**Nick Cooke Mastering Opens In Somerset With A White Mark Designed Mastering Room**

*The state of the art facility is now providing a base for musician and mastering engineer Nick Cooke, formerly Chief Mastering Engineer at Sony’s Extreme Music.*

**Suffolk, UK. November 19th 2018**: Musician and mastering engineer Nick Cooke has opened a state of the art mastering facility in Wrington, near Bristol, which is now the base for his new enterprise, Nick Cooke Mastering.

Designed by acoustic and studio design consultancy White Mark Ltd, the bespoke facility is equipped with analogue processors by Maselec, Dangerous Music and Avalon Design, a Maselec mastering console, audio conversion via Burl Audio and two Prism Sound Lyra 2 converters and audio workstations Pro Tools and SADiE 6. For monitoring, Cooke has installed a pair of Meyer Sound X10’s acquired from Abbey Road Studios.

Formerly chief mastering engineer at Extreme Music, the London-based production music arm of Sony ATV, Nick Cooke decided to branch out on his own so that he could better tailor his services to his clients needs. He relocated to Wrington, the Somerset village where he grew up and where his family are still based, close to the thriving music scene of Bristol. Excellent data links ensure easy access for the receiving and distribution of files whilst offering a wonderful environment in which to both work and live.

Having found suitable premises in a charming building that was once part of Wrington railway station, Cooke tasked White Mark with the job of converting his unit into an acoustically accurate mastering room.

“I chose White Mark because I had previous experience of working with them,” he explains. “They were responsible for designing and installing Extreme Music’s facilities which included two mastering studios and three self-contained audio editing suites. They did a fantastic job there and I particularly enjoyed working in the mastering rooms. I was keen to build upon my experience of White Mark acoustic spaces and knew they would be perfect for this project.”

White Mark’s managing director David Bell, who was recently a keynote speaker at the AES’s first Mastering Conference in the UK, says: “It was a very straightforward conversion because Nick’s unit had already been developed into offices in the 1980s and the structure of the building was very sound. We increased the basic isolation performance of the ceiling to allow for future expansion of the facility and created a suite on the ground floor that was optimised for the accurate monitoring environment demanded by top mastering engineers. “Our experience of working on rooms for Giles Martin at Abbey Road, Air Mastering and, more recently, for NTU in Nottingham, as well as our two previous facilities for Nick, allowed us to create the ideal space for him. The need to offer RT balance with frequency, a room free of modal clusters and with a light accurate feel was fully achieved here in a building that was ideally suited to the task. The ability to also include day light and an external view was also a strong positive in creating a great space in which to work. The proximity to the excellent local cider production industries also made site visits a total pleasure!”

Cooke adds: “I am delighted with the room and the exceptional audio quality it is delivering thanks to the marvellous synergy of the room acoustics with the Meyer X10 speakers. White Mark did a great job and I couldn’t be more pleased.”

Nick Cooke Mastering is now open for business and Cooke is busy on a number of projects for local and international artists as well as continuing to master production music for library music clients.

As an accomplished accordion player, Cooke also spends part of each year recording and touring with various folk bands including singer/songwriter Kate Rusby, one of the UK’s best known folk singers.

“My touring commitments were one of the main reasons why I was keen to branch out on my own and set up my own mastering facility,” he says. “My work/life balance is much better now and I love being back in the village where I grew up. Going forward, I plan to make my facility available to other mastering engineers so that it can continue to be made of when I am away on tour.”

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**About White Mark:**

Established in 1997 by David Bell, John Dunnill, Derek Buckingham and Alan Cundell, White Mark Ltd specialises in production facilities for music recording and the film and television industries. Over the last twenty one years it has designed and supervised the construction of over 600 production suites worldwide. The company’s impressive client list encompasses some of the world’s most famous music recording facilities including Peter Gabriel’s Real World Studios in the UK, Germano Studios in New York, Hit Factory/Criteria Recording Studios in Miami, Strongroom in London and private studios for producers and musicians such as William Orbit and Damon Albarn. Most recently, The Sanctuary complex at the Albany Resort in Nassau, the Bahamas has been opened to wide acclaim. In the area of audio post production, White Mark has completed over 180 audio studios and many broadcast and video editing facilities for more than 50 companies in Soho alone. The list of clients includes Grand Central, Hackenbacker, Envy, De Lane Lea, Scramble, Lipsync, Molinare, DeLuxe, 750mph, NBC/Universal, Wave, Unit, Soho Square and Boom. Advertising agency clients include worldwide facilities for Hogarth International and AMV/BBDO on four continents.

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