



Colleague stories



Recording at Abbey Road

Take a read as our Senior Compliance Officer Emma Brown talks through her amazing experience of visiting and recording at Abbey Road studios.

Since booking my taster session with my local Rock Choir last September, I've been hooked. I signed up on the spot, and since then, singing with the choir has opened up incredible opportunities to perform at local events, from the Watford Winterfest and Kings Langley Carnival to the Herts County Show. We've even performed further afield at the historic Audley End House and participated in a flash mob at London's St. Pancras Station.

But without a doubt, the most exciting opportunity that felt like a dream come true, was the chance to record at Abbey Road Studios.

Stepping into Abbey Road was surreal. We began by crossing the iconic zebra crossing, where the Beatles famously posed for their Abbey Road album cover. Once inside, we were treated like guests of honour, surrounded by memorabilia from legendary artists and orchestras that had recorded in the same studios. The corridor walls were lined with photos of The Beatles, Adele, Oasis, Lulu, and more. The atmosphere was electric.

We began our warm-up session in Studio 2, the room where countless classic albums were born. The studio's famous staircase, leading up to the control room where Paul McCartney once posed, added to the awe. It was humbling to realise we were standing in the same space where some of the world's greatest music had been created.

We gathered around a grand piano, right in the middle of the room - an unforgettable spot that had also been used for filming scenes in the most recent Doctor Who. The acoustics were astounding; the sound filled the room, giving every note depth that made everything feel bigger and bolder.

After a quick photo session and warming up our voices, we moved into the larger Studio 1. This is where orchestras recorded the epic Star Wars soundtracks. As we put on our recording headsets and heard the technicians' voices come through the control room, a hush fell over the group of nearly 200 excited singers who had been nervously chatting moments earlier. The moment had arrived.

Our choir leader raised her arms in anticipation, the intro music played, and the big red "on-air" lights illuminated - this was real!

We recorded several songs, starting with our main piece, "Somewhere Only We Know" by Keane, accompanied by a live pianist, it was an emotional experience. I've included the recording here for you to enjoy, along with a montage of photos from our unforgettable day.

[View the recording and montage here](#)

We also recorded some of our more upbeat tracks with our Rock Choir backing tracks: "Green Green Grass" by George Ezra, "Loco in Acapulco", and "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N' Roses.

Our day ended with a final photo at the front entrance steps, and as I stood there, it felt like a "pinch me" moment - an experience that I would recommend to anyone. After all, how many people can say they've recorded at Abbey Road Studios?

Now, it's back to preparing for more performances: We will be entertaining tourists and Londoners in Trafalgar Square very soon. And if I'm one of the lucky ones chosen, next March I could be performing with the half-time show at the Saracens vs. Harlequins rugby Showdown at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium!

Emma

Emma Brown
Senior Compliance Officer

