USER MANUAL

Record anyone, anywhere — straight into your DAW.

M8Studio pairs a **DAW plugin** on the engineer's side with the **M8Artist** app (or the **web app**) on the performer's side. Audio travels peer-to-peer as uncompressed PCM — what the artist sings is what lands on your track.

01 Getting started

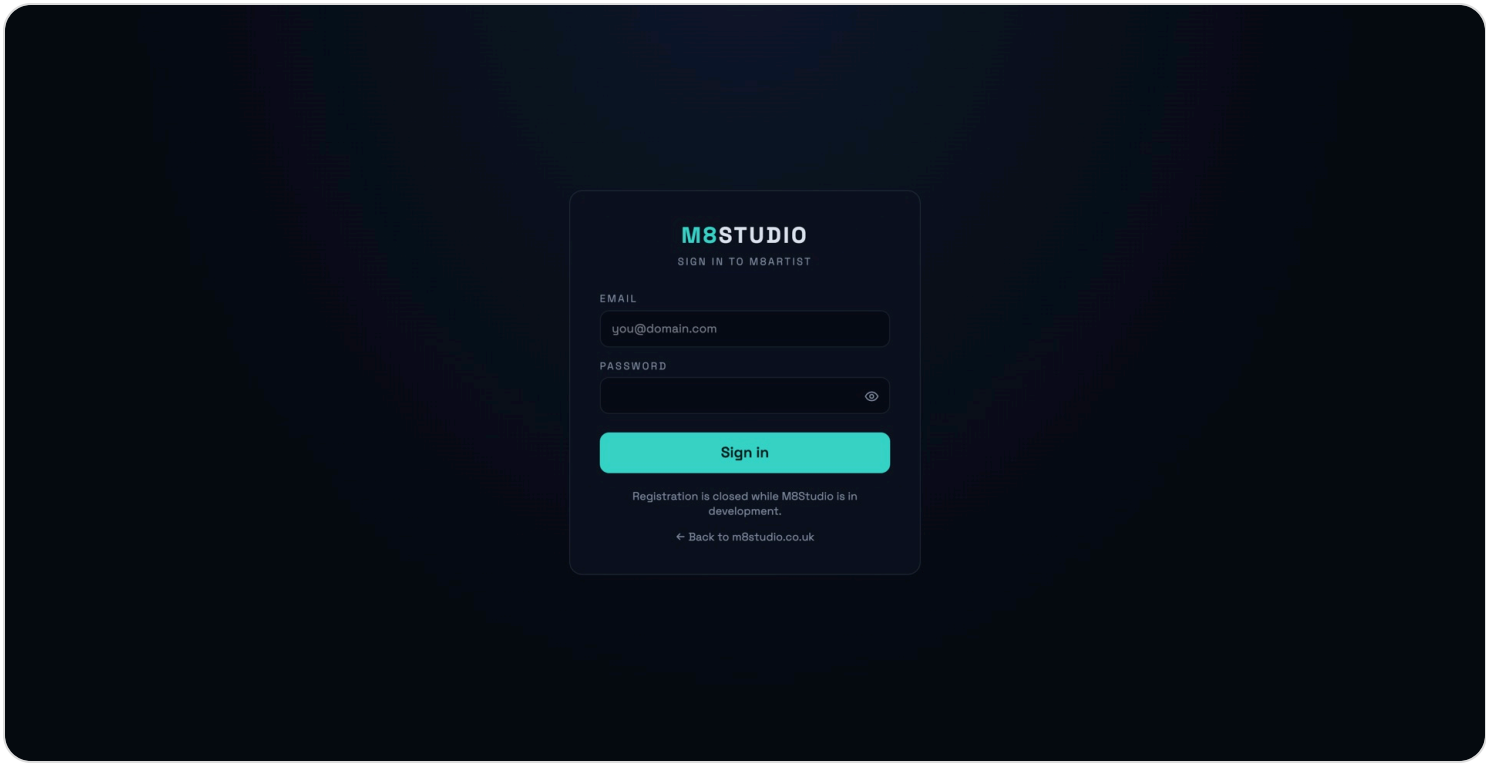
One account works everywhere — M8Artist, the M8Studio plugin and the web app share the same login.

