



Positive Feedback DSD Sampler volume one

Title selection by Dr. David W. Robinson Editor-in-chief, Positive Feedback



Cover photograph by David W. Robinson: Elementals No. 1. Joshua Tree, CA, 2010.
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nativeDSD
MUSIC 



Track List

Track name	Composer	Artist	Label	Duration
1. Opening Piece From Glassworks	Philip Glass	Lavinia Meijer	Channel Classics	3:50
2. Grave, Metamorphoses for Cello and Piano	Lutoslawski	Frey & Fung	Yarlung Records	5:41
3. Two Yuletide Pieces for Piano Solo	Hanson	Craighead	HDTT	5:20
4. Symphony No 2 – Allegro Maestoso	Mahler	Iván Fischer, BFO	Channel Classics	21:03
5. Baubles, Bangles and Beads	Forrest, Wright	Bill Evans	2xHD	4:51
6. Invention (from Album for Children)	Khachaturian	Olga Martynova	Caro Mitis	2:39
7. Rhapsody in Blue (version for piano)	Gershwin	Hyperion Knight	Wilson Audio	13:51
8. String Quartet – Quick, breathless	Matheson	Color Field Quartet	Yarlung Records	5:04
9. Earth Wisdom (396 Hz)	Calderwood	Anima	Anima Sound	10:58
10. Cantique de Noel	Adam	Oscars’ Motet Choir	2xHD-Naxos	4:12

Please note that these tracks are all available in 64FS DSD, tracks 2,3,5, 8 and 10 in 128FS DSD, and tracks 2,3 and 8 in 256FS DSD.

Dr. David W. Robinson biography



David W. Robinson is Editor-in-Chief of Positive Feedback, an online journal for the audio arts. Dr. Robinson has been in love with music since his childhood, including playing the guitar to the present day. He became fascinated by audio from his teens. He has also been writing prose and poetry from his high school days, and has edited various publications since he was 17. In a sense, Positive Feedback represents a natural convergence of interests: Music, the audio arts, editing, writing, and photography, brought together within the framework of his advanced skills in computing, the Internet, and information technology.

Professionally, Dr. Robinson has been a teacher and professor all of his adult life. His undergraduate work was a double major in history and education, which was followed by graduate work, again in history and education. Eventually he completed his doctorate in educational foundations and leadership. He has published scholarly articles and book reviews in peer-reviewed journals, has contributed to educational encyclopedias, published chapters in books on educational history, and has co-edited and contributed to a major reference work on Protestant education.

Dr. Robinson has an array of passionate interests, including fine art photography, historical research, writing, reading, film/video, music, high-end audio, traveling, and the fine arts generally. He is also active in the leadership of his local church.

Positive Feedback profile

Positive Feedback is a high-end audio journal that has been in publication since January of 1990. It was published with paper and ink for the first thirteen years of its existence, and then merged with Dave and Carol Clark's magazine, audioMusings in southern California, and converted to fully online publication under the Positive Feedback brand by June of 2002. With a subtitle of "A Creative Forum for the Audio Arts," PF has been a very dynamic and wide-ranging magazine, with a large community of over 70 associated editors and writers, located online at <http://www.positive-feedback.com>. It currently verifies 250,000 – 300,000 readers worldwide per month, and is generally recognized as a major and influential voice in the global audiophile community. It maintains both social networking presence at Facebook and Twitter.

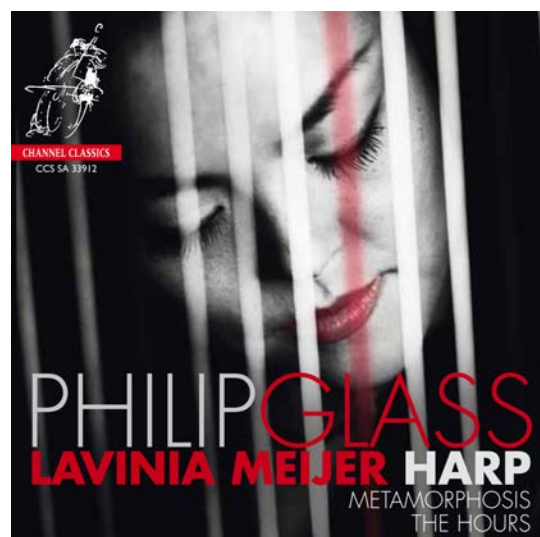
There is no charge for visiting PF, and all back issues are maintained in our online archives (<http://positive-feedback.com/archive/>) for easy public access.

