



WAMcon

VIRTUAL 2021
/NASHVILLE

**An immersive online
conference by and for
women and gender-diverse
individuals in audio
focused on Nashville**

#WAMCONVIRTUALNASHVILLE



PROGRAM

• **SATURDAY, April 24, 2021** •

10:55 AM - 11:00 AM PDT

Early Arrival - Sign on and get situated

11:00 AM PDT

Welcome from WAM & Terri Winston
Message from the Academy of Country Music

11:10 AM PT

Audio Journey of **Gena Johnson** - ACM Audio Engineer
of the Year nominee

11:50 AM PT

Deconstructing Songwriting with **Cam**

12:20 PM PT

From Songwriting Demo to the Mix with **Melissa Matthey**

12:55 - 1:10 PM PT

Break & Networking: wam.rocks/network

1:10 PM PT

Mixing Essentials with **Shani Gandhi**

1:30 PM PT

In Conversation: **Rissi Palmer** with **Andrea Williams** on the
journey to Color Me Country

2:00 PM PT

Mic Technique in the historic Columbia Studio A with
Kazuri Arai & Leslie Richter



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#WAMConVirtual

RECORDING ARTS CONFERENCE



FEATURED ENGINEERS, PRODUCERS, ARTISTS, & MUSIC PROFESSIONALS



ANDREA WILLIAMS

Andrea Williams is a Nashville-based journalist writing about culture, music, and sports for a number of top publications, including Vulture/New York Magazine, Mother Jones, Bustle, and many others. Her writing has established her as a leading voice about race and country music, as well as the history of Black baseball. She is also the author of *Baseball's Leading Lady: Effa Manley and the Rise and Fall of the Negro Leagues*.



CAM

Camaron Ochs, or Cam professionally and to her friends, has co-written with Sam Smith for his album (the song also became the soundtrack for an exquisite Apple commercial) and toured with him around North America. She lent her writing voice to Miley Cyrus' *Bangerz* album and she opened for Harry Styles at the legendary Ryman in Nashville. Some of her proudest moments outside of her music are working in both the GRAMMY and ACM Diversity & Inclusion Task Forces. Cam is excited about her dual role as a singer-songwriter and performer, and also as a mother. Cam's current single at country radio is "Till There's Nothing Left" which has a bangin', cinematic music video available to watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfKYd_8CMJU



GENA JOHNSON

Gena Johnson is a Nashville-based producer, recording and mixing engineer. Gena is nominated for 2021 "Audio Engineer of the Year" by the ACM Awards. Johnson is honored and grateful to be among such brilliant engineers, standing beside them as the first female to be nominated for this particular award. Gena's credits include a variety of artists and records spanning from Ashley Monroe's 2021 album *'Rosegold'*, Ruston Kelly's 2020 album *Shape and Destroy*, Jason Isbell's 2020 album *'Reunions'*, Chris Stapleton's 2020 album *'Starting Over'*, John Prine's last recorded song which has won two GRAMMY awards in 2021 for *'I Remember Everything'*, the Oscar-winning soundtrack for *A Star is Born* (Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga), GRAMMY-winner Brandi Carlile's 2018 record *By the Way I Forgive You*. Johnson is thrilled to be a part of Nashville's music community serving as a Governor on the board of the Recording Academy's Nashville Chapter and mentoring aspiring women engineers both in college and as assistant engineers.



FEATURED ENGINEERS, PRODUCERS, ARTISTS, & MUSIC PROFESSIONALS



KAZURI ARAI

Kazuri Arai is a Producer/Engineer/Keyboardist at Anything Kreativ, as well as the General Manager of George Massenburg Labs. Kazuri began her career in Nashville, TN as the assistant engineer to George Massenburg during his residency at the infamous Blackbird Studio C. She has worked with artists such as Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Alicia Keys, Jack White, The 5.6.7.8's, The Rankin Family, The Subdudes, John Cowan Band, Dawn Langstroth, among others. While she continues to work with Massenburg on a variety of audio/music projects, she is also focused on using her experience and knowledge to develop independent artists and help them capture their creative vision. Kazuri lectures at schools such as Berklee College of Music and Belmont University on subjects such as career development, entrepreneurship and the challenges and opportunities that exist in the new music business.



