

# Studio stresses quality work

by Angel Stokes

Battalion staff

The growing musical environment in the Bryan/College Station area has a new addition — Brasswind Studios.

Owner David Cooper says Brasswind is different from other studios in the area because it is the first full-time professional studio.

Brasswind tries to reach several area markets, Cooper says, including radio and television commercials, audio/visual work for Texas A&M and demonstration tapes for local bands. The studio rates are moderately priced for the services offered, he says.

All the audio work is produced at Brasswind, he says, but the video work is subcontracted to studios in other cities.

Some work currently done by Brasswind includes the background music for the Lester's fall fashion spots for Channel 3, radio spots for University National Bank and Messina-Hof Wine Cellars.

Brasswind has studio capabilities to do two-track, eight-track and 24-track tapes. Cooper says the studio doesn't have a 24-track machine because that market isn't developed here yet. But, he says, if a client wants to make an album or a high-quality demo, then a 24-track machine

can be brought in. With access to three machines in the state, the studio only has to borrow a machine and plug it into the existing equipment.

"The studio is doing things not normally done by studios because of the markets it is trying to reach," Cooper says. The markets for radio advertisement and television spots always have been here, he says, but clients had to go to Dallas, Atlanta, Austin and other cities to have the work done.

These extras include subcontracting video work and the availability of a 24-track machine. A production music library, called a music bed, for background music also is available.

The equipment at Brasswind is similar to that found in studios in Nashville and New York, Cooper says.

"I wanted quality, not quantity," he says.

Most of the equipment is "state of the art," he says. The mixing console is a Console Trident Series 70. Made in England and released last year, he says the one at Brasswind is the first in Texas.

Other studio equipment includes: a Linnndrum Drum Computer, a Fender Precision Bass, a Polyphonic Synthesizer and a Yamaha electric grand — the most common road piano.

After completing a demo tape



photo by Dean Saito

David Cooper surveys his recording set up in Brasswind Studios.

for an album tape, it is sent first to a mastering plant and then to a pressing plant. Cooper has three companies lined up to do the mastering and pressing. Which company is chosen depends on the quality of work

and the budget the client wants.

Cooper's first idea for a studio in Bryan/College Station came about in 1976, he says, when he took a course in recording engineering in Dallas while also attending Baylor.

After graduating from Baylor with a degree in music theory, he moved to Nashville and worked sound at the Opryland. While in Nashville, he says he got some lucky breaks by meet-

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## Hit Broadway play at A&M Thursday



"Amadeus," the hit Broadway play of three years ago, will be presented Thursday in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m. The award winning play, presented by the National Touring Company, is the third of eight programs in the Opera and Performing Arts Society's 11th season.

"Amadeus" examines the conflicts between the two 18th-century composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. Although Salieri was popular among the people of the time, he longed for Mozart's genius — "his gift from God."

The characterizations of the two main roles make this play unique. Salieri, played by Phillip Pleasants, is the generous man of court, while Mozart is foul-mouthed and cruel. Salieri's jealousy moves him to destroy Mozart, played by Edward Hodson. It is uncertain whether he was responsible for Mozart's death, as he once confessed.

"Amadeus" won five Tony Awards, including the award for Best Play. It also was a huge hit in England at the National Theater.



photo by Dean Saito

Cooper is dwarfed by his mixing console.