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## **Pyramid Sound, Where Timbaland, David Gray, Anthrax and Others Recorded, At Risk From City Bridge Construction**

### **Supporters Organize Protests, Petitions To Save Successful Ithaca Recording Studio**

ITHACA, N.Y., June 21, 2012 -- The future of a world-class recording studio that has hosted recording sessions by David Gray, Anthrax, Ginuwine, Aaliyah, Bad Religion, Missy Elliott, Joe Bonnamassa, producers including Timbaland and Tom Dowd, Pulitzer Prize winning composer Steven Stucky, classical pianist Malcolm Bilson, and many others is under threat due to the City of Ithaca's poor planning of a bridge rebuilding project directly outside the studio walls.

**Pyramid Sound**, the studio operated for nearly four decades by producer/engineer **Alex Perialas** in downtown Ithaca, New York, has been unjustly condemned as of Tuesday, June 19, resulting in the devastating loss of a very successful business, and the potential destruction of its facility as the bridge construction gets underway. After two years of asking for details of the construction plans and how they would affect his property, and being put off by then-mayor Carolyn Peterson and superintendent of public works Bill Gray, Perialas finally got an answer about when the project would commence when workers posted signs outside his studio warning the public that the street would close in two weeks. And as of yesterday, both the studio the separate storage garage next door, which Perialas also owns, have been posted by the city, after repeated promises from the building department commissioner that they would not be; and no one, including Perialas, is allowed in.

Additionally, the building department employee who posted the building yesterday informed Perialas that the city had found his building condemnable two years ago, in the early planning stages of the bridge reconstruction. Perialas was unaware that an external inspection of his property had happened, and was never informed of the finding, leading to at least the appearance that he was deliberately kept in the dark until it was too late to mitigate problems with his facility, allowing the city to save money by condemning his property rather than compensating him under eminent domain or amending the unnecessarily aggressive construction plans.

It marks the latest, and most grievous, in a series of bad-faith dealings with Perialas by the City of Ithaca. The story begins in 2004, when construction of a municipal parking garage across Clinton Street from Pyramid began. Seismic vibrations from that project resulted in cracks in the walls of the garage and studio buildings, causing some damage. He complained to the city at the time, but was unable to see the fight through because he was simultaneously caring for his ailing father.

In May of this year, after being stonewalled by city officials for two months, Perialas received a report from a third-party structural engineer hired by the construction contractor in May. The report found the storage garage, which was closest to the bridge construction, to be in poor condition, and the external walls of the studio building itself to be in poor-but-stable condition; the method of pile driving that would be used on the bridge project would likely cause the nearest garage wall to collapse, representing a danger to occupants and the public. However, this report came two weeks after the bridge project was started, leaving Perialas with no time to repair or reinforce his buildings. Yet the City of Ithaca has offered Perialas no meaningful

compensation or assistance, and has refused to delay the project or issue a change order instructing the contractor to use an alternate, less aggressive method of pile driving that would not represent so great a threat to this thriving business.

After several meetings with new mayor Svante Myrick, Perialas was finally offered just \$20,000 from the city to help cover the cost of reinforcing the garage wall. But that offer came just a day before drilling to prepare holes for the pile driving was scheduled to begin -- too little, too late. And it came with the unacceptable condition that Perialas indemnify the city against any further damages to his property caused by the bridge project.

Now that the buildings have been posted, Perialas is left with a slew of recording and mixing commitments that he's unable to complete, as well as millions of dollars' worth of sensitive equipment that he's unable to check on or maintain. For example, the studio's mixing board could overheat easily if the facility's air conditioning system were to fail, potentially causing a catastrophic fire; but with the building condemned, no one is able to monitor the studio's climate conditions.

Perialas makes it clear that he's not opposed to the bridge project in general, merely the way it's been planned and executed without any timely consultation with him, despite his many inquiries over the last two years. "There's no doubt that this work is needed," Perialas told the local weekly newspaper *The Ithaca Times* last week. "My concern is how it's been handled. Normally when you do a project of this nature, you work with the property owner to deal with loss of business or interruption of business. You deal with them to talk about how you're going to shore the building if there's going to be an issue, and none of that's happened. The only thing that's happened is that I've had to raise my voice, unfortunately, which I don't really want to do. I'm not anti-this project. I'm anti-the *planning* of this project."

