

FROM ORIGINAL ANALOG MASTER

2^xHD
FUSION

AUDIOPHILE

ANALOG COLLECTION
Vol. 3



DSD

Direct Stream Digital

NAGRA

DXD

Digital eXtreme Definition

AUDIOPHILE

ANALOG COLLECTION

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BEN WEBSTER

Ben Webster's deeply touching romantic rendition of *For Heaven's Sake* joins the realm of peaceful meditation. It is a truly magnificent, warm interpretation of this beautiful ballad.

Renowned for his beautiful sound that gave his ballad playing a unique touch of tenderness, Ben Webster is regarded as one of the three foremost swing era tenor saxophonists – the two others being Coleman Hawkins and Lester Young.

Ben used the same saxophone from 1938 until his death in 1973. He left instructions that the horn was never to be played again. It is on display in the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey.



BRIAN TORFF

Combining crystalline clarity, superb intonation, tempo and an overriding sense of joy, Brian Torff sparkles almost effortlessly in this January 1983 recording in which he teams up with the brilliant New York pianist, composer and arranger Jim Roberts. Torff's extraordinary use of harmonics has become his trademark. Jim Roberts shows his total musicianship. Together they share deep musical empathy. "There is no one that plays bass like Brian Torff" (music critic Ian Payne).



BUCKY PIZZARELLI

In these days of 'Let's see how many 1,000-watt amplifiers we can get on the stage', wah-wah, fuzz tone, distortion, echo, whatever, it is a sheer pleasure to hear a guitar sounding like a guitar again. Master of the subtle art of rhythm guitar as well as a gifted soloist, Bucky Pizzarelli was among the few guitarists to play an instrument with seven strings rather than the customary six. He was known for his uncommonly sweet and delicate tone and disarmingly straightforward approach to melodic line.



DIDIER DUMONTIER

Accordionist Emeritus, Didier performed on stage for more than 4 decades and played music from the Western world and the Americas, especially old and modern Argentinian tangos, and French songs. Didier performed with more than 20 famous singers from France and Quebec and participated in the making of more than 50 records and a dozen films.

Soledad was recorded live at Montreal's Saint Jean Baptiste church with Nagra T audio at 15 ips in Nagra Master EQ, with two omnidirectional Fidelio RL-1 microphones.



MARIE SAINTONGE

Marie Saintonge is a world music flutist and composer with a repertoire that includes Brazilian, African, Arabic, world music and jazz. *Traversia* was recorded at Montreal's Saint Jean Baptiste church with Nagra T audio at 15 ips in Nagra Master EQ, with two omnidirectional Fidelio RL-1 microphones.



ROBERT LEN

Accomplished multi-instrumentalist Robert Len gives us here an improvisation on the Handpan, a relatively new instrument from the family of percussive instruments that share a unique, hypnotic sound. Coming in numerous shapes, sizes, and tunings, these domed metallic drums produce smooth ambient tones when played with both hands. Each handpan is handmade and unique, having a lenticular shape resembling a UFO, a wok, or a turtle shell. Handpan music is believed to heal and energize the Chakras, the centers of Prana, the vital energy in Hindu and Buddhist traditions, helping to achieve spiritual awakening and enlightenment.

Sense and perception researchers have found that the human brain loves to simplify frequency ratios when it hears it. Since the frequency ratio of the handpan is already as simplified as possible, it has a very harmonizing and calming effect on our brains.



JACO PASTORIUS

Electric bass genius Jaco Pastorius burst onto the national scene in 1976 with his audacious self-titled album on Columbia Records, featuring a lineup of top jazz musicians. With his extraordinary fretless electric bass playing as the centerpiece, Jaco Pastorius created an immediate sensation with the public and the media. His signature approach employed Latin-influenced funk, lyrical solos on fretless bass, bass chords, and innovative use of harmonics. This track is culled from the 24-track original mixdown of the live recording on June 27th, 1982 at George Wein's Kool Jazz Festival at Avery Fisher Hall in NYC.

Jaco Pastorius, the brightest star in the electric bass firmament, was inducted into the Down Beat Jazz Hall of Fame in 1988, one of only seven bassists so honored (and the only electric bassist). His legacy as a bass innovator continues to this day, more than thirty years after his untimely death in 1987.



JOSÉE AIDANS

Josée Aidans graduated with great distinction from the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal where she studied violin and chamber music. During her years of training, she won numerous prizes as a soloist and chamber musician in various competitions such as the Canadian Music Competition and the CBC Young Artists Competition. She has been concertmaster of the Conservatory's string and symphony orchestras on several occasions and has also been a frequent soloist with these ensembles. She has also played in the orchestras of many international stars such as Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross, Diana Krall, Rod Stewart, Luciano Pavarotti and Josh Groban. She has made numerous recordings for radio and television. In 2013, the famous jazz pianist Oliver Jones invited her to record an album with him entitled *Just for my Lady*. This critically acclaimed album received the Félix award in the 'Jazz Creation' category at the 2013 ADISQ gala.



JUNE IN THE FIELDS

June in the fields is Jean-Michel Renaud and Mélissa Brouillette. As far as he can remember, Jean-Michel Renaud's world has revolved around music, musicians, and musical instruments and very few people can remember seeing him without a guitar in his arms or on his back. The only reason this tireless traveler sits down is to play the piano with great talent and emotion. The rest of the time, he can be found anywhere in the world, searching for artistic and personal freedom. A Composer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and singer, Jean-Michel is always sincere and passionate. Always searching for perfect sounds, perfect words and perfect moods. The folk recording *Summer Road* was recorded and mixed all analog, using a Neumann U67 for Jean Michel's voice, with an EMT plate reverb. A schoeps M222 tube microphone was used on the guitar and a Telefunken Ela M251 for the double bass, mixed live with a Neve console (1073 mic pre) direct to an ampx 354 tube ¼ inch recorded in NAB EQ curve.



