



Ultra-low latency technology allows Mamas Gun to perform live together as part of #DontStopTheMusic

Tin Pan Studio used by remotely based band members to deliver live performance for Sennheiser's global music initiative

Marlow/UK, July 16, 2020 – Similar to other musicians who had found themselves restrained by the coronavirus lockdown, five-piece UK band Mamas Gun, widely known for their album Golden Days, was struggling to find a way for all band members to play together remotely without latency or other issues. A solution was found in the form of Tin Pan Studio, which allows remotely based musicians to jam, rehearse, create, record and perform music together over the internet in real time. Thanks to this innovative technology, Mamas Gun was able to deliver a hugely successful live stream concert as part of the global #DontStopTheMusic music initiative by Sennheiser.

When the pandemic hit, Doug Hunt, live sound engineer and MD of Doug Hunt Sound & Light Ltd, had all his work cancelled, so he started looking for ways to help bands perform together remotely over the internet. “Like everyone else, I came up short,” he says. “There just wasn't anything available that had fast enough monitoring for professional musicians while providing great quality audio.”

Desperate to continue to make music with the bands he loves, Hunt set about creating what became Tin Pan Studio. The technology behind Hunt's creation is unique and combines ultra-



low latency server-based monitoring for the musicians, with studio-quality audio for the engineer to mix. Once a working prototype (then called "DougMons") was complete, Hunt reached out to MG Management, Mamas Gun's management, to see if they wanted to try it out.

"I've worked with Mamas Gun for many years, they have become good friends and I love their music," shares Hunt. "They were the perfect test bed for the new software as they have extremely high standards, are musically excellent, and I knew I had their (much needed!) patience."

Hunt worked together with the band to test his software and develop it to the point where everyone felt confident using it for live broadcasts, which followed shortly afterwards - one for Soho Radio and another for the band's own channel. Apart from the nearly latency-free live stream, what stood out most during the band's performance was crystal-clear audio.

"Getting good results relies on great sounding microphones and good isolation from headphones. That's why we have always relied on Sennheiser," explains Hunt. "The evolution 900 series have long been go-to mics for me when I need the combination of great sonics and excellent noise rejection. The choice of Sennheiser's HD headphones is also a no-brainer, as they combine comfort with great isolation."

At the same time as the band was working with Hunt and testing his Tin Pan Studio technology, Brian Hurst, owner of SoulandJazz.com and a Sennheiser ambassador, introduced Mamas Gun to Sennheiser's Andy Egerton. Together, they looked for a way for the band to be part of the audio specialist's global #DontStopTheMusic initiative. The timing with the Tin Pan Studio project was perfect.

"Mamas Gun debut set *Routes to Riches* arrived in 2009," says Hurst. "It promised much and over the years has been built upon, assisted in no small measure by the unique and wonderfully soulful vocals of founder and lead singer, Andy Platts. Their 2018 released album *Golden Days* was my album of the year; it's essential listening. I enthusiastically recommended they should be approached to become a featured Sennheiser Artist as their production and sound is perfectly aligned to the values and performance that the company represents."



Following a series of rehearsals, the band completed their performance earlier this week for Sennheiser's #DontStopTheMusic initiative on Sennheiser's Facebook page, with all five band members playing together live from the comfort of their home studios, and with Tin Pan Studio ensuring a near latency-free stream. The event was a first of its kind for Sennheiser's live streaming platform and showed just how useful the technology could be when it comes to remote music performances.

"Bands like Mamas Gun absolutely thrive on the live and touring side of the business. So much of their bonding, creative thinking and growth as musicians comes from them playing together as a band," says Carly Martin-Gammon from MG Management. "The combination of Tin Pan Studio's unique technology and solid audio equipment from Sennheiser has not only enabled the band to continue to offer their fans a genuinely impressive live experience, along with all the adrenaline that the best live gigs offer, but it has also allowed the band themselves to keep pushing their boundaries together as players, too."

The band could not agree more, stating just how difficult it was for musicians around the world to get together in a rehearsal studio at the moment, and how Tin Pan Studio made their dream of playing together again a reality. "Not only can we perform and rehearse new and old songs together, but we now have an enhanced quality of sound thanks to the Sennheiser mics and headphones," states Dave Oliver, the band's keyboardist.

Chris Boot, drummer for Mamas Gun, is also familiar with Sennheiser equipment and has been religiously using an MD 441 for snare drum recording over the years.

"Sennheiser continues to stand out as one of the foremost brands in the world of audio," he says. "I've been lucky enough to record in some of the UK's most established and successful recording studios. You are guaranteed to come across a choice of Sennheiser microphones in the cabinets of every single one of them. My G.O.A.T. microphone for snare drum recording is an MD 441. Working with Sennheiser products guarantees a high quality of audio capture and the equipment is always reliable and robust."

Sharing her thoughts on the experience, Martin-Gammon highlights just how important it is for bands like Mamas Gun to be able to perform together again, and how Sennheiser's #DontStopTheMusic initiative has offered a perfect platform to do that.



“It has become more evident than ever to me that these five extremely talented individuals create unique and mind-blowing magic when they play as a unit,” she concludes. “Their connection to each other transcends the need to be in a physical venue together, on the same stage. I’ve personally found a lot of joy and happiness being able to experience them playing together once again with the help of this unique technology, Sennheiser equipment and the company’s #DontStopTheMusic initiative. It has kept a light shining on just how important performance is to the bonds between musicians themselves, and their fans.”

“Sennheiser introduced the #DontStopTheMusic campaign so talented artists and musicians around the world can showcase their talent digitally in the absence of physical shows,” says Andy Egerton, relations manager associate at Sennheiser. “Co-ordinated by our colleague Jessica Dabbs in the US and the rest of the Relationship Management team, so far the initiative has offered a virtual stage to over 90 acts. We are passionately supporting innovative technologies that enable great bands like Mamas Gun to continue offering their beautiful live experiences and keep the music alive online. Mamas Gun was the 100th performance of this initiative and we can think of no better way to bring up this milestone than with this innovative, high-quality performance from these talented musicians. Sennheiser is synonymous with high quality audio and innovation, so it was a perfect match.

“I think the spirit of the session and collaboration was summed up with lead singer Andy Platt’s idiom ‘Thank you, Sennheiser, for making audio wiser’. We would like to thank Mamas Gun and Doug of Tin Pan Studio for making this stream the first of its kind for Sennheiser,” he concludes.

About Sennheiser

Founded in 1945, Sennheiser is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Shaping the future of audio and creating unique sound experiences for customers – this aim unites Sennheiser employees and partners worldwide. The independent family company, which is managed in the third generation by Dr. Andreas Sennheiser and Daniel Sennheiser, is today one of the world’s leading manufacturers of headphones, loudspeakers, microphones and wireless transmission systems. In 2019, the Sennheiser Group generated turnover totaling €756.7 million.

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