Your account

- Sign in with your **email + password**. Registration is invite-only right now — accounts are created by the M8Studio team.
- **Forgot password?** Use the link on the login screen — a reset email lands within a minute. One reset per 60 seconds; the button shows a cooldown.
- Your **username** sits next to **Sign out**. Click it to open your profile slide-over.

Your profile

- Set your role (*artist* / *producer*), categories, instruments, styles and bio — this is what others see in the Directory.
- **Email is locked** — it's your sign-in identity and can't be changed from the profile editor.
- **Visibility:** *public* lists you in the Directory; *invisible* hides you (friends can still reach you).



The login screen — same everywhere: app, plugin and web.

02 Installing

One installer covers everything. Run **M8Studio-macOS-Installer.pkg**, then tick what you need on the **Customize** step:

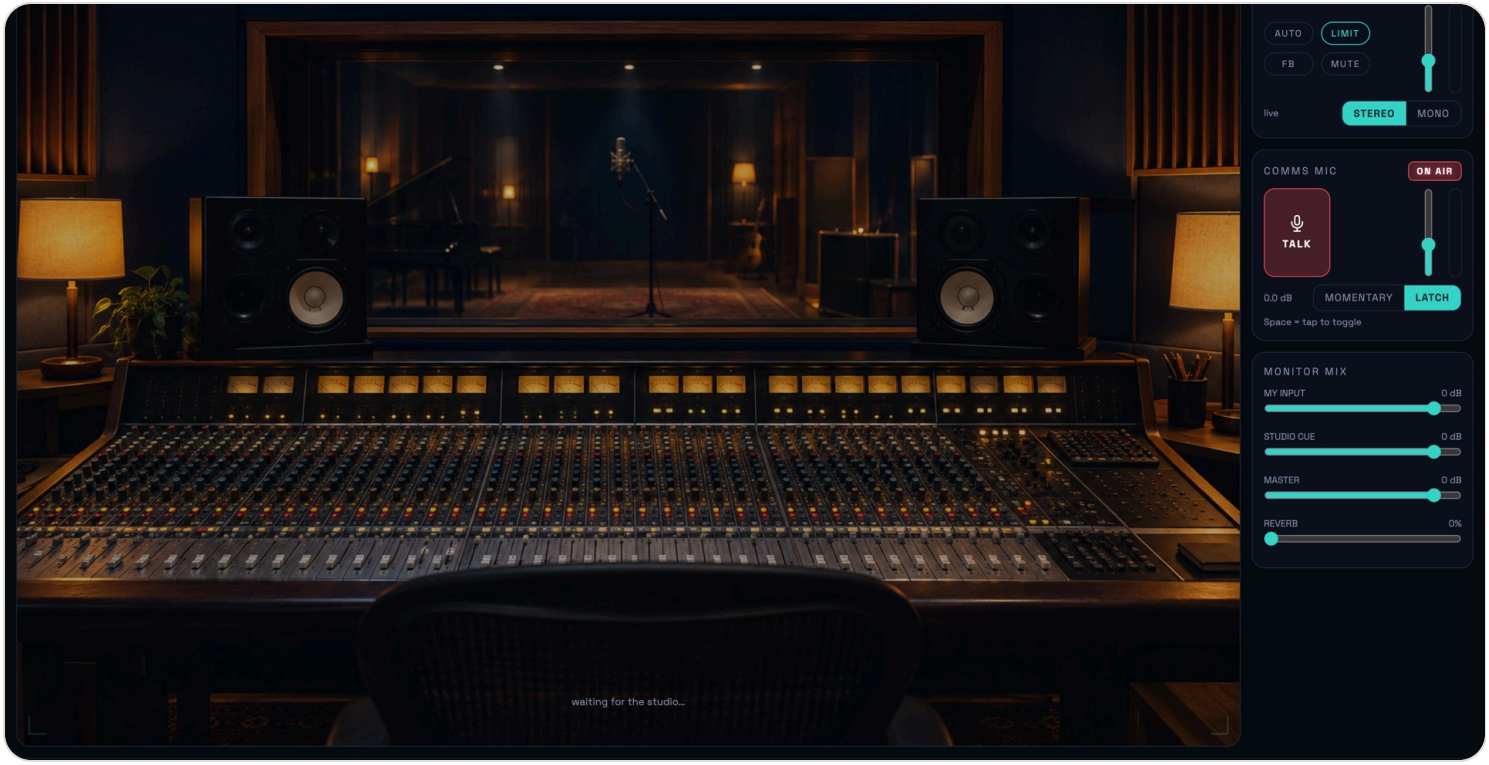
- **M8Artist — standalone app** → `/Applications` (for the performer)
- **M8Studio — standalone app** → `/Applications`
- **VST3** → `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3` — most DAWs
- **AU (Audio Unit)** → `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components` — Logic, GarageBand
- **CLAP** → `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/CLAP` — Bitwig, Reaper

