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Sam McErlean Address: 177 Craighlaw Ave Waterfoot Glasgow G76 0EY Telephone: +44(0)7402344999 Email: sam.mcerlean@gmail.com Web: smaudio.co.uk

Professional profile

Experienced and versatile audio engineer with a strong background in studio, post-production and live environments. Proven ability to deliver technically excellent audio across delivery formats, including radio, streaming, and video content, with in-depth knowledge of broadcast audio standards and loudness compliance. Passionate about audio quality, workflow efficiency, and mentoring the next generation of audio engineers through training and development programs. Actively seeking to broaden technical skillsets beyond audio, with a strong interest in further developing capabilities in video production and wider broadcast operations.

Key Skills

- In-depth operational knowledge of a wide range of microphones including many from brands such as Schoeps, Neumann, DPA and Sennheiser and more.
- Familiar with operating analogue and digital mixing consoles for recording, broadcast and live sound reinforcement including SSL Duality and System T, DiGiCo, Allen & Heath, STAGETEC, plus many more.
- Working knowledge and experience adhering to health and safety requirements in studios and outside broadcast environments such as concert halls, theatres and outdoor events.
- Experience operating various comms systems including Riedel, Green-GO and Hollyland in studio and outside broadcast environments.
- Proven track record of leading, supervision and training small teams in studios and on location.
- Experienced at working in high pressure live environments both as part of a team and individually.

Professional Experience

Audio Engineer: Royal Scottish National Orchestra 2021-Present

- Responsible for recording, mixing, and delivering audio content in compliance with format and loudness specifications for major radio broadcasters including the BBC, streaming platforms, social media and more.
- Sound supervising the RSNO's flagship education concert films managing all aspects of music recording, mixing to picture, ADR, Foley, and Gàidhlig language dubs.
- Working as scoring engineer and recordist alongside recording engineers from Abbey Road Studios and AIR Studios on recording sessions for major film, TV, and video game soundtracks. Recent credits include: "The Phoenician Scheme" (Indian Paintbrush, 2025) and "Silo" (Apple TV+, 2024).
- Developed and led a program offering Sound Production college students hands-on experience recording live orchestral concerts at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Usher Hall, creating a pathway to join the RSNO's freelance recording assistant pool on film score recording sessions.
- Responsible for managing and coordinating the RSNO's pool of audio freelancers.
- Liaising with clients to understand and fulfil their requirements effectively.
- Setting up SDI, control network and comms routing for RSNO video productions.
- Testing, maintaining and modifying studio equipment to suit specific needs.

Freelance Audio Engineer 2016 – Present

- Specialising in location music recordings, live sound reinforcement and sound design.
- Producing high quality location recordings in a wide variety of venues and genres ranging from one person singer songwriters to full orchestral concerts.
- Providing high-quality live sound reinforcement for speech-only conferences and musical performances across a wide range of venues, while adapting to varied equipment setups and acoustic environments.
- Led a team of five individuals from four different countries to deliver live sound reinforcement, multiple language live translations and recording across three venues for a ten-day conference in Lisbon.
- Recreated the acoustic of Klæmintsgjógv sea cave in Glasgow Cathedral for a Nordic Music Days concert using multiple speakers around the audience, radio microphones on the instruments with long reverbs and ambient sounds recorded in the actual sea caves.
- Clients include: Stagecast, Linn Records, Edinburgh International Festival, Scottish Ensemble and more.

Design and Manufacturing of Recording Accessories and Hardware 2018-Present

Designing and 3D printing custom microphone accessories that have proven successful in classical music, film score recordings, and broadcasted concerts. These accessories have been adopted by engineers and producers worldwide, including those at Abbey Road Studios and record labels in the U.S.A., and have, on multiple occasions, outperformed first-party alternatives in listening tests.

Interests

I have a deep love of music, particularly classical and Scottish/Irish traditional genres. I've competed at world championship level in traditional music competitions and continue to share that passion by teaching piano regularly and playing at fundraising ceilidhs. Beyond audio, I have hands-on experience building and repairing computers, and I enjoy staying up to date with emerging developments in the computing and audio industries. More recently, I've developed a strong interest in photography, especially astrophotography, which combines my technical background with a non-audio related creative outlet. I have found it rewarding to produce incredibly satisfying results, even when using cheap cameras and lenses.

Education & qualifications

Riverside Music College/University of The Highlands and Islands (Perth) – August 2019-June 2023

- Sound Production HND: A
- BSc (Hons), Audio Engineering 1st Class

City of Glasgow College / Strathclyde University – August 2016-June 2019

Mechanical Engineering – HNC: A

References

Available on request.