

# A FEW TIPS & NOTES FROM JIMI BEFORE YOUR SESSION!

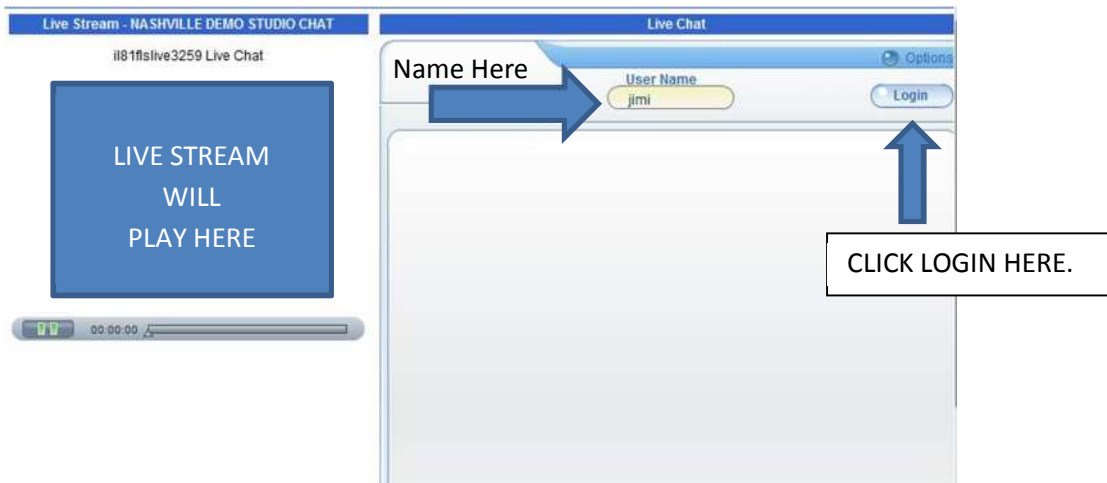
Dear Client,

Even though this was outlined in my initial email to you and in your contract with us, I wanted to go over two important things about your tracking session tomorrow with the musicians (**I know this is lengthy, but to ensure that you get the VERY BEST customer service and recording please read**):

1. **LIVE WEB STREAM:** If you plan on attending the tracking/vocal session online, you will be accessing our "live stream". Make sure any pop up blockers are turned "off" on your web browser. Go to [www.nashvilledemostudio.com](http://www.nashvilledemostudio.com) and click on the yellow "LIVE STREAM" button located all the way to the right of the navigation on the home page.



This will bring up a window where you will see/hear the stream. To the right you will see a chat box, at the top, enter your name and click "log in". This will allow you to chat with us.



2. **PREPRODUCTION:** It is IMPARTITIVE that you communicate ALL of your ideas in your preproduction meeting. This way we can chart out a course of action in recording your song in the most effective way, resulting in the desired sound. The actual recording session is not the time to start coming up with ideas and trying different things on the song. While we want to

keep the tracking session a creative and fun environment and experience for you, we also have to be efficient with the musicians to keep the costs down so that we can continue to extend the great prices that we offer.