Perialas and his team have received vocal support from hundreds of local musicians and music fans who are horrified by the prospect of this historic local institution being shuttered, especially under such heartless circumstances. Two Facebook pages <<http://on.fb.me/M4x1CC> and <http://on.fb.me/N8qC8N>> organized by supporters in order to protest the city's disrespect and inaction have attracted more than 1,300 members between them, and led to the organization of a protest last week at the mayor's parking space outside City Hall. And an online petition <<http://chn.ge/M4yVTT>> urging Myrick to "do all in his power to ensure Pyramid Studio be fairly compensated for any and all lost business and possible relocation costs due to this bridge construction project" has received more than 600 signatures and counting.

In addition to signing the petition, supporters of Pyramid Studios (and of the rights of responsible business owners in general) are urged to contact City of Ithaca officials including **mayor Svante Myrick** (607.274.6501, [svante@myrickforithaca.com](mailto:svante@myrickforithaca.com)), **superintendent of public works Bill Gray** (607.274.6527, email his executive assistant Kathy Gehring at [kgehring@cityofithaca.org](mailto:kgehring@cityofithaca.org)), **building department commissioner Phyllis Radke** (607.274.6508, [pradke@cityofithaca.org](mailto:pradke@cityofithaca.org)) and **city attorney Aaron Lavine** (607.274.6504, [attorney@cityofithaca.org](mailto:attorney@cityofithaca.org)) to courteously express their support for the survival of Pyramid as both a local institution of international renown, and a successful local business deserving of respectful, good faith negotiation, and fair compensation for damaged property and lost business.

More information in recent local media coverage:

WENY-TV (ABC affiliate in Elmira, NY)  
<http://blip.tv/wenytv/battle-on-the-bridge-6214476>

*The Ithaca Times* (weekly):  
[http://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/article\\_00af9f6e-b4e6-11e1-bd5b-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/article_00af9f6e-b4e6-11e1-bd5b-0019bb2963f4.html)

YNN (local TV news):  
[http://centralny.ynn.com/content/top\\_stories/588030/future-uncertain-for-pyramid-sound-studios/](http://centralny.ynn.com/content/top_stories/588030/future-uncertain-for-pyramid-sound-studios/)

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**ALEX PERIALAS / PYRAMID SOUND SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY**

