

# CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, November 2011



## RECORDING A POP SONG

How is a pop song recorded? You may think the band go into a studio, the engineer places a microphone in front of them, they play and hey presto! you have a record. Well, this *was* how a record was made in the early days of recording with the quietest instruments nearest the microphone, the loudest furthest away. Today, the situation is quite different. The main difference is that, because of multi-track technology, instruments can be recorded individually, at different times.

The drum kit is the most complicated instrument to record and this is recorded first. The smallest kit would have four or five drums and three cymbals. As it is impractical to record each individually, one after another, they all have to be played simultaneously. Each drum (and cymbal) has its own microphone positioned a few centimeters away and not pointing at any other drum. This is to reduce 'bleed', where the sound from one drum bleeds into a microphone positioned above another. Special microphones that only record sound sources at which they are pointing and those sensitive to a limited frequency range (for example, the bass drum microphone is not likely to pick up much sound from the high frequency cymbals) are used for the same reason. The aim is to have several tracks each containing the sound of only one drum. These can then be mixed together, with the volumes adjusted, and panned left and right to varying degrees to create a stereo effect. The tonal quality of individual drum tracks can be changed after recording and sound effects (such as echo) added.



Henson Recording Studios, L.A, USA

After the drums, the bass guitar would most likely be next, followed by the rhythm guitar, keyboards and any lead

instrument (that is, one playing a solo). The vocals are usually the last to be added (the lead vocal followed by the backing vocals). By recording each separately there is no problem with bleed and no need for all the musicians to play perfectly at the same time: the best 'take' from each musician can be selected.

Once all the 'live' instruments have been recorded, pre-recorded samples or computer-generated sounds can be added. The computer allows the engineer to correct mistakes, too: re-pitching an out-of-tune note or re-positioning one played too early or too late are simple matters. The whole mix is then compressed (which reduces the range of volume in the song to achieve a greater impact) and tonally tweaked (boosting or cutting various frequencies).

*Article by Jonathan*

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## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office!

\* Call for details: **089 9217595**

**SITE OF THE MONTH:**

You can find some of the history of recording music here:

<http://www.soc.duke.edu/~s142tm01/history2.html>

# *Some Thoughts for the Month*



**Joshua Says:** This month's performance night and end-of-term party will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I am eagerly looking forward to all the usual shenanigans, but this term we are going to try something different. As suggested by some of you, we are going to try an "international food fair" to get the evening going. This will start earlier than the usual party and I'm very keen to see how it works out. Check out the details with Junko. See you there!

**Junko Says:** A borderless world is steadily taking shape and, with it, an international culture is being born. We cannot directly "learn" this culture, but we do naturally assimilate its effects as it evolves and we mature along with it. We can, however, learn the language that carries its message, English. I think it is evident that the further we go, the more important English will become. I truly hope more and more people in Japan start to realize this.



**Jonathan Says:** Last month I went to Kyoto with my family. We stayed in a machiya, about 100 years old. My wife loved the owner's Kyoto dialect, which, unfortunately, I could not appreciate. We splashed out on a five-course dinner at a restaurant famous for Kyoto specialties and visited the usual temples and shrines. My wife and I enjoyed ourselves but Kyoto is busy and no place to take small children.

**Matthew Says:** I am pleased about the number of public holidays you have here in Japan. Last Thursday I went to a small race track and watched some amateur car racing. It was interesting to see that Japanese people have a place where they can take their cars to see how fast they can go. The only way an Englishman can do this is on the street – illegally!



**Ludovic Dit:** L'autre jour, à la télévision japonaise, j'ai vu une émission intéressante (c'est rare !) : un séminaire qui apprend aux Japonais comment parler en public, se présenter, plaisanter, de manière à captiver l'auditoire. Et les résultats étaient surprenants ! J'espère bien que cela va se généraliser au Japon, ce serait bénéfique pour beaucoup, et surtout pour l'enseignement des langues !

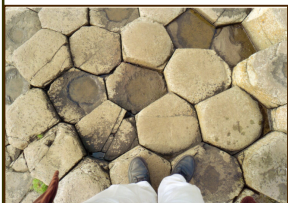
# NOTICE BOARD

## The Giant's Causeway

Yukiko Yagi from S(B)1 recently visited Northern Ireland. This is her report:

The Giant's Causeway is a natural formation of hexagonal pillars made of stone. It's located on the north coast of Northern Ireland and continues for about 8km. It was made by a lava flow about 60 million years ago. The lava cooled rapidly and contracted into hexagonal-shaped pillars as if it was a tiled floor.

A legend says that the causeway was made by a giant to go across the sea to Scotland to fight with an enemy. If you go and look at the remarkable view you'll believe the legend.



## THE END OF TERM PARTY And Performance Night

This term will be held on Saturday 26th November

Plays, Recitals, karaoke and lots of fun. Don't forget to invite your friends and family to come along!

Starting at 8:00pm

We are also going to hold

an international food fair on the same day

Starting at 6:00pm!

\* You can get the details from Junko in our office

## Miho and Akane's Adventures Overseas - a serial by S(A)3 students: Episode 7

'Please calm down, Miho', Tom said. 'Let me introduce her. This is my younger sister, Alice'. Miho stared open-mouthed at Alice. Akane felt greatly relieved. 'I really wanted to meet you again but I couldn't make contact with you because of my complicated situation'.

He explained that when his visa expired he returned to Australia but soon after his father's business went into crisis. He was busily engaged in fund-raising activities. An inquiry detected fraudulent accounting: one of the accountants was diverting funds into his own pocket. The matter was settled just yesterday so they went to the stadium to celebrate.

'You must be the Japanese girl he's always talking about!', said Alice, winking at her. Akane thought 'Good for you, Miho'.

Miho said, 'I couldn't forget you so I quit my job and came here to search for you'. Tom was deeply impressed.

'What a lucky day!', shouted Alice.

'What's lucky about it? Australia lost the game', grumbled some Australians at the bar. But when they heard Miho and Tom's story they cheered up and bought them a drink.

- The End -

Authors: Yukiko Tamai, Atsuyuki Yoko, Kazunori Saeki, Eri Ukita, Yuko Kozai

## Courses you can join at CROSSROADS

### GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回/週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる  
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回/週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

**クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語**

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語

### COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

### NET(ネット)レッスン

グループOR プライベート

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~  
詳細はお問合せ下さい



### KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

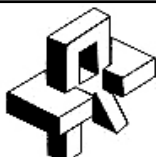
グループOR プライベート



### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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