

Chips Davis (Class OF 1962)

Chips' family moved to Las Vegas in 1954. He attended Crestwood Elementary and John C. Fremont Junior High. He was its first student body president and graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1962. The Nevada Test Site sponsored a completely outfitted Electronics Lab and instructor on LVHS' campus. Chips attended these classes for three years. His mom became Las Vegas' City Treasurer, and his dad was Hilton International's assistant chief engineer. After high school, he joined the Navy and attended the Navy schools for electronics, radar, and active countermeasures. He maintained the Navy's highest-powered radar systems for aircraft control and missile acquisition over Vietnam. After Vietnam, he worked at Caesars Palace as one of the audio mixers and traveled with central Las Vegas and Hollywood stars as a sound designer and mixer. Chips is married to Nancy Talavera Davis, a ten-year pair skater with Ice Follies and ten years skating in Las Vegas shows.

Chips owned Las Vegas Recording, where he conducted research on studio control room acoustics. This research, along with his knowledge of radar waves, led to changes in studio control room designs using a new technology: TEF (Time Energy Frequency) measurements.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

Chips Davis received the Audio Engineering Fellowship Award for his lifetime work in acoustics. His work is documented in "The Master Handbook of Acoustics," "Sound System Engineering," and "The Handbook for Sound Engineers." Chips Davis Designs has participated in the acoustic design of many Las Vegas and Native American hotels/casinos, high-end condominium projects, television/radio broadcast facilities, houses of worship, showrooms/theatres, high-end homes, and home theatres. His experience includes large corporations such as Apple, ABC, NBC, CBS, NFL Network, NPR & local PBS stations, Disney ABC7, Facebook, Intuit, YouTube, Sony labs, and AEG (Staples Center, Home Depot Center, L.A. Live, 7000 seat Microsoft Theatre & Club (Nokia); schools and universities such as Carondelet High School and University of California-Berkeley. Chips received MIX Magazine's 1987 award for Technical Excellence and Creativity for Acoustics and Studio Design; The TEF Heyser Award 2004- Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Electro-Acoustical Measurements, and Audio Engineering Society's -2014 History of Studio Designs. Chips is one of the five people who influenced the recording industry's acoustical designs. He has published many papers and magazine articles and lectured classes on acoustics and acoustic measurements. Chips designed studios for significant artists such as Green Day, Journey, Narada, Michael Walden, etc.

In addition, he recently was asked to commission the new "Immersive Surround" exhibit for the Grammy's Museum at L.A. Live. Chips was one of the people commissioned to produce guidelines and recommendations for the ACRP (Airport Cooperative Research Program), a division of the Transportation Research Board and FAA for public address systems evaluation, design, and commissioning for mass evacuation and understanding of general announcements. This will become the national code for all U.S. airports.

Chips has continued his research, presenting a paper on "Side Diffusion" at the Acoustical Society of America's November 2018 convention. This paper presents the findings of new research on control room acoustics using diffusion and immersive sound. His love of music and pursuit of improvements in sound reproduction continue.