**Pop/Hip Hop/R&B/Rock/Blues**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Album</b>	<b>Artist</b>	<b>Role</b>
1984	Live at the Inferno	Raven	Engineer
1985	Speak English or Die	S.O.D.	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1986	Slow Train	Savoy Brown	Engineer, Mixing
1987	Legacy	Testament	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1987	Power Chords, Vol. 1	Various Artists	Producer
1988	New Order	Testament	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1988	State of Euphoria	Anthrax	Associate Producer, Engineer
1989	Practice What You Preach	Testament	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1990	When The Storm Comes Down	Flotsam & Jetsam	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1991	Deeper Into the Vault	Various Artists	Music Coordinator
1992	Foul Taste of Freedom	Pro-Pain	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1992	Live at Budokan	S.O.D.	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1993	I Hear Black	Overkill	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1993	Substance & Soul	Last Tribe	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1995	Belladonna	Joey Belladonna	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1995	Concept	Sam Rivers	Mastering
1995	Under Pressure	Such a Surge	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1996	Ginuwine... The Bachelor	Ginuwine	Engineer, Assembly
1996	Sell, Sell, Sell	David Gray	recorded at Pyramid
1996	Metal of Honor	T.T. Quick	Producer, Engineer
1996	Oz Factor	Unwritten Law	Engineer
1997	Signs of Chaos: Best of Testament	Testament	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1998	No Substance	Bad Religion	Producer, Engineer
1998	Step Beyond	Without Warning	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
1998	Wrong Side of Memphis	Johnny Dowd	Re-mastering
1999	Ginuwine The Bachelor (Bonus CD)	Ginuwine	Engineer, Assembly
1999	Pictures from Life's Other Side	Johnny Dowd	Mastering
2000	Bronx Casket Co.	The Bronx Casket Co.	Mixing
2000	Looking Up	Cooter	Mastering
2000	New Day Yesterday	Joe Bonamassa	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2000	Phubar	Phungusamungus	Mastering
2000	Positive Friction	Donna the Buffalo	Mastering
2000	Red Is the Color	Sunny Weather	Mastering
2000	This Day	John Brown's Body	Engineer
2001	Best of 2001 Edition (Master Series)	Pro-Pain	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2001	Faust	Original Soundtrack	Producer
2001	Hillside Airstrip	10 Foot Ganja Plant	Mastering
2001	Legends of the Nar	Dead Cat Bounce	Mastering
2001	Temporary Shelter	Johnny Dowd	Engineer, Mastering, Mixing
2002	Allophone	Addison Groove Project	Mastering
2002	EP	Sunny Weather	Engineer, Mastering, Mixing
2002	Into the Unknown	Double Irie	Mastering
2002	Live From the American Ballroom	Donna the Buffalo	Engineer, Mastering, Mixing
2002	Pawnbroker's Wife	Johnny Dowd	Mastering
2002	Punk Rock Songs: The Epic Years	Bad Religion	Producer
2002	Sing Desire	Jennie Stearns	Engineer, Mastering, Mixing
2003	At First Sight	Pete Pidgeon	Mastering
2003	Farewell	The Dent	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2003	Wait Til Spring	Donna the Buffalo/Jim Lauderdale	Engineer
2004	Bigga Than It Really Is	GFE	Engineer, Mixing
2004	Home Speaks To the Wandering	Dead Cat Bounce	Mastering
2004	Radioman	Dwight Ritcher	Mastering
2005	Life's a Ride	Donna the Buffalo	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2006	Each New Day	Sim Redmond Band	Mastering
2006	In Flight Radio	In Flight Radio	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2007	W.O.A. Full Metal Juke Box, Vol.2	Various Artists	Producer
2007	Conch	moe.	Engineer
2007	Again We Bleed	God Size Hate	Mixing, Mastering

2007	Heavy Metal [Box Set]	Various Artists	Producer
2007	Burning at the Speed of Light	Thrasher	Mixing, Engineer
2007	Heavy Metal Box [Rhino]	Various Artists	Producer
2007	Standing the Test of Time	Attacker	Producer
2008	Drunkard's Masterpiece	Johnny Dowd	Mastering
2008	Ginuwine... The Bachelor/100%	Ginuwine	Engineer, Assembly
2008	Until the Ocean	The Horse Flies	Engineer
2008	Room in These Skies	Sim Redmond Band	Mastering
2008	Aneinu! Hasidic Orthodox Music	Moshe Berlin	Mastering, Re-mastering, Editing
2009	Machines of Grace	Machines of Grace	Engineer
2009	Infidel	At War	Producer, Engineer
2010	Bitten by the Beast	David "Rock" Feinstein	Mixing
2011	I Put My Tongue On Window	Boy with a Fish	Overdub Engineer
2012	Performing The Score	Malcolm Bilson/Liz Field	Engineer, Mixer, Post Production supervisor
2012	No Regrets	Johnny Dowd	Mixing, Mastering
2012	The Blind Spots	The Blind Spots	Producer, Engineer, Mixing
2012	Late Last Summer	Dick & Judy Hyman	Engineer, Mixing, Mastering consultant

### Classical

Year	Album	Artist	Role
1976	Like A Duck to Water	Mother Mallard's Portable	Digital Mastering
1983	Anatidae	David Borden's Mother Mallard	Producer, Engineer
1997-2006	Female Chorus	Selected live performances and recording sessions for Cornell Glee Club and	Engineer, Mixing, Mastering
1997	Echos From the Walls	Cornell Glee Club	Engineer, Editing, Mixing, Mastering
1999	1970-1973	Mother Mallard's Portable	Producer
2001	High Rise	Xak Bjerken	Engineer, Mixing, Mastering
2002	Liberación	Amy Glicklich	Recorded, Engineer, Mixing, Mastering
2004	In Shadow, In Light: Music of Steve Stucky	Ensemble X	Engineer,
	Editing, Mixing, Mastering		
2005	Judith Weir: The Consolations of Scholarship	Ensemble X	
	Engineer, Editing, Mixing, Mastering		
2007	Midnight Prayer	Joel Rubin	Digital Editing, Mixing, Digital Mastering
2007	Under The Bluest Sky	David Parks	Engineer, Mixing, Mastering
2011	The St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic		Engineer, Mastering
2011	Horn Muse CD	Gail Williams	Engineer

