

# CENTERSTAGING™ Quarter Notes

BACKLINE FROM STUDIO TO STAGE

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# Brodie on Guitars

CENTERS STAGING

*by Brodie*

Put this one on  
your desk.



I've been playing guitar for around 16 years, and my journey to becoming a guitar tech really began when I moved to LA to attend the Musicians Institute. Growing up as a bit of a "play-hard" guy, I've broken my personal electric guitar four times, so by the fourth break, I figured it was time to learn how to fix it myself. Having grown up on a farm, I've always enjoyed working with my hands and fixing things, so this became the perfect way to blend my skills with my love of music.

Artists' preferences can vary widely based on their genre. Many of our clients are in the pop world, where clean tones are key so they tend to request things like Fender amps. But our rock and metal artists usually go for heavier gear and prefer brands like Mesa, Marshall, and Orange. This business is all about understanding



A close-up photograph of the headstock of a guitar, showing four tuning pegs with white, pearloid buttons. The headstock is made of dark wood and has a hexagonal shape. The background is a solid dark color.

**cont'd.**

the needs of the artists to help them have the perfect show.

To be a good guitar tech, adaptability and attention to detail are crucial. Every artist has their own style and preferences. I can give general setup suggestions, but it really comes down to individual needs. For instance, if someone plays hard, I need to give them a little more room in their setup to avoid buzzing. Knowing those details helps me cater to each musician's unique sound.

[centerstaging.com](http://centerstaging.com)

## *Keys to the* **Kingdom**

Optimising the iconic sound of the Rhodes piano, the MK8 offers considerable improvements in tone, touch, intonation and dynamics...**READ MORE**

# The Legendary Interview

with JoAnn Tominaga



by Johnny



We sat down with JoAnn Tominaga of Powerbase Entertainment for our Legendary Interview. JoAnn has served the industry for decades supporting some of the biggest names in the industry.

***What inspired you to pursue a career in the music Business and Music television, and how did you get your start in the industry?***

I studied music in college and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Master's in Music. I was lucky enough to start working with Tommy Bahlor as a session singer on jingles. Through one of these sessions, I met Russ Titelman, a producer at WB Records and friend of Tommy's. When his assistant quit,





## INTERVIEW

### *cont'd.*

I ended up working with Russ and his producing partner, Lenny Waronker, the summer after I graduated. I learned how to coordinate recording sessions by working on some of the top projects of the time, including Rickie Lee Jones, James Taylor, and Chaka Khan.

When Lenny became President of WB Records, Russ moved to New York, and I started working with Michael Ostin, the head of A&R, for the next 10 years. I worked with some of the biggest acts at WB—Madonna, Prince, Fleetwood Mac, Rod Stewart— before moving to Quincy Jones' label, Qwest Records. I spent 7 years there, ultimately becoming GM and running the label.

When Quincy decided to close his label, I shifted to working with a Talent Producer on TV shows. I learned the production side of things, but my goal was always to stay in music. My time at the record labels sharpened my skills in marketing, negotiation, and seeing the bigger picture of a project.

***What has been one of your most memorable moments and what has been your biggest challenges in your career, and how did you overcome it?***

“

*A strong tech and music prep team is essential to ensure everything is ready for the musicians with minimal rehearsal time.*

”

*“One of the most memorable projects was when I was lucky enough to work on a PBS “In Performance at the White House” when President Obama was in office. We were working on a Blues show with Mick Jagger, and during rehearsal, the President walked in and stayed for the whole thing.*

*There’s a rule at the White House that no one can leave when the POTUS is in the room, so we all had to sit and wait while he watched Mick Jagger. After a while, President Obama got up, apologized if he’d interrupted our work, and said, “It’s not every day that Mick Jagger is singing in my house.”*





STUDIOS

# Rehearsal Studios 2.0

An interview with CenterStaging's Studio Manager



by Jr.

**In the 20 years that you've been at CenterStaging, how has the backline industry changed?** Backline riders have become more detailed, and the musicians we work with are always looking for the most up-to-date gear that's clean and tailored to their needs.

**What do you feel is unique about the studio experience that we offer our clients?** Everything!! Clients want a one-stop-shop, along with a space that supports their production needs. We pay close attention to every detail and request. During their stay, clients have round-the-clock access to full on-site support unavailable anywhere else. We're not just providing space or gear; we offer a full-service solution, ensuring everything flows smoothly from the studio to the stage.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?** Knowing that we played a small role in creating the perfect show.

A few times a year, a CenterStaging quarter note will appear in one of our social posts.

1. Spot the quarter note.
2. Be the first to comment.
3. You'll receive one item from exclusive swag collection.

So turn on your CenterStaging notifications. Let's Get Social.

# Let's Get Social.

# 5



# On-Site Catering? *We got you!*

The W Lounge offers a curated selection of snacks and beverages to fuel your day—whether you're rehearsing in the studio or taking a break. The menu includes chef-prepared meals and a variety of snacks, with options for various dietary needs, including vegetarian and gluten-free.

The lounge also offers catering and craft services for clients wanting to enhance their studio experience.

Open from 9 AM to 8 PM, the W Lounge is a great spot to recharge throughout the long production days. *Stay tuned for the BUY.LIVE/The Stage update in the next issue!*



by Jen

**[VIEW OUR MENU](#)**



**CENTERSTAGING**

## ***GRETSCH***

**JAN 21,** 3p - 7p

### **Gretsch Drums Open House**

The Gretsch Lounge is now open at CenterStaging! Book an appointment to explore iconic instruments, try new gear, and get expert advice.

## **MOBILE SESSIONS**

**MAR 14** 11a - 3p

### **Mobile Sessions Experience**

Mobile Sessions is bringing their unique Dolby Atmos-equipped mobile studio to CenterStaging for an exclusive showcase. Come see how it can elevate your music!

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**CENTERSTAGING™**

2517 N Ontario St

Burbank, CA 91504

(818) 559-4333

[centerstaging.com](http://centerstaging.com)



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