



## Mark Rogers

**M**ost of us, as toddlers, caused a racket by banging pots and pans. As for Mark Rogers, well ... he had a Ludwig drum set. "I was five years old when I got my first set of drums. I never got serious until I was eight," he laughs. Why did he wait so long?

Rogers never received any formal training in music – he started out by playing along with records up in his room as a kid. "I've been playing in bands since I was 14 years old." Playing by ear, Rogers also taught himself to play guitar and bass.

He got into music full-time as soon as he finished high school at the age of 19. "Then I got into the recording aspect of things. As a drummer, I started picking up a lot of sessions doing everything from albums to jingles. I just had a real knack for it. I was organizing and producing everything."

In 1986 Rogers' friend John Morabito, who had a recording studio in his room at home, invited Rogers over to take a peek at his set up. "He was an engineer and he invited me over to see his studio in his bedroom at his parents' house. We hit it off really well and he gave me an offer to partner up with him for the studio – I would be in charge of the creative aspects and he'd do the engineering and technical stuff."

By 1994, Rogers and his partner had pretty much taken over the Morabito's house. Obviously, Mr. and Mrs. Morabito were very supportive.

"We started out with a 4-track reel-to-reel and then we got a 12-track Akai NG1214, which was a revolutionary piece of gear at the time. After that, one thing just led to another. We did albums and between the two of us it was a great team."

Today, Rogers drums in LMT Connection ([www.lmtconnection.com](http://www.lmtconnection.com)) playing a mix of R&B, Jazz, Blues and Motown. He also owns his own production company – New Century Productions ([www.newcentury-productions.ca](http://www.newcentury-productions.ca)). Additionally, Rogers has a sidekick by the name of Joe Shugan. "He's my personal engineer. He comes with me to the studios wherever and whenever I'm working. He's my right-hand guy since I don't engineer."

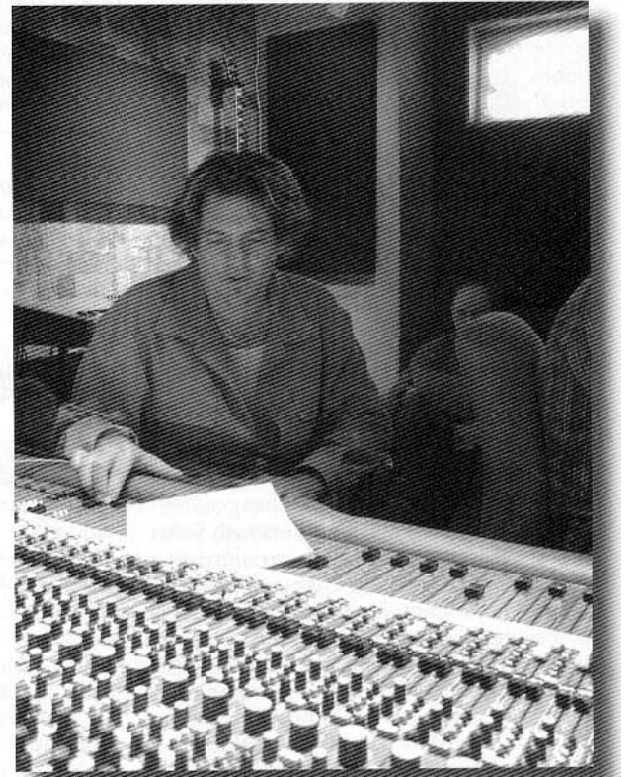
Rogers produces out of two recording studios in the Niagara region – Blue Summit Studios in Fort Erie, ON, and Grant Avenue Studios in Hamilton, ON.

Grant Avenue Studios, since its inception 25 years ago, has overcome the many changes and obstacles of the music industry. The studio was set in motion by a storm of ideas between Bob Doidge and the Lanois brothers (including well-known Canadian artist Daniel Lanois) in the '70s. Ultimately, Grant Avenue Studios has made an impact on Canadian recording history. The studio can be found in a converted 1917 Edwardian home, which even with a recording studio inside, maintains the warm ambiance implied by the old-fashioned architecture. "It's a world class facility with a real homey feel," states Rogers, who has produced some familiar Canadian names, such as the Trews and Jacksoul. Aside from music, Rogers says his interests include photography, art and good food. "After travelling around the world with the band, it's just been a hey day with all the great food out there. I get excited about going back to certain countries to eat. Soon, we're off to Hungary..."

Out of all the places that he's travelled with the band, Rogers says his favourite destination is Austria. "It's a lot like Canada – the people are very laid back."

Rogers was born in Oakville, ON and grew up in Niagara Falls, ON where he currently resides with his wife, Sue, and their two children; Myles, 11, and Skye, 4.

As a father, Rogers wanted to put some of his creativity into something for the kids and, needless to say, I'm sure his kids are very proud. "My wife and I are partners with two other guys who are digital animators,



and we've just formed a company called Reel Inspired Toons. We just released our first kids DVD. It's been three years in the making. We signed a deal with Crash Entertainment and Sony in New York to do about 10 more." The show is titled *Hugglers* ([www.hugglers.com](http://www.hugglers.com)). Rogers' wife Sue writes the script, the music and also acts in the episodes alongside her little animated friends. "I produce it along with the sound effects and all of the post-production and then we have our two animators. AEG Entertainment is also involved manufacturing toys such as stuffed animals with which the DVDs will be marketed." Their first DVD was available in the US in October 2004; in Canada, November 2004. Rogers adds, "Because we're all parents, we just wanted to do something with our creativity for the kids."