

**Pandemic Projects:** Home recording in the  
time of Covid and the ongoing impact on  
small independent recording studios

Ronan Breslin and Adam Scott, Glasgow School of Art

[r.breslin@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:r.breslin@gsa.ac.uk)

[a.scott@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:a.scott@gsa.ac.uk)

**Craig Houston** is a former employee of the musical instrument chain “Guitar Guitar” who, despite the name, also sell recording equipment in-shop and online.

**Carla Easton** is a singer songwriter and is also a strong advocate for female, trans and non-binary artists in the music industry. She has also co-directed the acclaimed film “Since Yesterday: The Untold Story of Scotland’s Girl Bands” (2024).

**Tommy Duffin** runs 16 Ohm Studios based in the East End of Glasgow.

**Sam Smith** is a director of Green Door Studios, Glasgow.

**Peter Fletcher** runs Black Bay Studios – a residential recording studio on the Island of Lewis.

**Luigi Pasquini** runs Dystopia Studio in Glasgow.

**MJ McCarthy** is a singer-songwriter and acclaimed theatre composer.

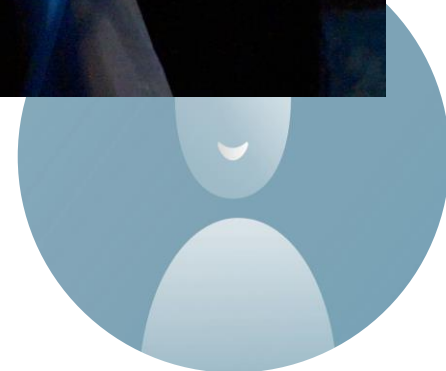
**Paul Savage** is an engineer/producer and co-owner of Chem-19 studios in Blantyre, Scotland.