RACHEL LAURIN

The American Guild of Organists granted Rachel Laurin their distinguished Composer Award in 2020. Throughout her career, Rachel repeatedly earned awards and scholarships to perfect her playing and performing on the organ. She was assistant organist at Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal before becoming titular organist at Notre Dame cathedral in Ottawa, Canada.

Toccata is the 4th movement of French composer L. Boëllman's *Suite Gothique*. The suite was transcribed for brass band by Eric Ball, and is frequently used as a concert finale by bands such as Fodens, Black Dyke and Brighouse & Rastrick, as well as a test piece in contesting.

This rendition was recorded with a pair of B&K ½ inch measurement microphone direct to a Nagra recorder.



FRÉDÉRIC ALARIE

Since his beginnings on the jazz scene at the end of the 1980s, Frédéric Alarie has built a solid career by joining the greatest ensembles and playing as an accompanying musician with renowned artists such as Joe Lovano, Oliver Jones, Ranee Lee, Salvador Adamo, Charles Aznavour and Michel Legrand. He also sets up his solo projects, having formed his own ensembles, in duo, trio and quartet formats. His performances have been praised from Canada to China, via France, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Poland and the USA.

In 2015, at the invitation of double bassist Mark Dresser, Alarie offered a concert at the International Society of bassists in New York. Subsequently the Society gave him the great honor of lending him legendary double bassist Scott LaFaro's double bass for a month to carry out a tribute project in Montreal. The tracks *Wise One* and *Enjoy* were recorded using the Scott LaFaro bass, at Fidelio's 2xHD Studio with a pair of AKG C12VR in DW Fearn VT-2 tube microphone preamplifier and a Nagra T, at 15 ips.



PERCUSSION

Recorded at Claude Champagne Concert Hall in 1998, this improvisation of percussion music presents realistic dynamics. The analog recording was made using a pair of B&K 1 inch omni direction measurement microphones with Neuman U67 or AKG C12 reinforcement for each instrument for presence and dynamics. All mixed with a vintage Studio 169 mixer and recorded on a Nagra T ¼ inch analog recorder.



THE 2xHD MASTERING PROCESS



The 2xHD Fusion Mastering System: In the constant evolution of its proprietary mastering process, 2xHD has progressed to a new phase called 2xHD FUSION, integrating the finest analog, with state-of-the-art digital technology.

The mastering chain consists of a selection of high-end vacuum tube equipment. For the recordings on this album, the original ¼" 15 ips NagraMaster curve, NAB or CCIR master tapes were played on a Nagra-T tape recorder, modified with high-end tube playback electronics, wired with OCC silver cable from the playback head direct to a Nick Doshi tube head preamplifier. The Nagra T, with its four direct drive motors, two pinch rollers and a tape tension head, has one of the best transports ever made. A custom-built carbon fiber head block and a head damping electronic system permit 2xHD FUSION to obtain a better resolution and 3D imaging.

The resulting signal is then transferred into high resolution formats by recording it in DXD using a custom 2xHD Technologies A to D converter. All analog and digital cables that are used are state-of-the-art Siltech. The 2xHD FUSION mastering system is powered by a super capacitor power supply, using a new technology that lowers the digital noise found in the lowest level of the spectrum. A vacuum tube NAGRA HD DAC X is used as a reference digital playback converter to A and B with the original analog master tape, permitting the fusion of the warmth of analog with the refinement of digital.

2xHD.com
Pure Emotion

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1. FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE 07:50

Artist Ben Webster Composer Sherman Edwards,
Elise Bretton, Donald Meyer

2. OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY 06:08

Artist Brian Torff Composer George Gershwin

3. GREEN GUITAR BLUES 03:31

Artist Bucky Pizzarelli Composer John 'Bucky' Pizzarelli

4. SOLEDAD 02:45

Artist Didier Dumoutier Composer Marie Satintonge

5. TRAVERSIA 03:00

Artist Marie Saintonge Composer Marie Satintonge

6. IMPROVISATION 03:47

Artist Robert Len Composer Robert Len

7. FANNIE MAE 05:02

Artist Jaco Pastorius Composer Buster Brown,
Clarence Lewis

8. RUBY, MY DEAR 05:03

Artist Frederic Alarie, John Geary
Composer Thelonius Monk

9. SUMMER ROAD 04:02

Artist June in the Fields Composer Sebastien Saliceti

10. TOCCATA, Gothic Suite 03:35

Artist Rachel Laurin, Organ Composer L. Boëllmann

11. SONATA NO. 1 in G Minor BWV1001 (Adagio) 04:31

Artist Josée Aidans Composer J.S. Bach

12. WISE ONE 01:01

Artist Frédéric Alarie Double bass solo
Composer John Coltrane, arr. Frédéric Alarie

13. ENJOY 01:08

Artist Frédéric Alarie Double bass solo
Composer Frédéric Alarie

14. PERCUSSION 02:56

Musicus improvisation

Tracks 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 recorded by René Laflamme.

Tracks 10, 12 recorded by Jean de la Durantaye.

Track 7, recorded by Paul Blakemore, Record Plant Mobile Truck.

2XHD MASTERING: RENÉ LAFLAMME

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