

# Commodore Recording Studio

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**by Joseph Kirchner**



In October 2013, Doug Benson (a professional recording engineer and musician) opened Commodore Recording Studio in Thurmont, the capstone achievement of twenty years of service in the Catoctin area. Back in 1992, Doug opened Harvest Recording, a two-room studio that he ran successfully for ten years, engineering and producing over one-hundred independent CD releases, and establishing a loyal client base. He moved the studio in 2003 and changed the name to Catoctin Mountain Recording. Known internationally for his audio restoration/remastering work, Doug has also taught college-level music courses, worked as a full-time musician and a videographer, and gained extensive experience in all aspects of arranging, recording, and music production.

Commodore Recording Studio is the fruit of over thirty years of experience. The studio provides an affordable, professional environment that is both comfortable and performance-friendly. First, Commodore's unusually shaped recording rooms are designed specifically with sound in mind. From the symmetrically-splayed walls and ceiling of the control room to the non-parallel surfaces of the live room (a spacious 390 square feet) and booths, the wonderful acoustics inspire great performances and facilitate more accurate playback. The floor plan accommodates a 30 square ft. vocal/amp booth, a 68 square ft. drum/vocal room with gorgeous vintage Vistalite kit, a 170 square ft. control room with Neumann monitors and reclining sofa and the expansive live room, featuring a 12' ceiling, oak floor and Yamaha grand piano. In addition, Doug provides a separate lounge area with cable TV and a rehearsal piano. This beautiful, comfortable environment will inspire musicians to produce their best recordings!

The facilities are top-notch, but most importantly Doug brings to the table over thirty years of recording experience that no amount of equipment could make up for. He offers a full range of services, including audio recording (both standard and multi-track), on-location recording of live and session-style events, excellent mixing, editing and mastering, transfer of material from obsolete formats to digital, voice-over work and commercial production, MIDI track production and sequencing, custom song arrangements and CD/DVD replication. In addition, Commodore offers world-class audio restoration; historical and family heirloom recordings can be digitized, cleaned and enhanced with remarkable clarity. Many people own records and magnetic tapes that have degraded just from being stored, and Commodore has the expertise to rescue them while they're still playable.

Commodore Recording Studio offers an affordable mid-ground option between "budget" recording studios and ultra-studios. Doug provides a world of expertise and great equipment in a comfortable, performance-friendly environment that assures great recordings. Commodore's rates are very reasonable as well. For your recording or audio restoration needs, call Commodore first.

Commodore Recording Studio is located at 204 East Main Street in Thurmont. Phone: 301-271-2435; Web: [www.commodorestudio.com](http://www.commodorestudio.com). Also find Doug on Facebook.