worked at Sawmills Studios alongside veteran engineer, John Cornfield (*Supergrass*, *The Verve*, *The Stone Roses*) and at *The Kinks*' north London facility, Konk Studios.

MIKE BUTLER | RECORDING ENGINEER

Mike's career spans both the business and creative sides of music, including experience with a London distributor focused on independent labels and artists. He pairs this industry background with a solid grounding in recording and production by way of a BSc in Music Technology from Staffordshire University.

A musician through and through, Mike has spent 20 years writing music and playing guitar in multiple bands, having had airplay on BBC Radio London and WM.

Recording Artists at MAC

Amit Dattani

“Recording my album at the MAC was great, a really relaxed, central location nestled in lovely Cannon Hill Park. Great equipment, comfortable recording spaces and great facilities. Most of all, it was working with James at the MAC where the real magic lies.

He’s a magician, with the patience of a saint, knowing when and how best to encourage you, whilst pouring all of his knowledge and creativity into getting you the best results possible.“

amitdattanimusic.com

Akasha

“We had our first ever recording session as a band with the MAC and we refuse to go anywhere else!

The space is absolutely incredible for a full band. James is a genius. We have never had more fun in our lives and we will definitely be coming again. The MAC is a fantastic space for all!”

instagram.com/akashaband_

Modern Literature

"We got an enormous amount done whilst still having the space to have loads of fun whilst doing it. From start to finish we got dedicated professional support from James and the team who truly cared about getting a great result that everyone was happy with.

Recording at MAC, a hub of creativity, passion and expression was an amazing experience and the end result sounds incredible. I can't recommend it enough."

instagram.com/wearemodernliterature

Rates

Rates include engineer. Valid up to April 2027.

Rates including VAT			
	Hourly (3hr minimum)	**Half-Day (4 hours)**	**Day (8 hours)**
Control Room Only	£35	£140	£260
Control Room + Live Room A		£170	£290
Control Room + Live Room B		£190	£320
Control Room + both Live Rooms		£210	£350

Rates excluding VAT			
	Hourly (3hr minimum)	**Half Day (4 hours)**	**Day (8 hours)**
Control Room Only	£29.17	£116.67	£216.67
Control Room + Live Room A		£141.67	£241.67
Control Room + Live Room B		£158.34	£266.67
Control Room + both Live Rooms		£175	£291.67

Recording Studio
Accessibility and Facilities

Access

MAC is committed to offering a welcoming and accessible environment. We want to make your visit as easy as possible, so that you can focus on having a great time. MAC is wheelchair accessible and has step-free access to all our spaces.
macbirmingham.co.uk/access

Getting here

Find us opposite Edgbaston Stadium on Edgbaston Road (off A441 Pershore Road and A38 Bristol Road).
macbirmingham.co.uk/getting-here

Food and drink

MAC has an on-site café, express kiosk and bar for a selection of hot and cold drinks, a seasonal menu, cakes, snacks and more.
macbirmingham.co.uk/food-and-drink

Car parking

The car parks adjacent to MAC are owned and managed by Birmingham City Council. This includes the Queen's Ride car park, the Pershore Road car park next to the Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park.
These car parks are chargeable. MAC is not responsible for these car parks or their charges.

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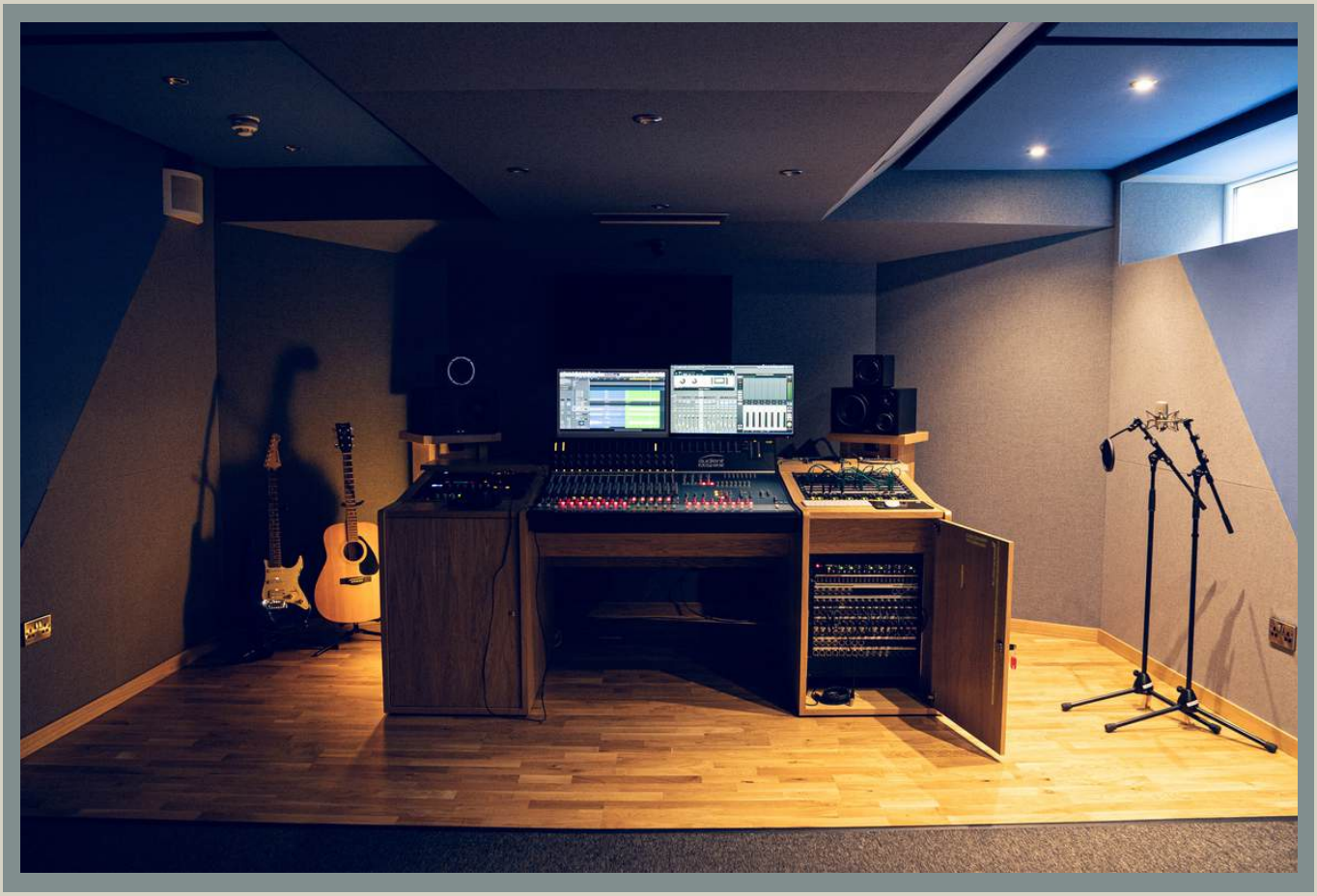

Get in touch

macbirmingham.co.uk/hire
0121 446 3250
hire@macbirmingham.co.uk