LESLIE RICHTER

Leslie Richter is a Nashville based record producer and engineer. She started her career as a staff engineer at the acclaimed Oceanway Studios in Nashville. It was there she not only developed her ear and style working on countless award-winning records, but also gained experience in studio wiring and electronics - decommissioning and rebuilding several large format consoles. In 2008 she joined Ben Folds' team to bring his then private studio (Historic RCA Studio A) back to life. After handing the reigns of Studio A over to producer Dave Cobb and his team, Leslie continues to work as a freelance producer/engineer in the Nashville area. In addition to paving the way for women recording engineers in Nashville, Leslie also currently serves as an adjunct professor of recording at Belmont University's Quonset Hut and Columbia Studio A. She is an active voting member of The Recording Academy, and has served on the Nashville Chapter's Board of Governors and as co-chair of the Nashville Chapter P&E wing. Her credits and clients have grown into a delightfully eclectic cast of characters including Sheryl Crow, Spoon, Sara Bareilles, Wynonna, John Hiatt, Kacey Musgraves, Jim Lauderdale, and Jessi Alexander.



FEATURED ENGINEERS & MUSIC PROFESSIONALS



MELISSA MATTEY

In a town known for its strong work ethic and an overabundance of world-class musicians, Melissa Matthey may be one of the hardest-working creative talents in Nashville. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, with a focus on synthesis and recording, Melissa deftly juggles three careers without missing a beat. By day she's an in-demand mix and recording engineer for a broad array of artists including Van Hunt and Cam. By night she's a synthesist and composer for the electro-ambient trio Everyone Moves Away. And the rest of the time she's handling keyboard chores and producing records for Indie favorites, Elliot Root.



RISSI PALMER

Rissi Palmer's gift lies in reaching across all musical boundaries. While she made her mark in Country Music, she is equally at home in R&B music, bringing the entire spectrum of popular music to bear on music she calls "Southern Soul." A few highlights throughout her musical career includes performances at The White House, Lincoln Center and the Grand Ole Opry. She has toured extensively across the country, sharing stages with Taylor Swift, The Eagles, Chris Young, Charley Crockett and many more. Rissi has made national guest appearances on Oprah & Friends, CNN, CBS Early Show, Entertainment Tonight, FOX Soul's "The Book of Sean," and the Tavis Smiley Show, and has been featured in such prestigious media outlets as Associated Press, Ebony, Essence, Huffington Post, New York Times, Newsweek, NPR's "All Things Considered," PEOPLE, Rolling Stone, The Wall Street Journal and Washington Post. As a passionate voice for country artists of color and those who have been marginalized in mainstream country music, Rissi launched her own radio show Color Me Country with Rissi Palmer on Apple Music Country. Fans can tune into live to Color Me Country with Rissi Palmer every other Sunday on Apple Music Country at 4pP/7pE or listen back on-demand at: apple.co/_RissiPalmer



SHANI GANDHI

Shani Gandhi is a Grammy Award-winning producer, engineer, and mixer currently based in Nashville, TN. She is known widely for her contributions to the Americana and Folk genres having worked with such artists as Alison Krauss, George Jones, Dierks Bentley, Kelsea Ballerini, Sarah Jarosz, Sierra Hull, and The Mountain Goats. Gandhi was awarded a Grammy for engineering Jarosz's album, Undercurrent, and has been nominated twice for Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical. She is a mentor for the non-profit organization, We Are Moving The Needle, and serves on the Nashville Chapter Board of The Recording Academy.



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wam.rocks/classes

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WAM loves to explore new partnerships. Some of WAM's unique corporate engagements have included Instagram takeovers, team visits to our recording studio, employee volunteer days, and more. We can't wait to hear your ideas! Contact us at info@womensaudiomission.org.



ABOUT WAM

Women's Audio Mission (WAM) is a San Francisco and Oakland based nonprofit organization that has been working at the intersection of music, media and technology since 2003. We inspire 4,000+ girls, women and gender-diverse individuals each year to use technology to amplify their voices by creating music and media. WAM provides free training, dedicated artist mentors, education and career counseling, job placement, and access to the only recording studios in the world built and run entirely by women and gender-diverse individuals.



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