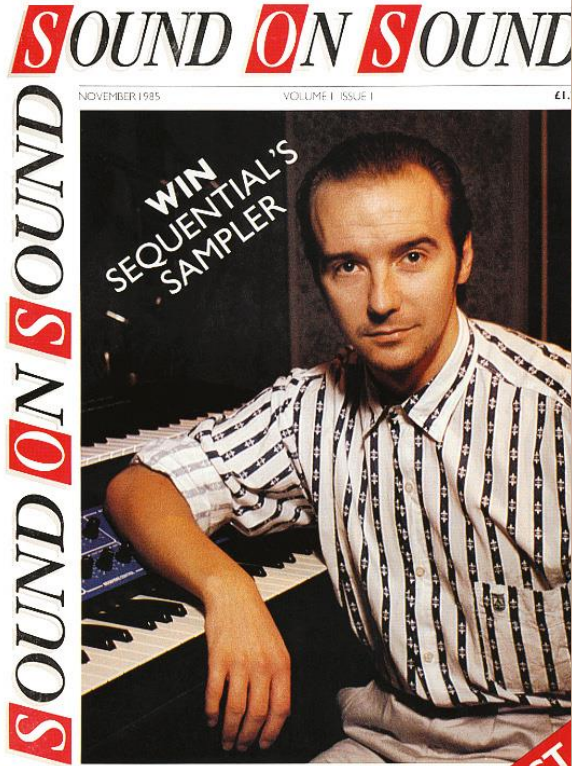


My living room home studio

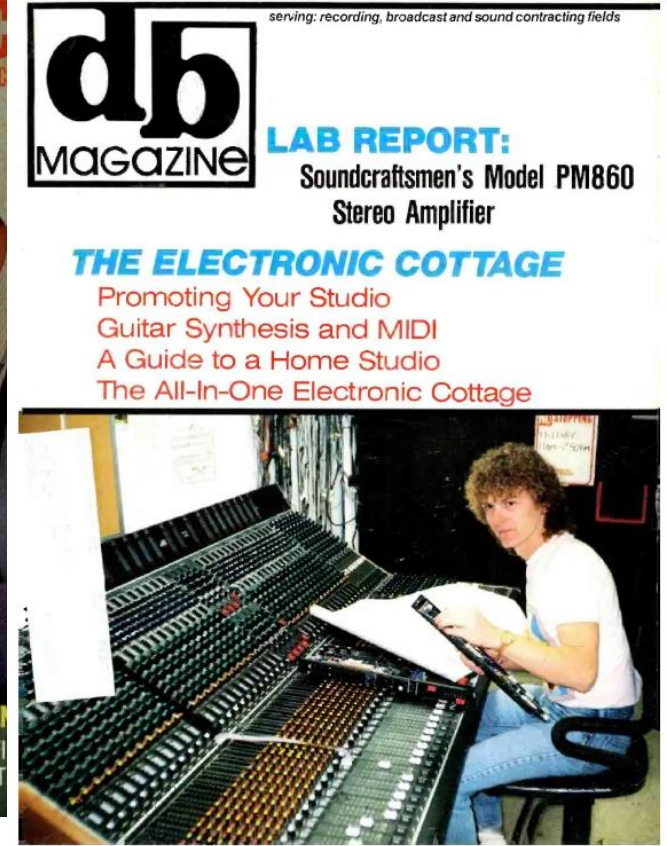


My vocal booth – a walk-in cupboard full of books and CDs





MIDGE URE: A MAN WITH A GIFT  
RECORDING · MIDI · SYNTHESIZERS

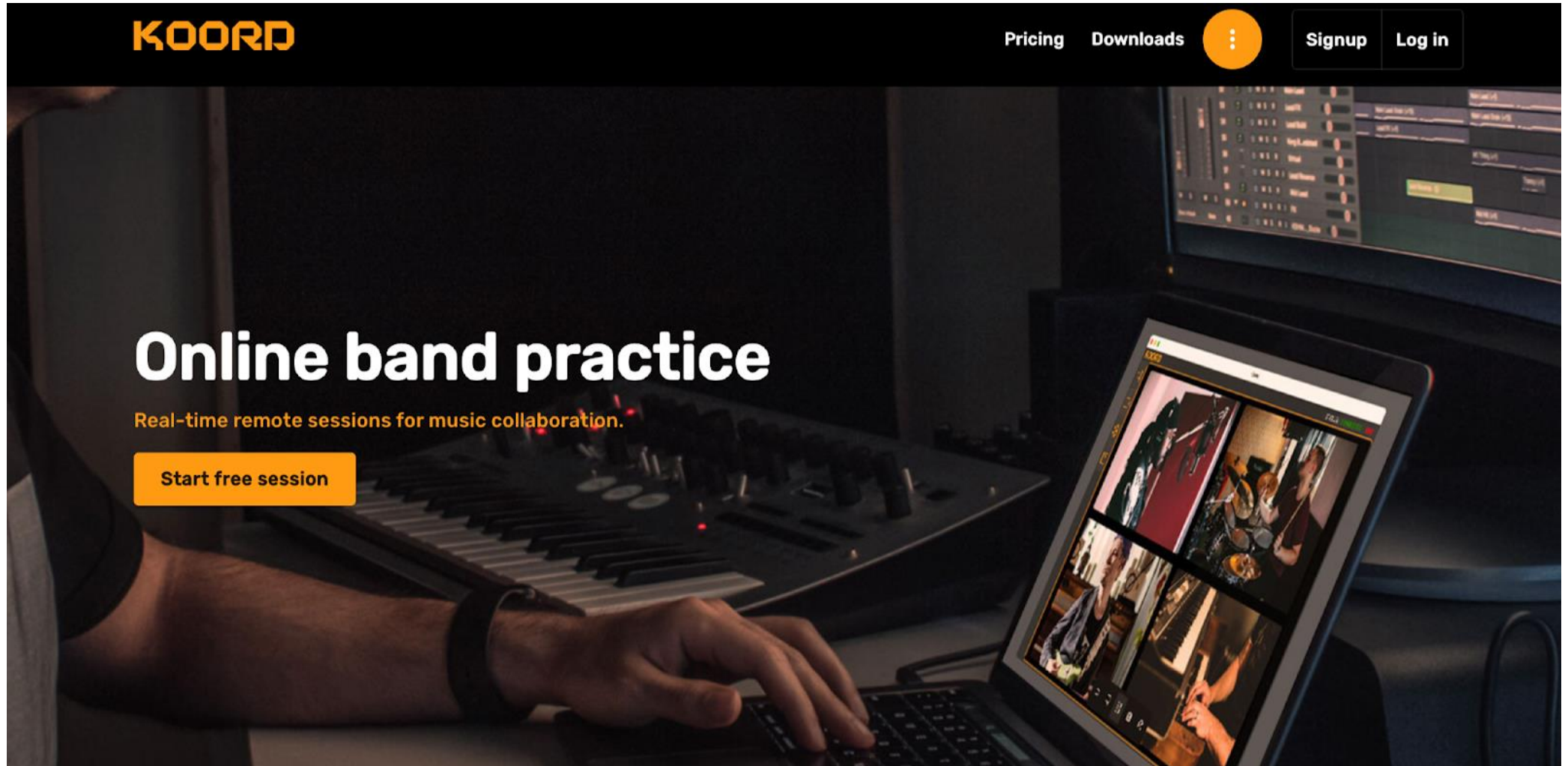





# Pandemic Projects







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"Album Club" promo photo



"Poster Paints" album cover

### Post-Covid

*“Once restriction started to come down, I definitely started to get involved in things that had already been started at home, mostly vocals, yeah” (Tommy Duffin, 16 Ohm Studios).*

*“I think a lot of people wrote a lot of new material during covid .. So I think at the end of the end of the covid period, there was definitely a bump of of work that people got funding to produce - there seemed to be a lot going on” (Peter Fletcher, Black Bay Studios).*

*“I think definitely there have been quite a few projects where it's been people have put time aside to do something they've maybe not ever really given themselves the time to do that before” (Sam Smith, Green Door).*

## Validation

*“you know, they recorded demos during lockdown, yes, and then they decided they needed to go into a studio to record it properly, because they felt they couldn't do it properly at home” Craig Houston*

*if you've got experience, not that you know everything, , when you see people have not really used an EQ before, they end up sort of making these crazy sort of decisions Okay, that's very exciting, but that's not what we're you're probably looking for - you've gone off, fallen off the map here” Sam Smith*

*“I found it tremendously validating when Paul [Savage] okayed the mixes that I had done in the box at home.” MJ McCarthy*

