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Modern Tones - unique recording facility opens in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Students jam together at Modern Tones Music Studio. Photos provided

excitement. "We have a lot of requests for Imagine Dragons and Ed Sheeran," Light notes. "We make sure students know all the basics. We tailor our instruction to the students," he says, adding they also get requests for video game music.

Rhythm and harmony can be taught with an Ed Sheeran song just as well as with a Bach or Mozart piece, says Light, who was classically trained but who enjoyed Nirvana and Green Day growing up. "As long as there's an emotional connection with the song," he adds.

Light was born and raised in Israel. He has spent 25 years as a musician. Now settled with his wife and child in the East Bay, he says he has found a love of teaching, which also allows him time with family instead of being on the road most of the time.

This business is clearly Light's dream. His passion is music and his enthusiasm is infectious. His pride in the new facility is obvious as he gives a tour of the six recording rooms.

"The place used to be a dog-grooming business," he recalls as he explains how in May 2016 he completely gutted and renovated the space - a process that took roughly a year.

The next year was spent setting up the studios. He did much of the work himself, spending 17-hour days working hard to ensure the sound would be perfect. He says the soldering work alone took over a week. All the high-quality cabling cost thousands of dollars but he says that since his background is recording in the best studios in the world, his own studio had to be up to the same high standards. All the high-quality guitars available to students are from Light's own personal collection - all worth thousands of dollars.

Light is proud of each of the six recording rooms. Each room is isolated and each is acoustically treated for different specific instruments or vocals, according to the amount of reverberation required.

The state-of-the-art control room is connected to the live room for whole bands or isolated drums, a vocal booth and three isolation booths set up for professional mixing and recording.

The décor is clean and fresh. No detail has been overlooked although Light credits his wife on the interior design.

In addition to guitar, bass, piano and violin, Modern Tones also offers instruction in songwriting, music production and voice. They offer voiceover work and audio book recording.

Light says they have recently helped a band of 16-year-olds produce an E.P. of their own music and says they helped them learn how to perform. All the studio's instructors are younger, professional musicians who know how to use technology and teach students how to use multi-tracking, how to promote themselves and how to create great YouTube videos. They even have an in-house rap and hip-hop producer.

The studio uses technology in all aspects of its business with online scheduling and automated reminders, streamlining the operation and keeping costs competitive.

Modern Tones Studios had its ribbon-cutting ceremony in May and is now open to the general public. Located behind Jack-in-the-Box at 1018-B Almanor Lane in Lafayette, there is plenty of free parking right outside the studio.

For more details go to <https://moderntonestudios.com/>.



The state of the art recording studios.

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