Positive Feedback was the first audiophile journal to come out in support of DSD and SACD, in the fall of 1998, after visiting Mobile Fidelity's demonstration of the new DSD technology in Sebastopol, California. (See the republication of my original print response to DSD in Issue 1 of PF online: <http://www.positive-feedback.com/Issue1/MoFiDSD.htm>.) Our support for DSD and SACD has never wavered since then, and has been confirmed by developments in the audio arts and in the marketplace.

Our thanks to the fine folks at NativeDSD.com for suggesting that Positive Feedback produce this sampler of music for its first volume of DSD tracks from the very large collection at NativeDSD! We are sure that this set of Single, Double, and Quad DSD tracks will give you a sense of the possibilities that DSD offers to a listener at each of its levels of resolution. Every effort has been made to be reasonably eclectic, although even ten tracks does not give enough opportunity to explore various genres as completely as they deserve. What is here, however, will get you started!

We hope to work with NativeDSD.com to produce future volumes of DSD samplers for music lovers and audiophiles everywhere.

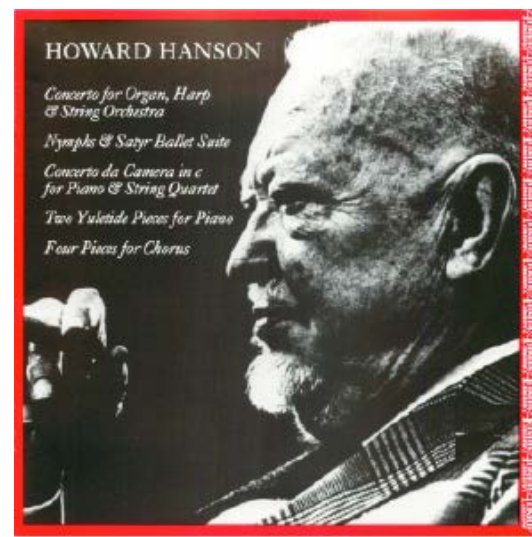
Links to albums the music originates from