Gatekeeper: while builds are unsigned, macOS may say the app "can't be opened" or is "damaged". Fix it once: open **Terminal** and run `xattr -dr com.apple.quarantine /Applications/M8Artist.app` (or on the `.zip` / `.pkg` before opening). Alternatively: right-click → **Open** → **Open Anyway** in Privacy & Security.

Updates are automatic. When a newer version exists, an **UPDATE → vX.Y.Z** pill appears in the header after login. Click it — the app downloads the installer and opens it for you.

03 M8Artist app

The performer's booth: a standalone app that sends your uncompressed mic audio to the engineer's DAW.



On air — the engineer hears exactly what your microphone hears.

First launch

1. Sign in. The app remembers you — next launch skips straight to the booth.
2. Grant **microphone** permission when macOS asks.
3. Pick your input device in the audio bar — an interface or USB mic beats the built-in one.

Going on air

- Wait for the engineer's call, or call them from the **Directory**.
- **Enable audio** arms your stream; the level meter should dance while you sing.
- **MUTE** mutes your outgoing stream — the pill pulses red so there's no doubt.
- **TALK** is your talkback latch to speak to the control room between takes.

Controls you'll use

Input gain & autogain

Set your level with the input fader, or hit **Autogain** — sing at performance level for a few seconds and it sets the gain for you.

Monitor mix

Blend your own voice with the engineer's **return channel** (the DAW playback) using the monitor faders — headphones recommended to avoid feedback.

Video

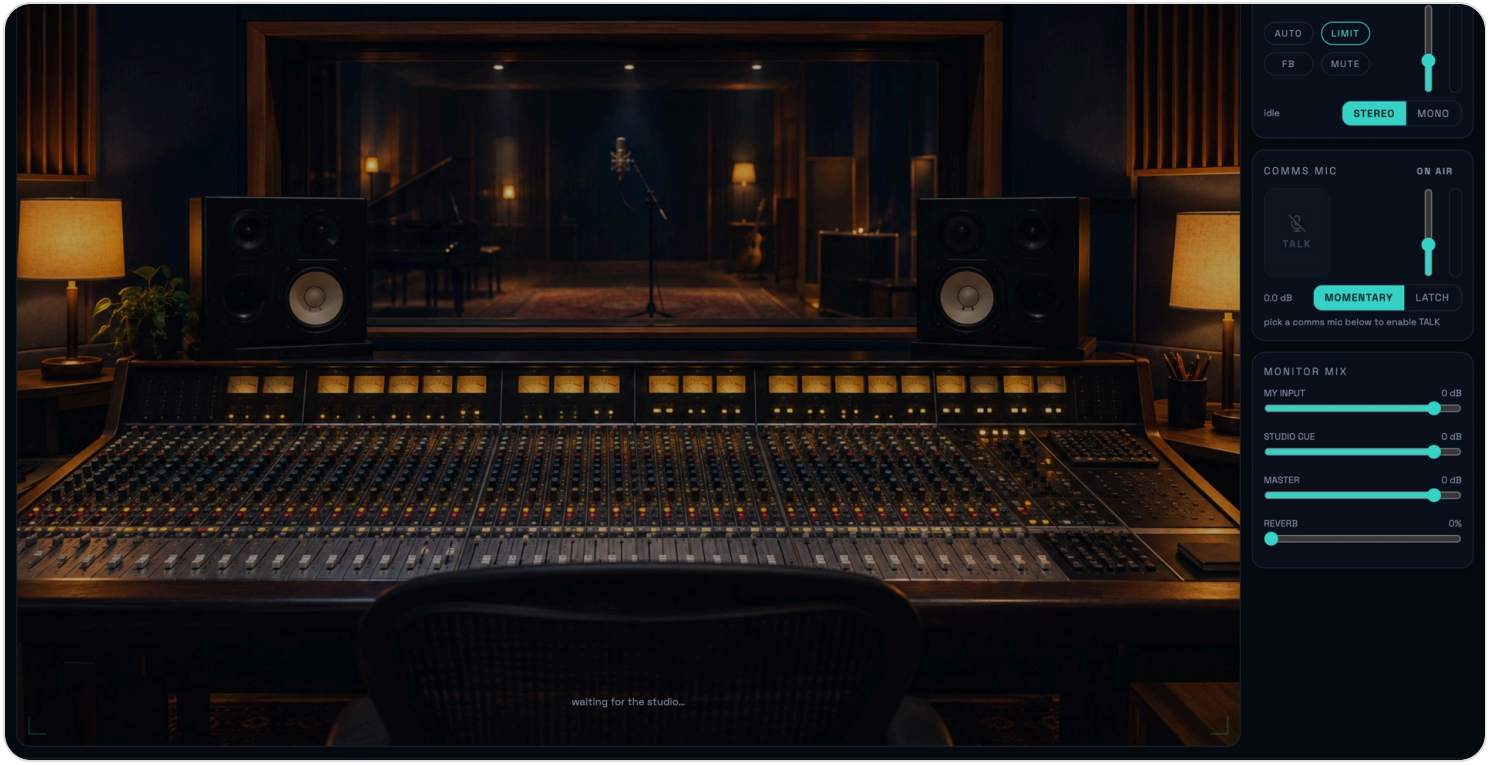
Optional camera preview in the stage area. Video adapts to the network first — audio quality is never sacrificed for it.

