

# Marc Noah's Live Performance Recording System

## Professional Recording & Experimentation Protocol

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### Overview

This document outlines a systematic approach for recording live performances of two key songs as part of the Marc Noah's Music Lab project.

#### Core Principles:

- **Every recording must be different** - Each performance should include deliberate variations to build a diverse library of unique versions
- **Maximum smoothness** - The process is designed to be as friction-free as possible, becoming automatic after a few performances
- **Same-day completion** - All recording, documentation, and uploading must happen on the day of performance (no exceptions!)
- **Fan involvement welcome** - Consider recruiting an enthusiastic fan to help with recording (win-win: they get behind-the-scenes access, you get assistance)

**The Mission:** Build an incredible library of creative variations through a simple, sustainable daily practice.

**The Method:** Record → Experiment → Document → Upload → Repeat (all on the same day!)

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### Target Songs

1. "Fast Car" - Tracy Chapman (Cover)
  2. "Road Trip" - Marc Noah (Original)
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### Core Recording Requirements

#### Audio/Video Capture (Minimum 2 Recordings Per Performance)

##### Recording 1: Direct Audio from Mixing Desk

- **Purpose:** Capture pure, high-quality audio
- **Setup:** Direct line from mixing desk to recording device
- **Format:** WAV or high-quality MP3 (minimum 320kbps)
- **Device:** Digital recorder or laptop with audio interface

##### Recording 2: Mobile Phone Video

- **Purpose:** Capture visual performance and room ambiance
- **Setup:** Phone positioned with clear view of performer
- **Format:** Highest quality video available on device
- **Ideal:** Use 2 phones for multiple angles (if available)

**Alternative Option:** Record the entire show (both audio and video), then extract the two target songs during editing. This ensures you never miss a great performance!

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## Performance Guidelines

### Creative Experimentation Requirements

Each performance must include deliberate variations from previous versions:

#### Areas for Experimentation:

- **Tempo adjustments** (slower/faster interpretations)
- **Key changes** (try different vocal ranges)
- **Bridge modifications** (restructure or reimagine)
- **Middle section variations** (instrumental breaks, spoken word, etc.)
- **Dynamic changes** (soft verses to powerful choruses, or vice versa)
- **Arrangement experiments** (fingerpicking vs. strumming patterns)

### Documentation Requirements

Create a **voice memo OR text note** (before or after each performance) including:

- Description of what was done differently in this version
- Audience reactions and engagement levels
- Any notable moments or discoveries
- Technical notes (equipment used, venue acoustics, etc.)
- Personal reflections on the performance

*Note: Text can be typed quickly on phone or laptop - whatever is fastest for you!*

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## Pre-Performance Checklist

### Equipment Check

- ☐ Mixing desk recording setup confirmed
- ☐ Recording device has sufficient storage (minimum 2GB free)
- ☐ Mobile phone(s) charged to at least 50%
- ☐ Phone storage cleared (minimum 5GB free)
- ☐ Backup recording device ready (if available)

### Technical Setup

- ☐ Test direct audio recording levels
- ☐ Position phone(s) for optimal video angle
- ☐ Check lighting for video recording
- ☐ Confirm all devices are in airplane mode (to prevent interruptions)
- ☐ Start recordings before soundcheck (if possible)

### Creative Planning

- ☐ Decide on tonight's experimental variation
- ☐ Note the specific changes in phone/notebook
- ☐ Warm up with the planned variations

## Consider Fan Assistant

- ☐ Ask a regular attendee if they'd like to help film
  - ☐ Show them the basic camera position needed
  - ☐ Thank them with a shoutout or drink!
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## During Performance Protocol

1. **Start all recordings** 10-30 seconds before beginning each song
  2. **Announce the song and date** at the start (for reference)
  3. **Perform with intention** - commit to the planned variations
  4. **Observe audience reactions** for later documentation
  5. **Keep recordings running** 10-30 seconds after song ends
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## Post-Performance Workflow

### Immediate Actions (During Break or End of Set)

#### Step 1: Save and Backup

- ☐ Stop all recordings properly
- ☐ Save files with temporary names if needed
- ☐ Create backup on second device/cloud if possible

#### Step 2: Documentation

- ☐ Record voice memo OR type quick notes describing:
  - What variations were attempted
  - How they felt during performance
  - Audience response
  - Any technical issues
  - Ideas for next iteration

#### Step 3: Initial Upload Preparation

- ☐ Transfer files to phone/laptop if needed
- ☐ Create folder with today's date

### End-of-Day Upload Process (MUST BE SAME DAY!)

#### File Naming Convention

**Format:** (YYYY-MM-DD\_\_Venue\_\_SongName\_\_VariationType)

#### Examples:

- (2024-09-11\_\_BlueNote\_\_FastCar\_\_Slower-Tempo)
- (2024-09-11\_\_BlueNote\_\_RoadTrip\_\_New-Bridge)
- (2024-09-11\_\_BlueNote\_\_FastCar\_\_Audio\_\_Direct)
- (2024-09-11\_\_BlueNote\_\_FastCar\_\_Video\_\_Phone1)

*Note: Use double underscore (\_\_) as separator*

## Upload Destinations

**Primary:** Google Drive folder: Marc Noah Music Lab > Live Recordings > [Month] **Secondary:** GitHub repository (if configured) **Future:** Direct to YouTube/streaming platforms

## Upload Checklist

- ☐ Rename all files according to naming convention
  - ☐ Include voice memo or text notes in same folder
  - ☐ Upload to designated cloud storage
  - ☐ Verify upload completion
  - ☐ Delete local files only after confirming successful upload
  - ☐ Log performance in tracking spreadsheet (if applicable)
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## Long-term Vision

This recording system will create:

1. **A comprehensive library** of performance variations
  2. **Data on audience preferences** through documented reactions
  3. **Evolution tracking** of arrangements over time
  4. **Content for releases** - best versions become official recordings
  5. **Educational material** for other musicians
  6. **Marketing content** for social media and promotion
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## Final Reminders

- **Smooth = Sustainable:** The easier the process, the more consistent you'll be
  - **Progress > Perfection:** Any recording is better than no recording
  - **Experiment Boldly:** Your audience wants to hear YOUR interpretation
  - **Document Everything:** Today's mistake might be tomorrow's breakthrough
  - **Upload Same Day:** Don't let files accumulate - upload immediately
  - **Get Help When Needed:** A fan assistant can make everything easier
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*This system is designed to be friction-free and sustainable. The goal is not perfection but consistency and creative exploration.*

**Your mission today: Record something different, document it quickly, upload it tonight. That's it!**

**Remember: Record → Experiment → Document → Upload → Repeat**