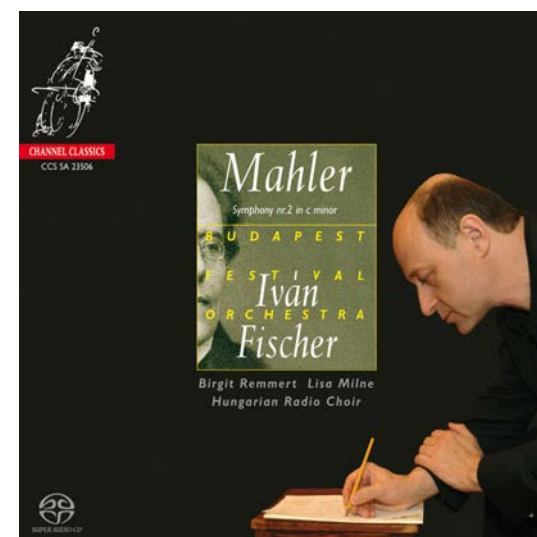
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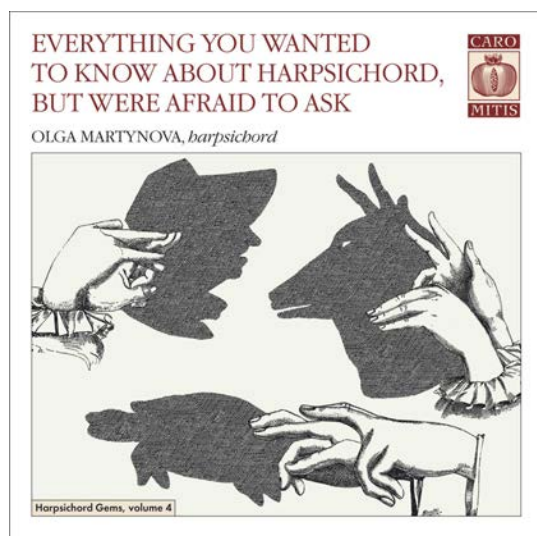
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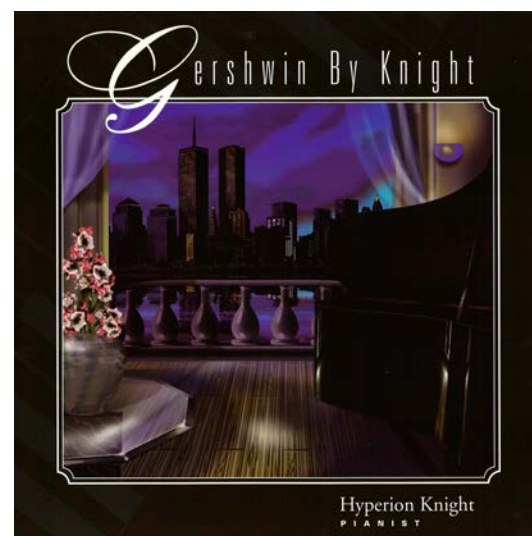
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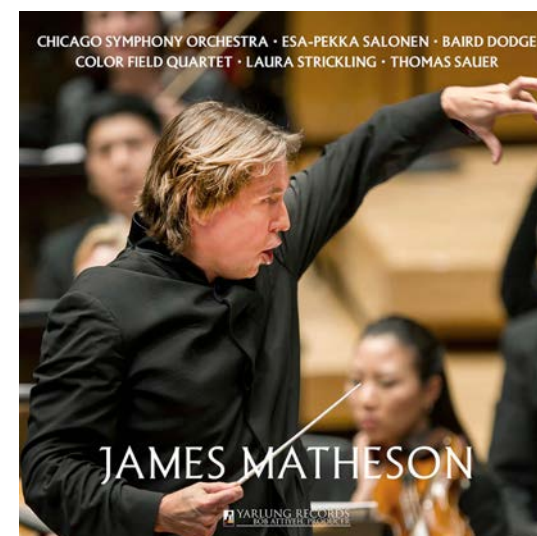
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1. When I first heard that the brilliant Jared Sacks of Channel Classics was going to release the music of Philip Glass on harp...harp!...one of my favorite solo instruments...I could scarcely credit it. Glass? On harp? But given my enduring love of the harp, I gave it a try. I'm delighted that I did! This opening track from Lavinia Meijer's Glass – Metamorphosis, The Hours, recorded directly to Single DSD, gives you a sense for Meijer's mastery of her instrument, and the amazing feel that she projects in this wonderful recording. It won't take long for you to see why I've led our sampler with this haunting selection. The entire album partakes of the same sense of calm, contemplative reverie that is here. If you don't have this album, I strongly suggest that you purchase it...it's a real treasure. By the way, I should mention that this album went on to become an enormous bestseller, at last count (2015) selling over 25,000 copies on SACD alone...in the Netherlands alone!

2. Bob Attiyeh of Yarlung Records is a man on a mission: A quest to produce some of the most exquisite new recordings of classical and jazz music currently being made. His recordings are done to 15 IPS analog tape on the very fine SonoruS ATR-10 and ATR-12 recorders, and then lovingly transferred to Quad DSD via the Merging Technologies HAPI A/D converter, as the highest expression of the original master tape. This particular track from Frey and Fung's startling album, Dialoghi, shows the remarkable dance of inspiration and passion that the artists engaged in as they explore some of the fiery, moody limits of their instruments. Whenever I have played this performance for visitors to our Positive Feedback reference listening room, or at our hospitality suite at THE Show Newport Beach, the dynamics, texture, and powerful interplay never fail to startle the audience. I'm sure that you'll feel the same way when you hear it!

