

+VE studio isn't a traditional recording studio and shouldn't be confused designed to record and master records. It isn't full of instruments and outboard equipment but a special place flooded with natural daylight on a small track set in two acres of Scottish ancient rainforest.

It is a spatial sound room with eight speakers capable of any format from mono to ambisonic that you have 24 hour access to.

You are encouraged to experiment with ambisonic field recording with myself in carefully selected locations not far from the studio. You might want to edit them to make something new or use them for ambiances in your music or other artistic practice. As well as being able to listen to your recordings in three dimensional sound in the studio you will be able to take them home to use and enjoy in any format including binaural. You can also experiment with ambisonic performance recording in the studio.

We will use a special Sennheizer ambisonic mic and a Zoom F8 field recorder in the field and for underwater a stereo pair of Jez Riley hydrophones.

There are also some condenser and dynamic mics for you to use as well if you wish as well. Instruments available are a keyboard with a suite of Arturia vintage plugins as well as many others, a Roland Gaia synthesiser and a few guitars.

One of the great things about ambisonic recording is you can introduce mono or stereo signals and move them around the 360 degree sound field alongside ambisonic recordings

There are dark skies and except for half a dozen planes flying very high above and two or three cars going by you will experience a soundscape completely free of any human interference.

When I first moved here I found the silence quite overpowering and very magical.

It is the perfect place for deep listening as the silence slowly reveals the tiniest of sounds to you and using hydrophones we can also discover the soundscapes of the sea and the many lochs very nearby.

The space is designed to inspire and take you off into new avenues to expand your artistic discipline in exciting new directions.

If you are already experienced using spatial sound you can use the recording/listening space freely or if you would like assistance, I will be happy to be on hand to run your session.

There is an iMac computer with DAWs, Reaper Cubase Pro and Logic and a lot of plugins both ambisonic and stereo for you to use or you are welcome to plug your laptop into the system and use that if you prefer.

The eight speakers are Genelecs and the overall space is 35 square meters.

#### Accommodation

The accommodation for one or two people is just a few yards away in a 1960's caravan upgraded for modern living with comfy beds, shower, full cooking facilities and internet. It's accessed by a flight of steps from the studio and there's a private garden around the caravan too.

The garden is regularly visited by red squirrels, badgers and very specially there is a family of Pine Martens living here which can be seen at dusk. This is also the time for otters at the bay down the track and also beavers in the local loch.

If the time is right you might see pods of dolphins in the local bay at Carsaig.

In the air are dragon flies, flocks of songbirds flying through the trees of the forest and sea eagles are a fairly common sight as they nest on the Isle of Jura which is where we overlook. At night some of the UK's rarest moths fill the sky alongside owls and bats.

There are many excellent locations for field recording nearby as there are so many different habitats. There are sights of special scientific interest including a rare bogland called Moine Mhor , a nature reserve fringed by tidal flats, saltmarsh, fen, alder and ancient oak woodland. This transition of habitats adds to a rich diversity of wildlife. There are also beautiful coastlines with secluded and mostly deserted beaches.

There are also several areas of archeological interest with Kilmartin Glen just a few miles away. It has the most important concentration of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in mainland Scotland with more than 800 ancient monuments within a six-mile (ten-kilometre) radius of the village of Kilmartin, with 150 monuments being prehistoric. Monuments include standing stones, a henge monument, numerous cists, and a "linear cemetery" comprising five burial cairns. Several of these, as well as many natural rocks, are decorated with cup and ring marks.

I want this special space to be inspirational for artists of any discipline and especially want to introduce you to experience and create three dimensional soundscapes which are much more realistic than the horizontal Dolby Atmos or regular 5:1 systems that you might have heard. It is 2 and a half hours from Glasgow which is the most beautiful drive through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park before reaching more spectacular scenery all the way from Loch Fyne until you reach us in Tayvallich.

It takes about the same time to drive as it does to take the bus from Glasgow. It is really a coach with toilet facilities and highly recommended. Pick up from the nearest town, Lochgilphead is included in the price if you come without a car. There is a small shop and an excellent restaurant/pub in the village which is a half an hour's walk from the studio