

# My Journey with JAMES

By JAMES Director  
Andy Brook

**From Student to Executive - My relationship with JAMES began as a university student seeking guidance in audio production, a connection that would shape decades of my career and evolve into a lifelong partnership.**

## The Early Days

As a student, JAMES served as my essential resource for navigating media education. After graduating from the University of Hertfordshire, I gravitated toward recording rather than composition but recognised significant gaps in my technical knowledge. JAMES directed me to the MA in Audio Production at the University of Westminster - a pivotal decision that would define my career trajectory.

## Building a Career

Following Westminster, I spent years as an engineer and producer on numerous recording projects across various studios. The technical foundation gained through JAMES' guidance served me exceptionally well in the professional world.

My career eventually led me into education. When my institution sought to transition from Further Education to Higher Education, developing HND and HNC programs, we pursued JAMES accreditation to ensure credibility and industry standards. The assessment process brought David Ward and Tony Andrews to evaluate our courses. Their satisfaction validated our work and confirmed JAMES' commitment to maintaining high industry standards.

## Coming Full Circle

Years later, an encounter with David Ward opened new doors. Our discussion about my experiences led to an invitation to join JAMES as an Assessor – a challenging yet rewarding role. As an Assessor, I've visited numerous educational establishments observing diverse curriculum approaches, examining facilities and witnessing various student engagement methods. Most importantly, I've seen how institutions stay current with rapidly evolving industry trends providing invaluable insights into audio education quality across the sector.



## The Next Chapter

Today, I continue as a JAMES Assessor whilst embarking on an exciting new development – joining JAMES' Executive in a time that represents a new organisational chapter.

My focus centres on maintaining and strengthening existing relationships with educational establishments whilst exploring opportunities with industry partners and expanding into other media support areas. Having experienced JAMES from every perspective – student, educator seeking accreditation and assessor – I've witnessed a unique arc of how the organisation serves its diverse community.

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## Current Career

I maintain an active role across multiple music industry areas as musician, producer, recording engineer, mixing engineer, and more so recently, mastering engineer. Currently, I'm managing several production projects with emerging artists while handling recording and mixing duties for established acts, with several 2025 releases planned.

My engineering work spans both studio and live environments—from tracking sessions in professional facilities to mixing projects in my own setup. I also have keen interest in acoustics and studio design construction. I'm currently building a studio facility in Cambridgeshire in an old chapel scheduled for 2026 completion. On the live side, I regularly work in stage management for various tours and festivals. I'm particularly excited about my ongoing role as guitarist for Francis Rossi in his current acoustic show and this represents a significant part of my touring year. We have 60 UK dates scheduled for 2025, with the European tour beginning Spring 2026. This stripped-down format allows more intimate musical connection and showcases the Status Quo songbook in a completely different light. ►

► This variety keeps things interesting and allows me to stay current with industry developments across all disciplines. Each role informs the others, making me have a more well-rounded outlook whether behind the console, performing with Francis, or fine-tuning live productions and their technical aspects.

### Looking Forward

From that first student inquiry to my current Executive position, my JAMES journey reflects the organisation's core mission - supporting individuals and institutions in achieving media education excellence in preparation for real-world situations. As we look ahead, I'm excited to help shape JAMES' continued evolution and ensure that it remains at the forefront of industry standards.

The path from student to executive member has been unexpected but deeply fulfilling, demonstrating both personal growth and the enduring value of an organisation committed to nurturing talent at every stage of the media education journey.



# JAMES Outstanding Achievement Award 2025 Recipients

In Memory of David Ward

Each year the most deserving students graduating from a JAMES accredited course are recognised for their achievements with a certificate and prize voucher that is presented as part of the year end Graduation Ceremony.

Dermot Martin	Ulster University	Scott Paterson	Glasgow Caledonian University
Emma Williams	University of Salford	Paulina Kompanovych	University of Greenwich
Kirsten Hollands	University of Winchester	Georgina Cotterill	University of the West of England
Emily Perry	Bucks New University	Ryan Vuyyuru	Bournemouth University
Thomas Priestly	City of St George's University of London	Pau Sala Garcia	Leeds Beckett University
Aryan Rajesh Joshi	University of Hull	Callum Vincent	University of Derby
Emily Key	University of Northampton	Ben Winner	Anglia Ruskin University
Tim Shepherd	University of the Arts, London	Josh Trumble	University of the West of Scotland
Wesley Leggo-Morrell	University of Plymouth		