3. Piano lovers, take note! Hanson's "Two Yuletide Pieces for Piano Solo" are delicious examples of Hanson's lyrical spirituality as a composer. And it is a devilishly difficult instrument to record in anything like its full beauty. And yet High Definition Tape Transfer is a company that is making quite a name for itself in the realm of exceptional transfers of significant classical and jazz recordings from analog to high-resolution digital formats. Many of these recordings will not be found be released in high resolution anywhere else, I'm delighted to say. I have been particularly taken by the wonderful sound of Bob Witrak's DSD releases, especially in Double and Quad DSD. HDTT now owns a Merging Technologies HAPI A/D converter, and is making great use of it! The third track on this sampler comes from a splendid album of the work of Howard Hanson, transferred from its analog master tape to Quad DSD in shining glory! You'll hear a fine solo piano recording, with impeccable artistry by David Craighead, showing how Quad DSD is able to deliver the full dynamics and harmonic richness that we long for. The entire album is stellar, though, and includes Hanson's works involving chorus and chamber orchestra. A magnificent album! You owe it to yourself to purchase the complete work.

4. As an example of a full orchestral experience, we have included the opening five minutes or so of Ivan Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra performing that immense composition by Mahler, his Symphony No. 2 in C minor: Resurrection. I have listened to Mahler's Second many times over the past few decades, always deeply moved by its tense and startling exploration of faith and the resurrection of the dead. Fischer and company have carved quite a name for themselves as marvelous interpreters and performers of the work of Mahler, among others. Jared Sacks has invested enormous amounts of time in his work with Fischer and the Budapest, and his mastery of the audio arts is quite evident in his recording of the Mahler symphonies with them. Mahler is hard work for everyone involved! But the opening of the first movement of Resurrection, recorded directly to DSD, will show you just how powerfully Mahler's creative vision has been captured in this extraordinary Channel Classics recording. Listen to this sample, and then do yourself a favor...buy the full album!

5. Bill Evans...jazzic piano lyricism of the highest order. He needs no further introduction from me, certainly. Note that this track, "Baubles, Bangles, and Beads," familiar to fans of Sinatra and Jobim, is taken from the recently discovered "Lost Sessions" double-length sessions (93 minutes!) that were recorded in Germany in 1968. The idea was to release them as a double-LP set on MPS, but somehow this was never done. Their rediscovery and reissue by 2xHD in Double DSD is a real treat to jazz lovers who really dig Bill Evans...as I do. In Double DSD, this performance shines: a compelling performance and an exceptional recording. Any Bill Evans fan will want this entire album in their DSD collection!

