

### **What is Mastering?**

Mastering is the final step to complete a recording project. After recording and mixing each track individually in a recording studio, the mastering process unifies the sound of the whole project by adjusting various parameters of each piece so that the CD will sound consistently great from start to finish. Typically, this is what's done in a mastering session at *Allemande Music*:

- Raise the overall level of the music
- Enhance details and apply equalization where necessary
- Adjust spatial orientation if necessary
- Optimize flow of the music by adjusting space between tracks
- Fade beginnings and endings to black (perfect silence)

### **Why choose Allemande Music?**

There's still one thing that money can't buy- an experienced set of ears. In order to do a good mastering job, the mastering engineer has to understand the type of music he is dealing with and use the tools accordingly to create a great sounding master CD. A Rock project requires an entirely different treatment from a classical project- likewise, a Jazz trio recording will probably be mastered differently than a Children's choir. Solid experience in a variety of musical styles is our strength, and combined with hands-on knowledge of the latest analog and digital equipment *Allemande Music* is a great choice for your next mastering project.

### **Who is working at Allemande Music?**

All mastering projects are personally engineered by *Hans Christian*. His works as a full time musician, producer, engineer, and studio owner cover over a quarter century of experience. Trained as a classical cellist in Germany, with major label credits as a bass player in LA and a founding member of the renowned World Music group RASA, Hans is always on the cutting edge of music. By hiring *Allemande Music* you will gain access to a seasoned musician with impeccable ears and an inspiring understanding of music. Hans' credits as a producer and engineer cover a wide spectrum of styles and genres- Rock, Funk, Folk, Electronic, New Age, Classical, and a combination of the above, and his experience will benefit your mastering project, too.

### **Rates**

Our Mastering rates are very musician-friendly:  
\$50 per song, versus \$10 per track minute, whichever is higher.

**Preparing for the Mastering process at Allemande Music**

*Follow these simple guidelines as you prepare your project for Mastering:*

**Select your best mixes** carefully. Although Mastering will improve the quality of your mixes, we cannot work magic past a certain point. It is still up to you to come up with a great mix.

**Listen for clicks, dropouts, and other potential flaws.** If we detect a flaw that can be fixed we will charge extra (\$60 per hour in 15 min. increments) for fixing the problem. If we cannot fix the problem (dropouts) we can't help you.

**Do not over-compress your mixes!** If you give us super-hot mixes that were mixed or bounced through a digital compressor you did more damage than good. Keep 2-4dB of headroom so that we have headroom to work with.

**Accepted formats for your Pre-Master:**

CD/Rs (preferred):

- 16bit/ 44.1khz or 24bit/44.1khz, WAV, SD II, aiff

DAT tapes:

- 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz sampling rate with 10-15 seconds recorded silence.
- Calibration tone: 1 kHz at -12 dB (never at 0 dB).
- Start IDs: placed at the start of each selection, one ID per song.
- Your dB meters should peak at 0, with no over levels, and must average above -15 dB (Red Book minimum standard).
- Be sure your DAT and box are labeled.

**Don't send your only Pre-Master!** Always make at least three copies of your final mixes. Send us one copy (FedEx preferred), securely packaged in a padded mailer to:

ALLEMANDE MUSIC

2263 WATERS END ROAD, SISTER BAY, WI 54234

**Label your CD/DAT clearly!** Include a list of titles of your mailed-in Pre-Master. Although it doesn't have to have the music in its final order, we need to know the name of each piece.

**Fill out the ALLEMANDE MUSIC order form** and include payment information.

***Please fill out order form and include with your master CD.***

CD Title:	Artist Name:
First Name:	Last Name:
Street:	City:
Telephone:	Email:
Master sample rate: ( )44.1khz    ( )48khz	Master bit rate: ( )16bit        ( )24bit

**Pricing information**

**\$50 per song, versus \$10 per track minute, whichever is higher.**

*Pricing examples:*

- 10 songs, total length below 50 minutes: \$500
- 8 songs, total length 65 minutes: \$650
- Plus shipping (FedEx Standard overnight)

**Payment Information (please check one)**

( ) **Credit Card payment** (If paying by Credit Card we will send you a Paypal invoice per email).

Email for invoice: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) **Check enclosed**                      ( ) **Money order enclosed**

*Full payment required before order can be processed. We will send you a final invoice with shipping charges.*

**Refund policy**

We will do our best to make your recording sound great, and offer one free correction to the Master. If you hear something that you'd like us to change, just let us know and we'll send you another review master with the changes. Beyond this point, if you want to make more changes, we will charge for our time at \$60 per hour. No refunds given.

**How to contact us**

By phone: 920/854 9808 (Mon-Fri, 10am to 6pm Central time)

By email: *allemande@charter.net*

<b>MUSIC INFORMATION- final order of songs for Master CD</b>
<b>1.</b>
<b>2.</b>
<b>3.</b>
<b>4.</b>
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<b>18.</b>
<b>19.</b>
<b>20.</b>
<b>Even more pieces? Attach another sheet...</b>