How to Get Started
Recording

How to Get Started: Recording

How many people are recording?	Reserve
1 to 2 people	Recording Studio 1
1 to 4 people	Recording Studio 2

What will you need to bring?

1. Storage device (USB, SD Card, external hard drive, etc.).
2. Any scripts, lyrics, and/or instruments needed for recording.
3. If you plan on using your own instrument, you may need to bring a TS to TS cable to connect with the Focusrite.

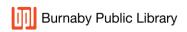## What equipment is available for recording?

Equipment	Availability
Studio Station computer (Model: DELL Alienware Aurora R13 and DELL Alienware AW2720HF monitor)	Already in Recording Studios.
Shure SM7B microphones (Quantity: 2)	Already in Recording Studios.
Yorkville Sound Tripod Boom Stand	Already in Recording Studios.
Samson 38" Microphone Boom Arm	Already in Recording Studios.
Focusrite Scarlett 18i8 3rd Generation 18-in, 8-out USB Audio Interface	Already in Recording Studios.
Yorkville Sound YSM5 Compact Powered Studio Reference Monitors (Quantity: 2)	Already in Recording Studios.

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Triton Audio FetHead In-Line Microphone Preamp (Quantity: 2)	Already in Recording Studios.
Closed back studio headphones (Model: Audio-Technica ATH-M30X)	Ask to check out with your library card. Audio splitters also available.
USB Microphone (Model: Blue Yeti)	Ask to check out with your library card.
CD/DVD External DVD (Model: Benewy)	Ask to check out with your library card.

What does the equipment do?

Equipment	Job
Focusrite Scarlett 18i8	Creates studio sound for the whole band. Makes vocals and instruments shine. Connects other equipment to the computer station.
Triton preamp	Adds 27dB of clean gain. Requires "phantom power" (see "audio recording terms" section).
Two Shure SM7bs	Does not need "phantom power" setting (see "audio recording terms" section) if used on its own without the Fethead preamp

This is a dynamic microphone and not a condenser microphone. Less sensitive to room sounds and will not pick up higher frequencies.

This mic has a cardioid polar pattern, which means it picks up nearly all sound from the |
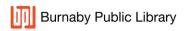
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	top, none from the bottom, and very little (but some) from the sides.
Studio Reference Monitors	Each recording studio features two studio reference monitors (speakers) for playing back audio.
Headphones	Headphones have a 3.5mm jack and a 6.3mm adapter jack. Can be used instead of studio monitors.
USB Microphone	These microphones can be used without the Focusrite and can capture audio from multiple directions

What set up should I use for my recording?

The recording studios are flexible and offer a number of different set up options. Below are the suggested equipment to try according to your recording needs:

Type of recording	Equipment to use
Recording with single mic	Software (DAW) of your choice, Focusrite, Triton preamp, Shure SM7b on boom arm, headphones.
Recording with two mics	Software (DAW) of your choice, Focusrite, two Triton preamps, two Shure SM7bs, boom arm, tripod, and two pairs of headphones or speakers.
Recording with more than one person/instrument (alternate setup)	Software (DAW) of your choice, Blue Yeti in place of Focusrite and two pairs of headphones or speakers.

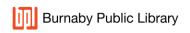Burnaby Public Library

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Recording with two mics and an instrument	Adobe Audition or Reaper, Focusrite, two Triton preamps, two Shure SM7bs, boom arm, tripod, TS to TS cable, two pairs of headphones or speakers.
Song someone else is singing	Software (DAW) of your choice, Focusrite, two Triton preamps, two Shure SM7bs, boom arm, tripod, and two pairs of headphones.
Single instrument I am playing	Software (DAW) of your choice, Focusrite, Triton preamp, Shure SM7b on boom arm, TS to TS cable for instrument, headphones or speakers.

Bringing your own equipment to use in our Recording Studio? Speak with a staff member when you arrive for your reservation, and we will go over procedures and setup options with you.

Recording Software available on Studio Stations

1. **Adobe Audition**: a digital audio workstation featuring both a multitrack, non-destructive mix/edit environment and a destructive-approach waveform editing view.
2. **Audacity**: a free and open-source digital audio editor and recording application software. Other multimedia recordings may be recorded at the same time or added separately. Can only support a maximum of two inputs and two outputs.
3. **Reaper**: a complete digital audio production application for computers, offering full multitrack audio and MIDI recording, editing, and processing.
4. **OBS**: a free and open-source, cross-platform screen casting and streaming app. Can be used for voice recording, video production, recording presentations, streaming on YouTube, Twitch, etc.
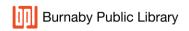
5. **Camtasia**: a software suite for creating and recording video tutorials and presentations via screencast, or via a direct recording plug-in to Microsoft PowerPoint. Other multimedia recordings may be recorded at the same time or added separately.

Recording Software Resources

1. Adobe Audition:

    a. Setting up https://support.focusrite.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360009547539-How-do-I-record-in-Adobe-Audition-on-Windows-using-a-Focusrite-interface-

2. Audacity:

    a. Setting up: https://support.focusrite.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360000790265-Recording-in-Audacity-Windows-

    b. Learning Audacity (LinkedIn Learning):

    https://www.linkedin.com/learning/learning-audacity-2/jump-into-the-world-of-audio-editing

3. Reaper:

    a. Setting up: https://support.focusrite.com/hc/en-gb/articles/207546025-Reaper-Setup-Guide

4. Camtasia

    a. Essentials basics (LinkedIn Learning): https://www.linkedin.com/learning/camtasia-2020-essential-training-the-basics/introducing-camtasia-2020

    b. Essentials advanced (LinkedIn Learning): https://www.linkedin.com/learning/camtasia-essential-training-advanced-techniques/optimizing-your-creation-environment

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c. Essentials quick tips (LinkedIn Learning):
   https://www.linkedin.com/learning/camtasia-quick-tips/creating-slow-motion-video

Terminology

Recording term	What it means
DAW "digital audio workstation"	Music production software that allows you to record audio on a computer. Examples include Audacity, Adobe Audition, and Reaper.
Phantom Power	On the Focusrite Scarlett this is the "48V" button that lights up when you push it. Some devices require extra power (such as condenser microphones), which is a jolt of power that runs from the Focusrite through an XLR cable to the device.
Radio frequency (RF) and electromagnetic distortion	This can occur while recording due to other electronic gadgets in the studio, such as mobile phones or even other audio gear.
TRS "Tip Ring Sleeve"	Audio passes through the tip and top ring to create a balanced (or stereo) sound. The bottom ring is the sleeve, which acts as the ground to lessen any interference. Audio can be sent both ways.
TS "Tip Sleeve"	Audio passes through the tip in a mono sound (good for instruments such as a guitar). To send in stereo, two TS cables are needed. They are unbalanced, which means there may be distortion.

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XLR "External Line Return" cable	This type of head is most often three prong (three connectors—two conductors and a ground) with either male or female connectors. These are good for audio (microphones or speakers) as they are balanced connections (remove noise along the signal path) that resist radio frequency and electromagnetic distortions.
Clipping	When the recording sound is too high and the result is distortion. Usually visualized in a monitor when the audio bars turn yellow and then red.
Ducking	When the audio of one track is automatically lowered, or "ducks beneath," the audio in a second track, so the second track can be heard more clearly.
MIDI	Stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. MIDI is a protocol that allows musical instruments, computers, and other hardware to communicate for playing, editing, and recording music.

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