### Television Credits

Year	Show	Channel/Institution	Role
1999	Swiftwater Rescue	Discovery Pictures	Engineer, Mixing
1999	Wildlife Legacy	Turner Original Productions/National Wildlife Federation	Engineer, Mixing
1999	Wild City	Turner Original Productions/National Wildlife Federation	Engineer, Mixing
1999	The Legends Series	Turner Broadcasting	Engineer, Mixing
2000	Detonators: Sheer Force	BBC	Engineer, Mixing
2001	True Colors	Learning Channel	Engineer, Mixing
2005	The Cultivated Life: Thomas Jefferson & Wine	Madison Film, Inc.	Engineer

### Film Credits/DVD

Year	Film	Producer/Company	Role
1998	A Stranger In the Kingdom	Kingdom County Productions	Engineer, Mixing
2002	The Year That Trembled	Kingdom County Productions	Engineer, Mixing
2012	Performing The Score	Malcolm Bilson/Liz Field	Engineer, Mixer, Post Production supervisor

### Live Recordings

2000 – present:

Adam Day, Amy Glicklich, Atomic Forces, Aurelio Martinez, Avett Brothers, Bad Dog, Dalfa Toujours, Ballake Sissoko, Bamboleo, Ben Suchy, Big Leg Emma, Black Castle, Blackfire, Bobbie Henrie & the Goners, Boubacar Traore, Boy With A Fish, Bubba George, Buvas, Calico Moon, Campbell Brothers, Cary Fridley, Cherish the Ladies, Christina Ortega, Cletus & the Burners, Crow Greenspun, Cypher:Dissident, Cyro Baptista & Beat the Donkey, D'Gary, December Wind, Donna the Buffalo, John Anderson, John Brown's Body, John Specker, Johnny Donegan, Johnny Dowd, Jones Benally&American Indian Dance Troupe, Joules Graves, J-San & the Analogue Sons, Kanenhio Singers, Kathy Ziegler, Keith Franks & the Soileau Zydeco Band, Kekele, Kusun Ensemble, Life, Little Egypt, Lonesome Sisters, Los Lobos, Los Pochos, Lunasa, Mamadou Diabate, Mary Lorson & Saint Low, Mecca Bodega, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Miche Fambro, Minnies, Moochers, Moontee Sinquah, Musafir, Nedy Arevalo, Oculus, Old Crow Medicine Show, Squirrels, Paso Fino, Patty Loveless, Perfect Thyroid, Plastic Nebraska, Preston Frank & His Zydeco Family Band, Project Matsana, Ramatou Diakate, Randy Whitt & the Grits, Red Hots, Red Stick Ramblers, Revision, Rickie Lee Jones, Ritsu Katsumata, Rockridge Brothers, Rodney's Nigh, Rokia Traore, Ronnie Bowman and the Committee Rusted Roof, Samite, Scotty Campbell & Zydeco Experiment, Shane & Diana, Sillanpaa Family, Sim Redmon Band, Slo-Mo, Snake Oil Medicine Show, Solas, Son de Madero, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Sujata Sidhu, Sunny Weather, Susana Baca, The Believers, The Blue Rags, The Burren, The Buvas, The Campbell Brothers, The Del McCoury Band, The Duhks, The Fierce Guys, The Flying Clouds, The Hix, The Horse Flies, The Lonesome Sisters, The Mahotella Queens, The Meditations, The Overtakers, The Red Hots, The Splendors, The Super Rail Band, The Sutras, The Thins, Thomas Mapfumo, Thousands of One, Ti Ti Chickapea, Tonemah, Trevor MacDonald, Walter Mouton & the Scott Playboys, Wingnut, Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty, Zydeco Experiment.

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