*“I think what happened was covid brought a wave of people going, I need to do something with my time. I need to be more creative. And the thing that people always come to is mixing or mastering. I've got a lot more work just people tracking in their house or in rehearsal rooms, a lot more than they used to pre covid.” Paul Savage*

*“the validation, it's almost like a reassurance as well that, okay, I've taken this to a professional level by hook or by crook” Tommy Duffin*

# A Positive Future for Small to Medium Recording Studios?

*“Yeah, absolutely yes. I still think they have a future ... the future of the studio, is very positive though the model is different from the model of 20 years ago.” Luigi Pasquini*

*“Yeah, I think I'm positive. I think I'm positive for my own situation and that I survived covid, got through it.. I was thinking about this today, and thinking about how studios are set up, and my studio is very much, it's just like my home studio, which I've just made a bit bigger and invited people in.” Tommy Duffin.*

*“I think the small studios for the local bands, that's always going to be there. The smaller ones, I think, will continue to thrive, and the bigger ones ? .” Craig Houston*

*“I've got maybe five or six clients in that category, and that's that's been great. And so, you know, those folk again, they're new to it. ... they make some CDs or whatever it is, and it's been really, it's been really interesting and rewarding and, like, musically. I do feel positive. Yeah, I think it's things that things are going good at the moment. It's, I mean, we're never, you know, more than, more than two or three months away from disaster.. So it's a bit precarious and that's an uncomfortable way to live in some ways, but that's how it's been for 20 years. So it's as good as it's ever been right now. I should be positive. Of course, just be positive.” Peter Fletcher*

La Chunky Studio – thriving? I think so.



Session – September  
10th, 2024.

[www.lachunky.com](http://www.lachunky.com)

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