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6. Caro Mitis is a label that I followed from the first time I heard their work on SACD. In fact, I have most every SACD that Caro Mitis ever issued; yes, that is how impressed I was with this exceptional library of albums. Fine Russian artists recorded directly to Single DSD via the EMM Labs A/D and the Sonoma workstation? Sign me up! This album – Everything You Wanted to Know about the Harpsichord, but Were Afraid to Ask – is a diverse collection of works performed on harpsichord, an instrument that captured my heart as soon as I heard it in my childhood. Performed by the artist Olga Martynova, who obviously has an excellent feel for these works, I was carried away by the album from the first until the last song. Track 3, Khachaturian’s “Invention: Adagio from the ballet Gayane,” will be familiar to anyone who’s watched Stanley Kubrick’s brilliant masterpiece, 2001: A Space Odyssey.” This haunting composition always moves me to melancholy; there’s something of childhood’s end in its notes. Martynova has just the right touch, and the recording captures the rich tones, overtones, and percussives of the instrument that she has mastered. Every track on this album is a joy...taste and see!
7. David Wilson’s recording label, Wilson Audio, was recording brilliantly direct to 15 IPS half-track analog tape back in the early ‘90s. Among the artists that Wilson recorded was a fine pianist with a remarkable name: Hyperion Knight. One of the several albums that he recorded with Wilson was by another favorite composer of mine, George Gershwin. This solo album, Gershwin by Knight, includes the immortal “Rhapsody in Blue,” which I have selected here. No matter that this composition is one of the best-known in the world; Rhapsody is none the worse for wear, and near grows stale in my heart. Knight’s solo piano foray into this work has always appealed to me: A lyrical feel, with fine poetics in the quiet passages, together with a muscular, powerful approach to the crescendos. Carrying this orchestral work off so very brilliantly by yourself: Priceless. The transfer to Single DSD is very well done, and provides a sonic treat that’s immediately appreciable. Sit back, and enjoy this classic all over again!
8. James Matheson is a composer new to me, I’ll confess. I first became aware of him when my good audio friend and master producer/recordist at Yarlung Records, Bob Attiyeh, contacted me and said that I had to check out his new Quad DSD recording, James Matheson, transferred from the original SonoruS 15 IPS half-track ¼” tape via the superlative Merging Technologies Hapi Quad DSD analog-to-digital converter. What can I say? Bob’s recommendations are gold with me. And so I did so. I was very much taken by Matheson’s work in this exceptional recording, which is a collection of his compositions. The third track is the third and concluding movement of his String Quartet, entitled “Quick, breathless.” It certainly is! Coming at you like an oncoming train, this movement drives you with its collection of staccatos, dissonances, and musical tensions. I am still reflecting on what I experience as I listen to Matheson, especially in his compositions for strings. This album was a very pleasant surprise for me; I think that it will be for you, as well. Try something new!
9. “And now for something completely different,” as Monty Python used to say. To get outside of the traditional categories, Anima’s Sound Medicine is just the ticket. I have a very long love (decades long, now, going back into the ‘70s) for so-called “New Age” or “Electronic” music...music that I prefer to think of as “Contemplative Music”...but regardless of labels, I have found myself listening to the two Anima albums (Sound Medicine and Sacred Alliance) again and again since I first discovered them. The sample track, “Earth Wisdom (396 Hz),” will give you a very clear feeling for the creative work that Anima does. The combination of percussives, deep bass, electronic instrumentation, and digeridoo, is hypnotic. While listening to Anima’s art, I find myself relaxing, going inward, and floating on musical clouds. It is also an excellent recording for testing your audio system for lower frequencies, its handling of transients, and its ability to maintain an organic unity of harmonics. If you enjoy contemplative music the way that I do, then you’ll definitely want to add both of these Anima albums to your DSD library.
10. We conclude with a classic recording from the Proprius catalog, now remastered from its original 15 IPS half-track analog tape to Double DSD by 2xHD–Naxos. Cantate Domino (“Sing to the Lord”) was recorded back in the ‘70s, and was recognized early on as an audiophile reference. The combination of organ and chorus in a Swedish cathedral really presses the envelope for recorded sonics and soulful performance. I think that I have just about every format that this album has appeared on over the years...LP, CD, SACD, and now DSD. It was a particular favorite and reference recording for my old friends, Dave Glackin and Winston Ma...now both departed, sadly...and myself. My selection here was the Christmas classic “O Holy Night,” which will test your playback system for tonality and dynamics of a certainty. The Double DSD version shines with glory, with the full richness and spatiality of this performance in startling, holographic presentation. A fine way to conclude our sampler, and for you to close a listening session.



nativeDSD

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First off, the NativeDSD team would like to thank David for his beautiful track selection and wonderful comments. We also would like to thank the labels involved for allowing us to include their music content in this sampler. We hope you will like the selection David made and we invite you to browse our growing catalogue of music in the DSD quality.

We provide audiophile listeners a top quality resource for DSD Stereo & Multichannel music directly from native DSD recorded Master Data, Analog Master Tapes and Native DXD Recorded Music. The tapes and data we use to prepare the DSD downloads come directly from the record labels, engineers and artists recording in DSD and Analog Master Tapes. NativeDSD.com does not offer any physical SACD's or upsampled PCM, that's how we bring you as close to the actual performance as possible.

Enjoy!

Jared C. Sacks & Jonas Sacks
Founders of NativeDSD.com

