
Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction	xiii
Chapter 1. Recording History	1
1.1. In the beginning was the phonograph.	1
1.2. When it really started	2
1.3. Magnetic recording	8
1.4. The advent of 78 rpm	9
1.5. The magnetic tape and the LP	15
1.6. 8-track cartridges, mini-cassette and Trimicon.	20
1.7. The compact disk and the advent of digital technology	27
1.8. Digital technology is essential	29
1.9. Hard disk recorder and minidisc	36
1.10. Microcomputer, direct-to-disk and DAW	38
1.11. To conclude.	42
Chapter 2. The Voice	45
2.1. The vocal apparatus and its functioning	45
2.2. Voice and breath.	48
2.3. Song and speech	49
2.4. Frequency, intensity and timbre	50
2.5. Voice and range	51
2.6. Voice quality	54
2.7. Characteristics of the vocal timbre	55
2.8. Conclusion	57

Chapter 3. Microphones	59
3.1. A little history	59
3.2. The characteristics of a microphone	71
3.2.1. General characteristics	71
3.2.2. Specific characteristics	91
3.3. Microphone families.	93
3.3.1. Microphone and transformer.	94
3.3.2. Dynamic moving coil microphones	96
3.3.3. Ribbon microphones	98
3.3.4. Condenser microphones	100
3.3.5. USB microphones.	104
3.4. Uses of microphones according to their directivity.	107
3.4.1. Omnidirectional microphones	107
3.4.2. Bidirectional microphones (figure-8)	107
3.4.3. Cardioid microphones	109
3.5. Conclusion	110
Chapter 4. The Acoustic Environment	111
4.1. Location of pickup and sound isolation	111
4.2. Acoustic processing	112
4.2.1. State of the art.	112
4.2.2. Bass traps	114
4.2.3. Acoustic diffusers.	123
4.3. Acoustic booths	130
4.4. Accessories.	132
4.4.1. Acoustic shields.	132
4.4.2. Pop filters	135
4.4.3. Headphones	136
4.4.4. Microphone suspensions	142
4.4.5. Feet, poles, and arms	142
4.4.6. Bonnets	146
4.5. Conclusion	148

Conclusion	149
Appendices	151
Appendix 1. Sound Unit	153
Appendix 2. Audio Connectivity	161
Appendix 3. Audio Processing Plugins	171
Appendix 4. Tube and JFET Microphone Amplifiers	177
Appendix 5. Microphone Pairs	181
Glossary	195
References	203
Index	213