

AL SCHMITT

Al Schmitt is a renowned recording and mix engineer whose acclaimed music career has spanned more than half a century. During that time Al has been awarded more accolades than any of his contemporaries including holding the record for most Grammy awards for a recording or mix engineer. To date, Al is the recipient of 23 Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Trustees Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. In 2014, Al received the Honorary Doctorate from Berklee School of Music.

Al is a New York native, of whom Barbra Streisand states, "as a fellow Brooklyn-ite, we speak the same language." He has worked on more than 150 gold and platinum albums, and was inducted into the TEC Awards Hall of Fame in 1997 to honor his technical and creative excellence in recording and sound. In the early days of his career, working at RCA, Al engineered albums for such legendary artists as Sam Cooke, Rosemary Clooney and Henry Mancini, featuring the Grammy Award winning title, "Moon River", which also won an Academy Award for Best Song, and for "Breakfast at Tiffany's." During this time he also worked on scoring for multiple motion pictures as well.

In the mid 60's, while demand for his engineering services grew, Al also aspired to become an independent producer. In addition to recording all the last records of the legendary Sam Cooke, during this same period, Al also worked with Ann Margaret, Bobby Darin and Eddie Fisher. He also worked with newer, up and coming artists of the time including Jefferson Airplane, Jackson Browne and Neil Young. He just recently completed the 2015 release of the new Neil Young CD package.

Although Al loved producing, he realized, as he quotes, "what I loved best about the business in the first place was capturing the sound", and returned to engineering. From that point on, some records he would produce, some he would engineer and some he would do both. After returning to engineering again, Al worked on countless Grammy and award winning albums such as Frank Sinatra's "Duets" and "Duets II", George Benson's "Breezin'", Jose Feliciano's "Light My Fire", Barbra Streisand's "Back to Broadway", Natalie Cole's "Unforgettable", Diana Krall's "The Look of Love", and Ray Charles' "Genius Loves Company", to name a few. Al engineered Paul McCartney's "Kisses on the Bottom", album, which won the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album. Al was also featured in Paul McCartney's "Live Kisses" DVD which won the 2013 Grammy Award for both Best Music Film and Best Surround Sound Album. Al mixed the historic "The Beatles: The Night That Changed America" for AEG/Ehrlich Ventures, LLC, which was recently nominated in the "Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Variety Series" category for the 2014 Emmy Awards.

Al's notoriety was memorialized when he was featured sitting at his post behind the recording console in Capitol Studios in the Justin Timberlake "Suit and Tie" video which won the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Music Video.

Al currently spends most of his time working from the famed Capitol Studios, where he has become a familiar and much loved part of the Capitol Studios family. He is beloved by generations of engineers and producers, many of whom Al has inspired and taught the craft of engineering. Al is loved by the artists whose magical moments are captured in the studios. He is on the "wish" list to speak at notable colleges, recording schools and AES and NAMM +conferences. His inspiration and energy to expound his knowledge to the up and coming engineers is limitless.

Having worked with Al recently, Bob Dylan said of Al, +“I can personally attest to the artistry that Al brings to the studio.” Current Walk of Fame Honoree, Producer and Chairman of Verve Music, David Foster, sums up Al’s talent and impact on the music perfectly, saying, “ his credit on CD’s or albums, has been the equivalent of the “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. When it comes to capturing sound, there is simply no one better.” In the words of Sir Paul McCartney, “He’s one of the best in the world and it is my great pleasure to work with such a superb craftsman. He’s also a great guy!”