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## Pavane Recording Studio; an ICON of Singapore

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Pavane Recording Studio is a new recording complex located at Jilan Kilang Timor in Singapore. Designed by world-renowned acoustician Sam Toyoshima, the 2,700 sq ft studio is the result of careful planning and design, and is a remarkable leap from the studio Pavane did occupy for the past 8 years. Pavane specialise in music recording and mixing, post production and mastering.

In the short time that the new Pavane Recording Studio has been opened, the studio's music projects have involved artists and musicians from Taiwan, USA, China, Malaysia and the Philippines. Post production clients have included local Government ministerial departments and organized festivals, and Mediacorp TV.

With such a diverse client and project list, the facility installed a Digidesign ICON 16 fader D-Control work surface to accompany its Pro Tools HD3 Accel system featuring a 192 I/O, Sync I/O and DigiDelivery to accommodate these demands. It sits in the heart of the control room, and has completed the transition to a fully digital setup.

Studio Director, engineer and composer Gao Yang is a talented classically-trained musician with a passion for live recording and mixing. As a long-time user of Pro Tools, his decision to go with ICON was a natural one.

"The two main considerations for us were flexibility and compatibility, to accommodate all of our various projects," Gao Yang says. "Pro Tools, being the de facto standard in the industry, means that by going with ICON, we are capable of receiving and generating data files without compatibility issues."

For Gao, the total recall feature of ICON is a standout and has simplified the workflow undertaken previously. It has also increased productivity for the business and delivered all of the benefits associated with that.

"I can send a mix to a producer in another country for review, and come back to the mix at a later time with every setting preserved," Gao Yang says. "It takes out the guesswork for the occasional job we have to revisit."

The studio is Dolby Surround 5.1- and 7.1-ready, in the anticipation that surround sound mixes will be sought after in the near future. The ability of ICON to provide a quick and simple means to achieve quality surround mixes with its surround panner option, is another important feature.

Studio Manager Rebecca Gao appreciates the demands of the next generation of producers and engineers coming through, and the role that the ICON system will provide for the business into the future.

"It is increasingly common that the younger generation producers like to work the console themselves these days," Rebecca says. "The fact that these producers can more than find their way around a Pro Tools system makes the ICON an even more logical choice."

The spacious control room is purposely designed for the sound engineer in mind, with all equipment within easy reach of the driving seat, an overhead LCD projector positioned well, and an impressive array of monitor speakers including the Genelec 1034. The offset of the client couch to the left of the room, so that it offers a clear view into the recording area is also a nice touch. The role of the ICON 16-fader D-Control in installing confidence in potential clients is not lost on Gao either.

"There is a psychological sense of reassurance when a client steps into a fully-equipped studio featuring an ICON as compared to the typical small setup of just a workstation," Gao Yang says. "A client can sit in for a session in the full confidence that, here at Pavane, we do take our studio very seriously."

The recording area is 1,000 sq ft and can accommodate up to 30 people, and it is clear that no expense was spared in the building and design of the recording studio.

"Purity of sound was a primary objective in the design," Rebecca says. "With the right choice of people, equipment and materials, we like to think that it has made all the difference for this studio."

Pavane Recording Studio is one of the few studios in Singapore capable of hosting large group recordings, and with state-of-the-art equipment found only in top studios around the world, is in a strong position to capitalize in the recent explosion of ensemble and large group recording.

"There is a strong trend towards live recording, particularly entire groups and ensembles," Rebecca says. "Our studio can accommodate this demand with exceptional acoustic design, sufficient physical space and state-of-the-art technology."

Gao believes that in addition to commercial pop music, the studio is well suited for choirs, musical theatre groups, jazz ensembles and acapella groups.

"The advantage Pavane Recording Studio has over other recording studios is the fidelity of the acoustics, the proper treatment and control of them," Gao Yang says. "This allows an accurate reproduction of sound in our recording environment."

With an ever increasing demand for Pavane Recording Studio services from clients and artists alike, the business is positioned to do well, particularly because of the relentless pursuit of perfection by the people behind it.

"What we have here at our recording studio are all the right ingredients – a combination of both state of the art technology and acoustic design fundamentals to achieve and strive for the purity of sound." Gao Yang says.

They also require good support to achieve their goals and objectives and they receive this from Digidesign Singapore dealer IMS Mahajak Pro Audio Pte Ltd.

Established in 2004, IMS Mahajak is a joint venture between IMS Singapore and MAHAJAK Thailand. The company strives to offer professional audio solutions to customers along with outstanding levels of support and service. This approach has seen the company expand their operation into Malaysia and Indonesia.

IMS Mahajak General Manager Shah Tahir is proud to be associated with Pavane Recording Studio and support a company who possess such a strong focus on acoustic and technological excellence.

"Our team at IMS comprises provides a unique level of knowledge and expertise," Shah says. "We can work closely together with clients like Pavane understanding and meeting their needs to make sure we provide the highest quality audio solutions."



The fantastic room at Pavane