Help

The **?** button in the header opens this manual in your browser.

04 M8Studio plugin

The engineer's side: a plugin that lives inside your DAW and receives the artist's PCM stream directly on a channel — no routing, no virtual cables.



The control room view — directory, chat and session tools a click away.

In your DAW

1. Insert **M8Studio** on an audio track or aux (VST3 / AU / CLAP — whichever your DAW hosts).
2. Sign in with the same account — the plugin shows the identical interface to the app.
3. Arm the track's record or monitor path like any other input.

Calling an artist

- Open the **Directory**, find the artist, hit **call**. They get a ring with accept/decline.
- Once connected the session goes **ON AIR** and artist audio lands on the plugin's output — record it like a live mic.
- **Talkback** (PTT or toggle) speaks to the artist's headphones without printing on the recording.

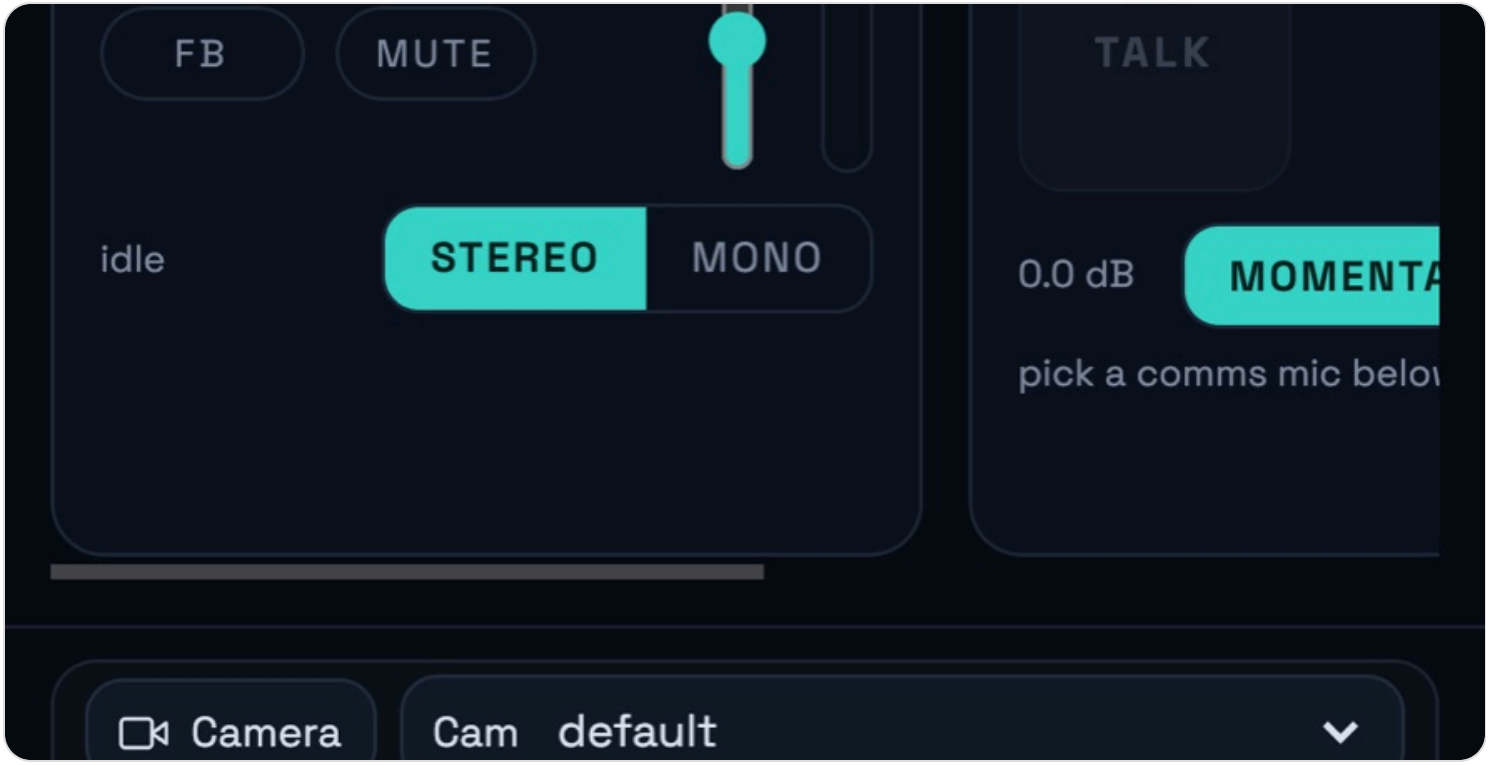
Return channel

Whatever the host plays into the plugin's inputs — cue mix, backing track, your talkback — streams back to the artist. One send, zero setup.

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05 Web app

No install needed: m8studio.co.uk/app is the full artist booth in a browser — same account, same directory, same calls.



The web app on a phone — everything fits, everything works.

- Works in Chrome, Edge, Safari — the browser asks for mic permission.
- Fully responsive: directory, chat, friends, calls and your profile all work on a phone.
- The **?** button in the header brings you back here.

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06 Calls, chat & sessions

Directory & friends

- **Directory** lists everyone public — search by name, role, instrument or style.
- **Add friend** sends a request; if they already asked, it accepts instantly.
- Friends get a direct line — call and chat from the Friends panel.

