

A Studio Rooted in History

Panama Sound resides in Richmond's historic Annex neighborhood—a community with deep roots in America's wartime industrial mobilization. During World War II, this area rapidly transformed to house thousands of workers who flooded into Richmond to build Liberty Ships and Victory Ships at the nearby Kaiser Shipyards. These shipyards operated around the clock, producing vessels at unprecedented pace that helped win the war in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. The homes here were built quickly to accommodate this massive workforce—welders, riveters, crane operators, and their families who came from across the country to contribute to the war effort. What was once emergency wartime housing has matured into a quiet, well-maintained residential neighborhood.

The Perfect Acoustic Setting

What makes Panama Sound truly special for recording is its distance from modern disruptions. The studio sits far enough from BART trains, freeway traffic, and flight paths to capture that elusive quiet, intimate sound that's increasingly rare in the Bay Area. Low-density residential zoning ensures the neighborhood maintains its peaceful character—no commercial traffic, no industrial noise, just the kind of stillness that lets you hear every nuance of a performance.

After Your Session

Decompress in our backyard garden where butterflies drift past and hummingbirds hover among the wildflower blooms. Sit by the fire pit, reflect on your session, and start planning the next one.

Where history meets creativity.

Where vibe is king, and your best take is always one coffee and a deep breath away.

panamasound.com

Ready to Create?

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(510) 965-3237
panamasound.com

Studio Services & Rates

Six-Hour Sessions: \$450 Flat Rate

Each session includes **tracking**, audio **engineering**, **mixing**, and **production** support. You leave with professionally recorded tracks and a great mix.

Optional Mastering: \$150, 10 business day turnaround

Available Sessions

Days

Friday/Sunday: 12:00–6:00 PM

Nights

Monday/Saturday: 5:30–11:30 PM

Payment: \$225 deposit + \$225 at completion. Reschedule free with 72 hours notice.

We accept: cash, checks, cards, digital wallets, bank transfers, and buy now pay later.



**Professional
Recording
Richmond California**



VIBE IS KING

Welcome to Panama Sound

Recording shouldn't feel like a laboratory experiment. At Panama Sound, we've built something different: a professional studio in a comfortable home environment where great gear meets creative freedom.

What Makes Us Different

Tracking, production and mixing are included in one flat-rate. No upsells, no charges for premium gear, it's all available. We put 100% of our studio behind your creative vision.

We've got tools that put 95% of home-based music studios to shame: professional interface, converters, preamps, killer mic locker, cables. High-fidelity, future-proof digital masters. We are competing with commercial recording facilities in the gear department

But you'll never feel the gear. No troubleshooting patch-bays. No twenty-minute signal flow monologues (unless you want to hear about it). No gear snobbery. Just professional infrastructure working silently like a ninja butler.

Whether you're a solo artist, duo, or full band, Panama Sound offers technical quality that competes with commercial studios in an environment where you can actually breathe and create.

The Philosophy: Why "Vibe Is King"

Great recordings don't come from intimidating technical environments—they come from spaces where artists feel comfortable enough to take risks and deliver their best performances.

Ma, Shibui, Wabi-Sabi

Our approach draws from Japanese aesthetics

Ma (negative space): We don't fill every frequency or compress every dynamic. Space gives weight to sound.

Shibui (understated elegance): Our gear is chosen for musical rightness, not impressive specs. Simplicity is sophistication.

Wabi-sabi (imperfect beauty): Breath sounds, string squeaks, timing rushes when emotion takes over—these aren't flaws. They're proof humans made this music.

Kaizen: *Zero Waste, Maximum Music*
Administrative tasks happen before your session starts. The first few minutes should be spent capturing sound, not choice-paralysis. If a technical fix takes longer than one minute, we move on and trust the performance. Six hours is enough when every minute serves the music.

The Ears Behind the Studio

My approach to recording has been shaped by three composers who taught me to hear without boundaries:

Vangelis showed me that formal training isn't everything. Completely self-taught, yet he created some of the most emotionally powerful music in film history. He proved that vision and passion can take you anywhere, and that synthesizers could paint landscapes as vivid as any orchestra.

Stevie Wonder brought the gift of soul—that quality that makes music feel something deep in your chest. His work taught me that technical perfection means nothing without heart, and that the best recordings capture genuine emotion, not just clean takes.

Ryuichi Sakamoto expanded my world with fearless experimentation and incredible range—from pioneering electronic music to minimalist piano to film scores. He taught me that respecting tradition and pushing boundaries aren't opposites; they're partners.

The Lesson From Todd Rundgren

In 1991, when I was 14, Todd Rundgren spent fifteen minutes talking with me after a lecture on digital recording at the PFA in SF. He didn't have to do that, but he gave me his full attention and showed me what it means to be generous with your time and knowledge. That generosity shaped how I approach every session—whether you're 14 or 40, whether this is your first recording or your fiftieth, you deserve that same respect and attention.

What This Means For Your Music

You're not just getting a recording engineer—you're getting someone who understands that great music lives in the space between technical excellence and emotional truth.