

# If you guessed Kevin Edlin, you are correct!!!

The Grammy-nominated recording engineer, music producer, and guitarist graduated from Jones in 1995 as a business/accounting major.

He stumbled upon the Recording Industry program at Middle Tennessee State University when his friend stopped for a college tour while they were on spring break. That encounter changed the direction of his future. The Northeast Jones High School graduate played guitar in local bands but producing and engineering albums became his goal. "I got into the music business because I wanted to make rock and roll albums, and I have, but I've made rock, pop, country and everything else," said Edlin.

The East Nashville resident has been an independent live sound and recording engineer, and producer for more than 20 years. He can be found working in the studio, mixing the sound of a live performer, or at an event mixing the live and/or recorded performance. You may also recognize him jamming on his electric guitar at different venues in the area or being hired to fill in with different bands. The East Nashvillian magazine also featured the guitarist, songwriter, audio engineer, and producer.

Some of the projects where he's been the assistant engineer have won Grammys. He's also proud to have an album in the Billboard Top 50 on one chart and in another chart, the album he produced/engineered landed in the Top 25. In 2017, an album he engineered became a #1 Billboard hit for three weeks. However, being the *Engineer* on a project that wins a Grammy is his goal. This year, as an Engineer, Kevin's work with the Nashville Symphony's album by composer Jonathan Leshnoff was nominated for the Grammy's on January 26, for the Grammy nomination, Best Classical Compendium. While his work didn't land that elusive Grand Prize, Kevin said he's still proud for the winners and proud of his accomplishments. Being nominated is not easy. "I love making records, all kinds. If I ever do win, I won't expect it because there have been projects, I have thought could have won and didn't."

Early in his career, he served as an assistant engineer on projects for artists like Charlotte Church and Amy Grant's "Simple Things" in 2003. Over the years, he's worked his way up to be the Engineer for the Contemporary Christian group, Big Daddy Weave and their album, "Fields



Photo by: Tori Cathcart Photography

Some of his credits include working with conductor, John Mauceri in 2006 as Engineer on Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess* and more than 20 albums with The Nashville Symphony. He is also the Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music engineer for events played at their facilities.

★ Kevin finds time outside of Nashville to work with local artists in the Pine Belt. His



JC Fine Arts Director, Bruce Smith gives Kevin Edlin a tour of the JC Recording Studio.

o work with local artists in the Pine Belt. His connections with band members from groups like Lynyrd Skynyrd, Big and Rich, and Miranda Lambert will be playing on a Hattiesburg artist's project. Kevin and the rising star are collaborating on songs with Lynyrd Skynyrd's keyboard player. While "home" working with this new artist, Kevin stopped in to visit with Jones College Fine Arts Director, Bruce Smith and tour the college's new recording studio, Free State of Jones. He offered this advice for anyone wanting to get into the business.

“There are not a lot of ‘formal’ jobs. It’s hard to find a staff position at a studio because there is not a

★ clear-cut career path. You will have to make your own opportunities. Being a musician helps in  
★ this line of work.” Kevin earned a Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry with a Production  
★ and Technology concentration and a double minor in Entertainment Technology and Mass  
★ Communication.

- ★ Another talent of Kevin's is cooking,
- ★ especially his grandmother's buttermilk pie.
- ★ He was featured sharing the recipe in the
- ★ Laurel Leader Call's cookbook, "A Taste of
- ★ Home Town: The People, Places and Food
- ★ of Laurel and Jones County."

- ★ While Kevin came to JCJC to begin his college education, initially, it was a

★ playground for him as a 7-year-old. Visits to his grandmother who lived near Highway 11, often became playtime with his friends playing football or riding bikes on the campus. Other family members attending Jones include his brother Curtis Holland who graduated in 2009. He's also in Nashville pursuing a singing career. Kevin said his brother is his favorite singer and they are working on original music together. Their mother, Debbie Hickson Holland came to Jones in 1971-72 and his stepdad, Randy Holland was the 1978 class president at JCJC.

Coming back to Jones last summer for the first time since the 90s, Kevin noted a lot has changed but the memories of philosophy and history classes flooded his mind. He remembers how the teachers opened his eyes and made him think about the world differently.

★ **Congratulations!!! and Thank You for sharing with the JC Bobcat Family!**

