

# CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

# Old Mill Road Recording

by Mac McDonough



Grammy Award-winning engineer Benjamin J. Arrindell (left) and producer Dr. Joshua Sherman (right) in the control room.

Located in East Arlington, Vermont, Old Mill Road Recording is fast becoming a premier destination studio. Strategically situated about three hours from both New York City and Boston, the facility teems with vibrancy and creativity. It's nestled in one of the most beautiful natural settings imaginable, and its impeccable design won a NAMM TEC Award in 2020. Sweetwater sat down with the facility's founder and in-house producer, Joshua Sherman, and its Grammy Award-winning engineer, Ben Arrindell, to discuss the genesis of Old Mill Road Recording, their long-standing partnership, and their relationship with Sweetwater.

Joshua Sherman began playing piano and saxophone at a young age. At 16, he moved to New York City and began a career in theater design. Joshua's industry involvement wasn't limited to musical theater, however. "I always had a huge appreciation for a wide range of genres," he explains. "Everything from classical music to film scores, jazz to swing, hip-hop — you name it." It was this breadth of knowledge that thrust Joshua into a producer role.

Ben Arrindell's career began in the late '80s, in one of New York's top jingle houses. His unwavering enthusiasm enabled him to quickly rise through the ranks from intern to assistant engineer to staff engineer. But it was the art of mixing that grabbed his attention. Ben contributed to many notable projects during that time, with artists including Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, Mary J. Blige, Janet Jackson, and Busta Rhymes. A high point was mixing the 2001 live album *The Experience* by Yolanda Adams, which earned a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album.

Ben and Joshua worked together on numerous projects in many of New York's top studios, with Ben engineering and Joshua producing. During their collaborations, they often discussed striking out on their own. "We always thought it would be cool to do our own thing," Ben states. The duo's dreams and aspiration came to fruition when Old Mill Road Recording opened its doors.

Old Mill Road Recording is one of the most lavish recording destinations you'll ever encounter. Built from a historic gristmill and its surrounding buildings, the studio complex rests on 25-plus acres. The studios themselves were meticulously designed by acoustics guru Francis Manzella. The facility's control room, live room, and isolation booth each offer a sound that's nothing short of world class. The studio includes an abundance of

glass, providing clients with an awe-inspiring river view that's guaranteed to inspire. "So many studios are dark and sort of cave-like," says Joshua. "We wanted to create a different experience that allowed space and light, taking the beauty of Vermont and bringing it indoors."

Old Mill Road Recording sports an enviable selection of high-end gear. The studio is centered around a 48-channel **SSL Duality** console and an **Avid Pro Tools HDX** system with **Lynx Aurora(n)** AD/DA. "The Aurora lent itself to the color of the room," states Ben. "It doesn't make things too bright, and it doesn't change the audio."

The studio includes an arsenal of plug-ins from Antares, Celemony, FabFilter, iZotope, McDSP, Native Instruments, SSL, Soundtoys, Universal Audio, Waves, and more. It houses a 500 Series lunchbox packed with **API 512** and **Rupert Neve Designs 511** preamp modules, along with outboard gear from Avalon, Chandler Limited, dbx, Lexicon, SPL, Tube-Tech, and others.

The studio features a robust mic locker with a diverse array of microphones from AKG, Audio-Technica, Coles, Electro-Voice, Graneli Audio Labs, Neumann, RCA, Sennheiser, Shure, and other manufacturers. Monitoring is handled by Griffin Audio midfields, which are supplemented by KRK, JBL, and Yamaha nearfields.

There are gorgeous Yamaha C7 grand pianos on hand, along with a generous collection of keyboards, guitars, amplifiers, and drums. The studio also contains a sizable cache of percussion instruments — something that Joshua feels every studio needs. "Our goal as a destination studio is that if a client comes in and asks, 'Do you have this or that?' our answer is always yes," says Joshua.

Old Mill Road Recording is also a fully equipped video studio, with a range of industry-leading equipment that's guaranteed to produce top-level results.

The studio includes on-site housing, and clients can schedule massages and beauty treatments, and food services are available. If you need medical assistance, Old Mill Road Recording can take care of that as well. Joshua — besides being a top-notch producer — is also a practicing doctor. In fact, Joshua's medical career is part of what prompted his move from New York to Vermont. "My medical practice is in Vermont," he explains. "I was doctoring in Vermont for a week, then producing in New York for a week — everyone in Vermont knew me as a doctor, and everyone in New York knew me as a producer."

When it comes to Sweetwater, Joshua doesn't mince words: "I love Sweetwater," he exclaims. "Sweetwater has been great to us; I love your customer service." Ben echoes Joshua's sentiments. "Your customer service is really special," he states. Ben also compliments Sweetwater's knowledgeable staff. "You always have the answer," he says. "I tell my friends — if you're going to buy anything, just get it from Sweetwater. They'll take care of you."

According to Tom Koch, their Sweetwater Sales Engineer, the feeling is mutual. "I love working with those guys," says Tom. "They're top-level pros and really nice people."

To learn more about Old Mill Road Recording, visit [Oldmillroadrecording.com](http://Oldmillroadrecording.com).



Exterior (roadside view) of the historic 1764 mill and recording studio



Old Mill Road Recording's control room features a 48-channel SSL Duality console and custom-made Griffin speakers



Old Mill Road Recording's live room with a view of the control room to the right and primary iso booth behind the Yamaha C7 grand piano



Exterior (riverside view) of the historic 1764 mill and recording studio

Photos by David Barnum.  
Courtesy Old Mill Road Media