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AES Audio Engineering Society - Pacific Northwest Section

Around the Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

NOTE: anyone can attend this meeting regardless of their status as an AES member.

AES MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED.

**April Meeting Notice
Online Webinar
Mixing On Glass: Tablet Control of Digital
Mixers**

**Presented by
Dan Mortensen - Dansound Inc.
and
The University of Washington School of Music
and
The AES Pacific Northwest Section
A livestream webinar (using Zoom).
Tuesday, April 28th, 2020, 7:30PM (Pacific TZ, GMT -7)**

Digital mixers are here, alive, and flourishing, all the way from only a few inputs and outputs to replacements for Yamaha PM4000 analog desks. They hit all price points now, from affordable to <gasp>. Most feature some way to access them via Wi-Fi using some sort of tablet computer/controller. Some have no physical control surface; instead they depend on computer displays and a mouse, or touchscreens. The feature set at the input level is extremely deep, with control capabilities formerly reserved for only the elite of the analog mixer world. In this world, small does not mean limited capability.

Dan's presentation features the basics as well as an advanced look at the components of the system, including

- Wi-Fi setup and operation at live events (assuming we get to do those again),
- app features necessary and/or lacking,
- router setup and security details,
- operational techniques and tricks while at the gig.

This presentation will cover both tablet control of regular consoles as well as consoles that can only be controlled by tablet or laptop computer, although laptop mixing will only be tangentially mentioned. Relatively inexpensive digital mixers have changed Dan's workflow almost entirely for the better, and he is continually astonished to be able to mix a show out front or onstage without touching and physically moving a mixer and snake at all. In a normal year, that could be 20-30 times, and for another another 80 or so shows is using a tablet to do virtually the entire soundcheck while standing close to the artist or wherever he needs to be in the auditorium to get the job done, while mixing during the show on a combination of tablet and full console.

His experience is solely with iPads, Airport Express and Extreme WiFi, and X/M/XR Music Group mixers, which as a group are the most numerous in the world by a large margin. He will incorporate other product applicability through describing principles of operation and usage that are common to all.

To avoid the disruption woes at Zoom meetings we've been reading about, we will communicate the details of how to access the webinar a few days before the meeting via email. Set your screen name to be your real name in whatever form you wish (John Smith, johnsmith), as long as it includes your first and last real names. If you don't follow this convention, we will not let you join the meeting.

Zoom accounts have finite attendee counts, so we request an email to **with your full name, screen name (as defined above), and email address. Get this part right, your ability to join the meeting depends on it. Please also include your location (because we're curious), and whether you are an AES member of any grade (we need to report member count at our meetings to HQ). A few days before the event (probably Sunday 26th), we will send email to everyone who has responded telling where/how/etc. to join the meeting.**

One of the best features of all our meetings is self-introductions from the participants, because it is always fascinating to hear who you are and what you do. We will do our best to have this after the Intermission. On your end, a camera-equipped computer (or tablet) would be nice, as well as a microphone. We don't think that a smartphone will be a very satisfactory platform to view this meeting, nor will a landline telephone.

It could be that you'll need to send your comments/questions via zoom-chat or perhaps by email. We're still working those details through.

About our Presenter

Dan Mortensen has owned his own sound reinforcement company, initially called Dan Mortensen Sound, then Dansound, now Dansound Inc., since 1973. Starting with borrowed Altec 1567A's, then kit-built Gately, then Soundcraft Series 1S and many other Soundcraft mixers including Series 5 and MH4, and now into Behringer/Midas X/M32 and other models, he has spent a lot of time mixing one-nighters in the Seattle area and, theoretically in these times, still is doing so. He intends to make a list sometime of the people he has worked with, because when watching a music movie or listening to CD's he often says, "Hey, I worked with them once".

Dan has been our Section Chair 8 times over 23 years, and is currently a Committee member, as well as being co-Chair of both the Historical and Sound Reinforcement Tracks at the upcoming AES Convention in New York City in October. For fun he has been reading books about the 1969 Woodstock festival, which was a huge event with many aspects that are deeply interesting from many different perspectives.

In 2018, he realized a life-long dream that he had never guessed he had: being honored to be asked to run for an important elected office in the AES international organization. Although he is plenty busy enough in Seattle, and this job would have both a lot of work and international travel, he did his best to be elected but encouraged people he knew to vote for the other guy, and followed his own advice in the balloting. The other guy won, thankfully, but by exactly one vote, meaning had Dan voted for himself he would have won. He intends to exercise his power as kingmaker in the next election, where he is not running for any office.

This meeting will be brought to you from the near-mythical Dansound Studios.

Election Notice

We will hold our annual officer and committee member election at our June meeting. Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) are typically nominated from the existing Committee. Committee members can be anyone interested and willing to help your section produce meetings. Officers serve for one year. Committee members

serve for two years, with half electing on odd numbered years, and the other half electing on even numbered years.

The current list of officers and committee members can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in participating, please contact anyone on the list. You must be a member or associate member at the time you assume the position. More information about Officer or Committee duties can be found [at this link](#).

Greg Dixon

AES PNW 2019-2020 Section Chair

***n.b.** The material presented at our meetings is the opinion of the presenter and not necessarily that of the Society. You are encouraged to conduct your own research and to form your own opinions before adopting the presented material as Truth.*

Our meetings are open to anyone interested in Audio. AES membership is NOT required for you to attend our meetings.

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