Chat

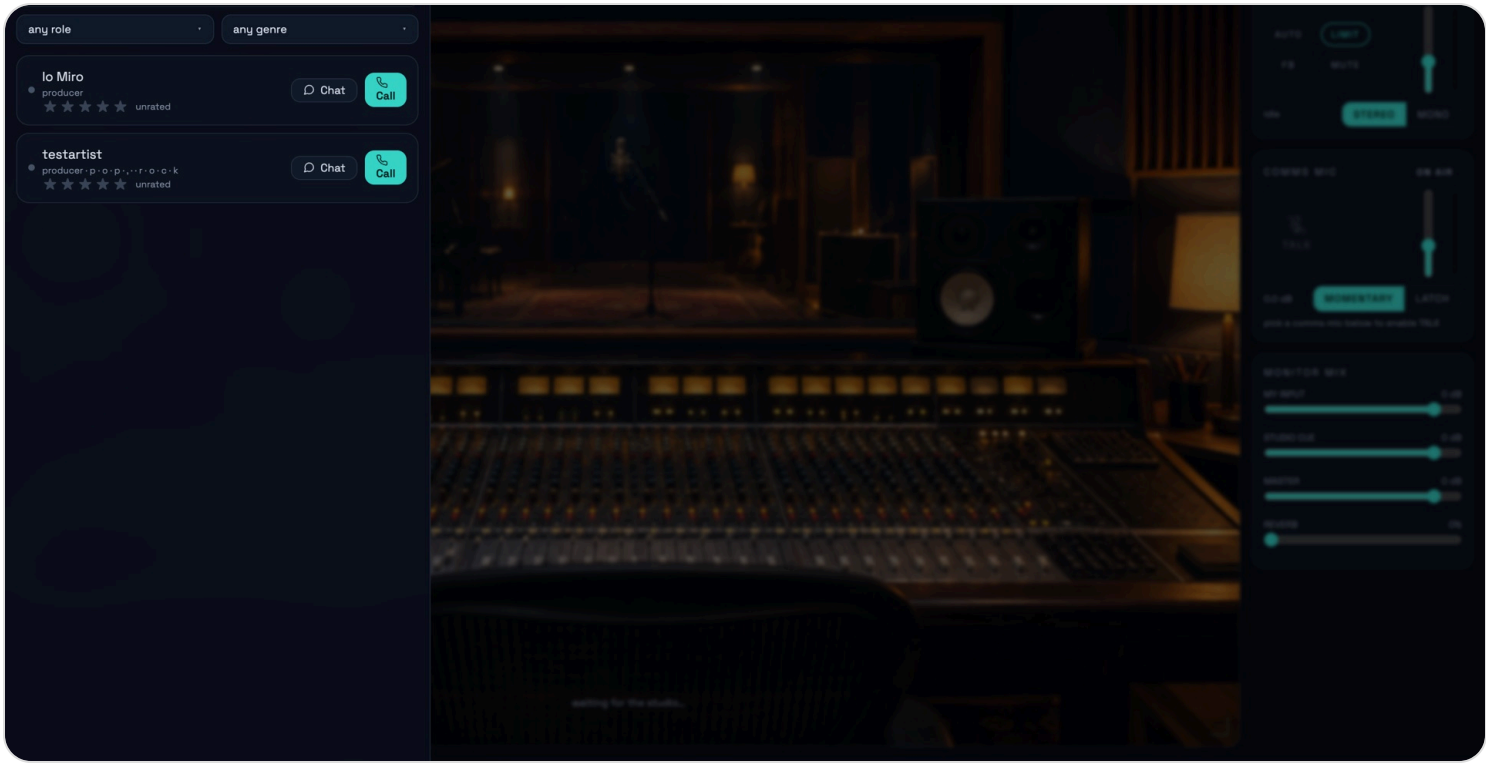
- Per-friend threads, live delivery, unread badge on the Chat tab.
- Works between app, plugin and web — message from anywhere.