3. **THE TRACKING SESSION** -We work on a traditional “Nashville Session”. Meaning, all of the musicians play at the same time, like a band. We do this for many reasons, but the two most important are that first, it’s very efficient. And secondly, recording in this manner allows the band to come up with a true “Nashville sound” that is stellar and cohesive. Unless you will be here in person to sing a scratch vocal during the session, there will be no vocals recorded during the actual instrumentation tracking session. Your vocalist will come in to record your song after the instrumentation has been fully recorded and we will let you know when that is scheduled.
4. **TIME ALLOTMENT** - A traditional Nashville session is comprised of 5-6 songs and lasts 3 hours. So if you are doing less than 5 songs, you will be sharing your session with other writers, and each writer is given their “time” with the musicians to record the basic instrumentation for your song. This is done in 30 minute blocks. Please note that 30 minutes is NOT all the time allocated to your entire production but it is the allotted time block on the 3 hour session. We do extensive preproduction/charting so that by the time we bring your song into the studio with the musicians, there is a definite “game plan” for how your song should sound and be produced. Additionally, our producers will communicate any specific ideas you had for your song that you discussed in preproduction to the musicians. So once again, even though the “song block” of time is 30 minutes, the total amount of time we really spend on your song is about 15 or more hours with charting, preproduction, instrument tracking, vocal tracking, background vocal tracking, as well as three different mixes of your song and tweaks. But for the “good of the session” *it is important that we try to stick to the [basic instrumentation tracking time of 30 minutes per song](#)*. Any additional overdubbing, ie: additional keyboard parts, fiddle, etc. will be done AFTER the 3 hour basic instrumentation session (dependent upon the package you purchased).
5. **WORKING/COMMUNICATING WITH MUSICIANS** –  
**Working With:** First, I want to ensure you that the players we use are some of Nashville’s best and brightest. Our musicians WANT you to be pleased with your song. It is their job to interpret your song in the style you want and to come up with cool parts for your song. The one BIG difference we see between amateur writers and the hit writers we do demo’s for is how much creative license they give the musicians. Seasoned writers tend to trust musicians a little more than newer writers. That is simply just a matter of experience, really. Hit writers have been doing this long enough to know that if they “let the musicians go” a little they will typically come up with stuff that is probably cooler than what they would have come up with on their own, because most writers are “writers” and do that brilliantly. Again, if you want us to stick to your work tape lick for lick and note for note, we will TOTALLY accommodate that because you’re complete satisfaction is our goal. But we do encourage you to let the musicians “do what they do best” allow them come up with some really cool stuff for you!  
**Communicating With:** Sometimes it can be intimidating speaking up if you aren’t digging something the musicians are doing, especially if you aren’t a musician yourself. Please know that our musicians WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY with your recording. Additionally, we only have so

much allotted time with the musicians, so please be encouraged to communicate to them so that we can be efficient and effective when it comes to your recording. Also, if you are online producing, please be timely in responding to our questions. If you aren't, we have musicians just waiting around for instruction.

6. **WORKING/COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR VOCALIST(S):**

**Working with:** Just like musicians, if you let the vocalist have some creative license they will typically come up with some amazing parts that you might not have thought of. A good demo singer will sing your song well. A GREAT demo singer will sell your song back to you. Giving them some wiggle room aids them in accomplishing this. Again, if you want it note for note to your work tape, they are professionals and can certainly accommodate that for you.

**Communicating with:** Just like the musicians, please feel free to speak up if you feel you need to address something with your vocalist!

7. **OTHER THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

-Your preproduction meeting notes are read out loud to the musicians/vocalists so that everyone is on the same page and the producer on the session will also act as your "translator" if you so need one communicating your ideas to the musicians/vocalists.

-Our musicians and vocalists are contractors, not employees. The best vocalists and musicians in town (which are the ones we use) record at many studios, on major label records and projects around town. Please keep in mind that they are not on staff here, so if you need a musician or a vocalist to recut a part, it's best to do that while they are here. We are at the mercy of THEIR schedules and have no control over their availability if you need them to come back.

I hope these don't sound harsh in any way. It's important to me that you are WELL INFORMED and are completely satisfied with our service. The best way I know how to accomplish this is to be very upfront and communicate with you through every step of the process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Looking forward to recording your song!

*Jimi Heath-Whitelaw*

Jimi Heath-Whitelaw

Owner/CEO

**Nashville Demo Studio**

**Nashville's #1 Demo Studio!**

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Samples of our Work: <http://nashvilledemostudio.com/samples.htm>

Free Songwriter Resources : <http://nashvilledemostudio.com/songwriterresources.htm>

Songwriter Events: <http://nashvilledemostudio.com/events.htm>

Music Row Mentoring Program: <http://nashvilledemostudio.com/mentoring.htm> /9