

SESSIONS

Terra Nova Mastering—First in Austin

For the past five years, Terra Nova Mastering (www.terranovamastering.com) has handled all of New West Records' *Austin City Limits* releases—a series of 5.1 surround DVDs and full-length CDs that showcase not only the best of ACL, but many of the best roots and rock 'n' roll performers anywhere. Chief engineer Jerry Tubb's first ACL project was a Lucinda Williams performance; other highlights have included Norah Jones, David Byrne, Neko Case and the Platinum-selling DVD of Johnny Cash's 1987 appearance on the program. And New West is just one of the thousands of clients that Tubb and his wife and partner, interior designer/artist Diane Tubb, have hosted during the 19 years since they opened Austin's first dedicated mastering facility.

"Jerry and I met in Midland, Texas," Diane Tubb says. "He was head of the commercial music department at Midland Junior College. We had been married about a year when he came back from one of the earliest South by Southwest, and said, 'You know, there's no mastering studio in Austin.'"

"So I had the bright idea to quit my job," Jerry Tubb says with

a laugh. "And we picked up and moved to Austin."

The Tubbs' first studio was in a spare bedroom in their new home, but after a talented young singer/songwriter named Bob Schneider tracked mud through the house, "Diane said, 'Go find yourself a studio,'" Jerry Tubb says.

The Tubbs then rented an 800-square-foot space where Jerry Tubb could set up a Digidesign Sound Tools system, and Diane Tubb ran the business side. They launched a direct-mail campaign to Texas musicians, studios and engineers, and word spread that Austin had its own digital mastering studio. "I started working with Willie Nelson and Ray Benson and Jerry Jeff Walker," Jerry Tubb says. "We were off and running."

Terra Nova has moved/expanded twice more since then; it's now situated in a 3,000-square-foot industrial space that includes two 400-square-foot mastering rooms—one occupied by Jerry Tubb and the other by engineer Nick Landis, who works mainly in Pro Tools.

Jerry Tubb's studio centers around Sonic Studio's SoundBlade. His main monitors are Dunlavy



PHOTO: COORE PHOTOGRAPHICS

For 19 years, Jerry and Diane Tubb have owned and operated Terra Nova; mastering credits include Eric Johnson, John Hiatt, Marcia Ball and 15 Willie Nelson albums.

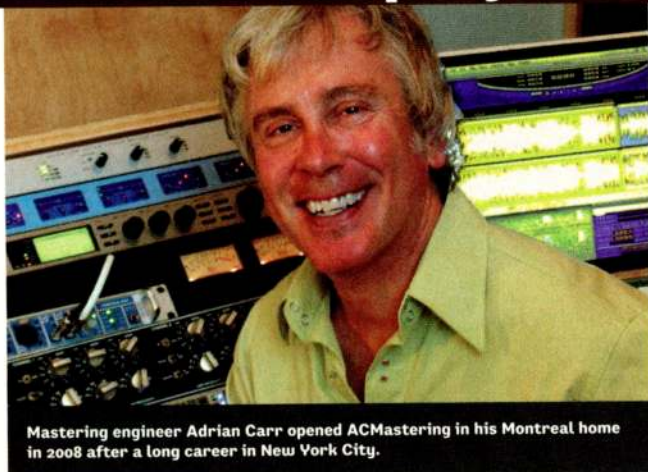
SC-IVAs; in '04, when New West called, he added Paradigm center and surround speakers. And though he's used a digital platform since 1990, he relies on some key analog pieces: Sontec 432 mastering EQ, Millennia Media NSEQ2 with Fred Forssell mods and Manley VariMu compressor.

The studios were designed by Jerry Tubb and Austin's Gilbert Designs. "I'd been working in small, dead rooms for too long," Jerry Tubb says, "so I wanted a big room with a tall ceiling and we left

it pretty live. When we were finishing the acoustics of the room, we needed more treatment, so I asked Diane to do some paintings on big canvases. My walls here are covered with these far-out paintings of abstract guitars and violins. And I have to say, Diane is responsible for the success of our business. She is so good with people and always has a big smile and lots of charm; people just want to come see us and hang out."

—Barbara Schultz

project studio **ACMastering**



Mastering engineer Adrian Carr opened ACMastering in his Montreal home in 2008 after a long career in New York City.

For two decades, mastering engineer/musician/composer Adrian Carr was well-established in New York City. Educated at Juilliard and at Princeton University, Carr went on to run his own facility in Midtown Manhattan's Film Center Building from 1988 until 2005. There, he originally specialized in recording acoustic music (mainly classical and jazz) before rededicating his services to mastering in 1998 and amassing credits for a number of classical labels, as well as Motown, Capitol Nashville and EMI Latin.

In 2005, Carr took a break from the music industry and relocated to Montreal's South Shore. "I moved up here to be with my wife," Carr explains. "I love Montreal. There's lots of music happening here. Most of the funding for the arts comes from the government." Carr then began a new chapter in his own career by building a mastering room in his home, which he opened in 2008 as ACMastering (acmastering.com). "Today, everybody is trying to keep costs down," he says. "I didn't want to start again with a big overhead."

Carr built his room around Focal Twin6 Be monitors with Tannoy TS12