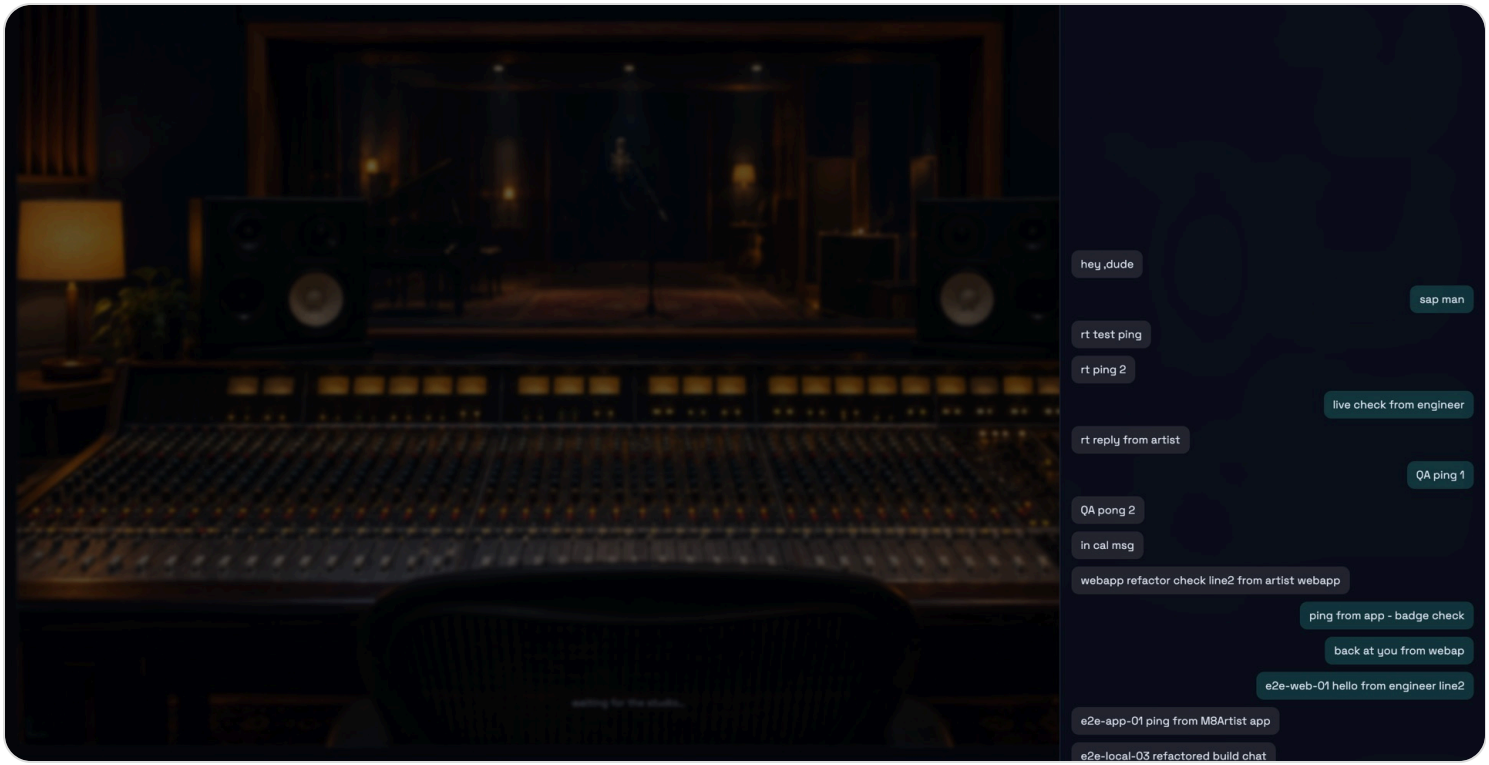
Sessions

- Schedule a session with anyone: pick a time, they get notified in-app.
- Upcoming sessions live in the Sessions panel — join the call from there.

