

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR RECORDING SESSION

PREPARING YOUR SONGS

If you are working with a Producer, they will be involved in guiding you through these things as part of the pre-production process. If you are self-producing, here are some things to think about before your session:

- **Song Selection:** decide which songs in your catalogue form the strongest group to record.
- **Song Arrangement:** decide on a structure for each song and who will play what musical part when with a goal of keeping a listener's attention from start to finish. The best recorded song structure may differ from the live version.
- **Personnel:** decide who needs to be at the studio when, and if any additional musicians need to be hired.
- **Rehearsal:** get confident with your individual parts and playing them together as a group. Things will likely be created and modified in the studio, but being well-rehearsed will leave more time for experimenting.
- **Demo:** record a simple demo and listen back to evaluate arrangement, song structure, tempo, etc.
- **Tempo:** choose a tempo for each song and if you want to record with a click track, practice with a metronome.
- **Lyrics:** create a typed lyric sheet that reads from the top to the bottom of the song with chorus lyrics repeated.
- **Sonic References:** choose a few songs to help describe the sound you are after by referencing other artists.



Monarch Studios Control Room

GENERAL ADVICE

- Setting goals and creating a rough schedule for your sessions can be helpful. If you share this information with us ahead of your session, we can give feedback and start the day with a plan of how things could be set up.
- Let us know what you need to perform your best (i.e. changes to your headphone mix, mood lighting, privacy, etc). We are very happy to accommodate.
- If you have a lot to record, consider having only essential personnel at the studio. Bringing too many additional people not actively involved in the recording generally slows down the session.
- If you own a hard drive you use to backup data, you can bring it with you, or purchase one at the studio.
- If you are a freelance engineer or producer, a blank [input list](#) and [floor plan](#) are available on our website if you would like to create a plan before you arrive.



Monarch Studios Live Room - view looking towards the window

INSTRUMENT / GEAR PREPARATION

Getting your instruments and equipment in the best possible shape will avoid delays and the need to troubleshoot things in the studio. Here are some things to remember:

- **Guitar Setups:** make sure your guitars are properly setup and play in tune. If you don't have a guitar technician you use already, we recommend [Nicole Alosinac](#). If you are not confident with your guitars, we recommend renting our package of recording instruments.
- **Guitar Strings:** put fresh strings on your guitars a day before the session to allow time to stretch them properly.
- **Pedal Boards / Amps:** make sure your pedals are working properly and quietly, patch cables are reliable, and amps are functioning as they should.
- **Basses:** Changing strings is not always needed depending on the sound you are after. Our rental options include two vintage Fender P-basses, one with round wound, and one with flat wound strings for two distinct sounds. There is no need to bring a bass amp unless you are looking for a specific tone from your specific amp.
- **Drums:** We recommend fresh heads for recording, and if using your own kit, making sure it is free from rattles, buzzes, and squeaks. Our vintage 1965 Ludwig drum kit is available to rent as another option if you like.
- **Piano:** There is no additional charge to use our Yamaha C7 Grand Piano. If you would like it tuned for your session, please [let us know](#) at the time of your booking so we can schedule our piano tuner for you.



Monarch Studios Live Room - view from behind the drum kit

RENTALS / SUPPLIES / MERCHANDISE

Instrument Rentals: \$50/day for one item, \$100/day for everything. Guitar/Bass Amps and Keyboards are included with studio rental at no additional cost.

Drums:

- Ludwig Drum Kit (1965) w/ 5" Supraphonic Snare (22" Kick, 16" Floor Tom, 13" Rack Tom, 14" Snare)
- Paiste 602 Classic Cymbals (14" hats, 14" sound edge hats, 16" & 18" Thin Crash, 20" Flat Ride, 20" & 22" Ride)



Basses:

- Fender Precision Bass w/ flat wounds (1972)
- Fender Precision Bass '63 Fullerton Reissue (1985)



Guitars:

- Fender Telecaster (1985)
- Fender JV Stratocaster (1982)
- Gibson 335 MHS Spec (2014)
- Gibson J45 True Vintage Acoustic Guitar (2007)
- Martin D18 Acoustic Guitar (1983)



Supplies

- 32GB USB Flash Drives - \$20
- 1TB USB Hard Drives - \$100
- Acoustic Guitar Strings - \$15
- Electric Guitar Strings - \$10
- Moongel Drum Dampers - \$10
- Monarch Guitar Picks - Free

Merchandise:

- T-shirt - \$20
- Sweatshirt - \$40
- Toque - \$10
- Ball Cap - \$25
- Stainless Insulated Mug - \$20

FOOD / SNACKS

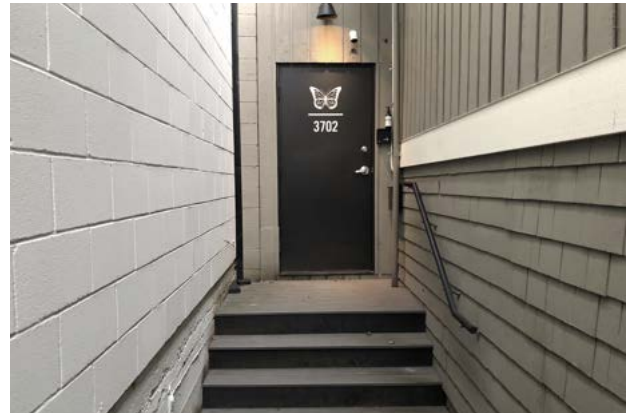
Coffee, tea, water, and some light snacks are provided in our private lounge. We recommend bringing some other healthy snacks to your session as well to keep everyone's energy up. Nearby restaurants within 1-block of the studio include Commercial Street Café, Chance Café, and The Flourist.



Monarch Studios Lounge

DIRECTIONS / PARKING

Monarch Studios is located at 3702 Commercial Street in Vancouver. The front door is set back from the street and located between Britannia Food Equipment and a grey house. Look for the black door with a white butterfly and 3702 on it. Press the CALL button at the door when you arrive.



Front Door

There is convenient load-in at the back of the building and also 3 parking stalls you are welcome to use, accessed from the alley. Look for another black door with a white butterfly and 3702 on it, and press the CALL button when you arrive.



Back of Building