Presence

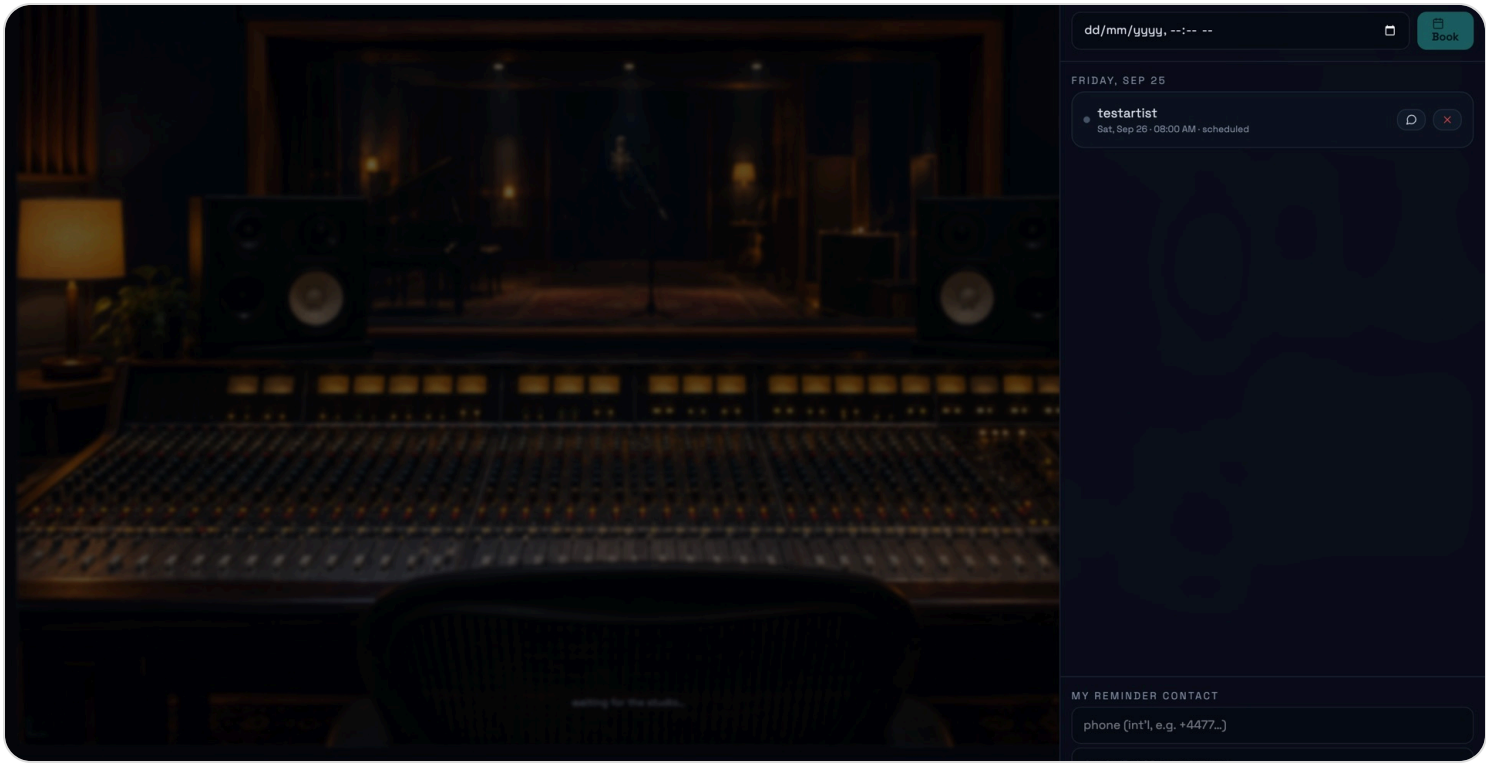
- The dot by a name is live presence — green means they're online now.
- Going invisible hides you from the directory but not from friends.


any role
any genre
lo Miro
producer
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Chat
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testartist
producer · p · o · p · , · · r · o · c · k
unrated
Chat
Call


hey ,dude
sap man
rt test ping
rt ping 2
live check from engineer
rt reply from artist
QA ping 1
QA pong 2
in cal msg
webapp refactor check line2 from artist webapp
ping from app - badge check
back at you from webap
e2e-web-01 hello from engineer line2
e2e-app-01 ping from M8Artist app
e2e-local-03 refactored build chat

07 Recording

- **Engineer side:** the artist's PCM arrives on the plugin channel — record in your DAW as usual. A safety **Backup.wav** of the raw received stream is written during takes.
- **Artist side:** your own performance is captured locally as a WAV too — nothing is ever only on the wire.
- **Take sync:** when the engineer hits record, the artist sees the take start at the same moment — backups line up across both machines.
- **Latency:** audio is uncompressed PCM over P2P WebRTC. The connection adapts (96k → 48k → 44.1k) to keep the stream clean — never dropouts.



Book the session, get the reminder, hit record.

08 Network & firewall

- Calls are **peer-to-peer**: audio goes straight from artist to engineer — lowest possible latency.
- When a NAT blocks the direct path, the call falls back to the **TURN relay** automatically — no setup needed.
- Wired Ethernet > Wi-Fi for long takes. Close other uploads/downloads during a session.
- Outbound traffic only: HTTPS to `db.m8studio.co.uk` for login/chat, then the call itself runs over UDP (WebRTC).

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09 Troubleshooting

- "App is damaged / can't be opened"

  Unsigned-build Gatekeeper block. Run `xattr -dr com.apple.quarantine /Applications/M8Artist.app` once, or right-click → Open. Notarised builds won't need this.

+ No reset / contact email arrives

+ I connect but hear nothing

+ Call never connects / drops instantly

+ The header shows UPDATE → vX.Y.Z

+ Something's still wrong