



Dear listener

Here are some listening notes for the Control4_MQA TIDAL playlist – because we love hearing all of the intricacies and detail in music and want to share them with you.

Feel free to read as little or as much as you want. If you're new to MQA – enjoy! If you're a returning listener – we're sure you'll hear something new!

Anders Jormin, Audun Kleive, Jan Gunnar Hoff, Hoff Ensemble - The Elder, from Polarity – An Acoustic Jazz Project (2L)

Composed by Jan Gunnar Hoff in the study of the film director Ingmar Bergman, on the island of Fårö with a view over the Baltic Sea, the mood and atmosphere of the recording is captured to great effect and transports you to that room, providing fuel for the imagination. All of the hallmarks of a Morten Lindberg 2L recording are on display – including depth, clarity, ambience, and above all, every last drop of emotion from the performers and their instruments.

Chris Potter - The Nerve, from Circuits (Edition Records)

Feel and hear every dynamic and melodic extreme of this composition, as the instruments swirl around you. Listen to the saxophone move between raspy and full-bodied, the snap, and crack of the drums as they stutter into life, and the full envelope of the piano's interjections as they punctuate Chris' catchy melodies and improvisational excursions.

Coldplay - Adventure of A Lifetime, from A Head Full of Dreams (Parlophone Records)

Get whisked away on a journey of discovery in this bright optimistic track, full of intriguing sounds and catchy rhythms. Be enveloped by the warmth of the synths and dance along to every intricate hit of the high hats and percussion as they drive the song forward.

Dominique Fils-Aimé - Constructive Interference, from Stay Tuned! (Ensouled Records)

Dominique builds vocal layers and textures to form the backdrop of this pristine production. The body, intricate detail and timbre of both Dominique's singing and percussive breathy elements are reproduced so believably in MQA that it sounds like she's right beside you. The equally crystal clear recording of the accompanying instruments provides just enough embellishment and momentum to compliment the vocals while leaving them firmly centre stage.

Edgar Moreau - Offenbach Grand Concerto for Cello in G Major, Concerto Militaire II. Andante, from Offenbach & Gulda: Cello Concertos (Erato / Warner Classics)

Settle into this Andante, as the mellow richness of the brass is gradually joined by the full ensemble in an enveloping swell that dies down to make way for Edgar's cello. Listen as Edgar takes you on a journey, gliding between the low and high registers - the natural, sweet tone and body of the instrument are captured beautifully in MQA, effortlessly conveying all of the emotion and subtlety of the performance.



Enrique Bagaria - Haydn: Piano Sonata No 47 in B Minor: I. Allegro moderato, from Enrique Bagaria plays Haydn (Eudora Records)

Savour this wonderful piano recording, courtesy of Eudora Records. A beautifully natural and intimate performance – the music and instrument are reproduced in fine detail and you can even hear the pianist hum as he navigates his way through this intricate piece.

Fauna Vokalkvintett - Et lidet barn så lystelig, from Ljos (2L)

From a selection of Christmas songs performed in Bryn church, Norway, little needs to be said about this vocal quintet recording – simple, natural, full of light and shade – just listen and enjoy the thoughts and feelings it brings.

Fleetwood Mac - Never Going Back Again, from Rumours (Warner Bros. Records)

One of the most paired back arrangements from the hugely successful Rumours album, this recording showcases delicate acoustic guitar, along with the realism of the fret and finger noises that place the performance right in front of you. Buckingham's vocal delivery elegantly conveys the bittersweet message in this folk-tinged song.

Hoff Ensemble - Blågutten, from A Quiet Winter Night (2L)

Let this gentle and atmospheric number wash over you and transport you to a Nordic 'Quiet Winter Night'. The organic sounds of the Hoff Ensemble are captured beautifully in this piece and you can really hear the air move around these magnificent instruments.

Jake Isaac - Better This Way, from Better This Way (Cielo Sound)

Composed in 25 minutes on a Rhodes keyboard, this is a brutally honest song about being in a relationship and not feeling good enough for the other person. The introductory swirl is followed by a short pause before the piano starts. The track builds then resets and in the second verse a layer of electric guitar is introduced, positioned sonically just in the background.

Led Zeppelin - In My Time of Dying, from Physical Graffiti (Atlantic Records)

Jimmy Page's production makes the most of the stereo field, surrounding the listener with guitar reverbs and vocal delays as the song builds and shifts gears towards an unstoppable epic jam, capturing the essence of the band at the peak of their powers.

Listen out for John Bonham's characteristic drum sound as he powers through the performance and offers his thoughts at the end of the take.

Ray Charles & Milt Jackson - How Long Blues, from Soul Brothers (Atlantic Records)

There's something really special about this performance, featuring a rare example of Ray's spectacular saxophone artistry, captured beautifully in MQA. As the solos move between piano, vibes, saxophone and bass, the natural ability of the performers shines through, while the unassuming brushwork holds it all together. The simplicity of the recording puts you right there in the room, as these jazz and blues greats bounce off one another.



Renaud Capuçon, David Fray - Bach, JS Sonata for Violin & Keyboard No. 5 in F Minor, BWV 1018 II. Allegro, from Bach: Sonatas for Violin & Keyboard Nos 3-6 (Erato / Warner Classics)

The precision of the performances and interplay between the two instruments demands a recording of the same high standard. All of the clarity and detail is there for you to hear, set in a gentle ambience that places you firmly in front of the recital.

Smoke Season - Wolves (Smoke Season)

In this atmospheric track, the duo achieve a sound that's "super layered but with a tonne of space". It begins with a sampled alien-sounding voice, proceeds through drum heavy verses, and is linked by an ongoing guitar motif created by a distinctive reverb pedal.

Listen out for the introduction of angelic-sounding harp and the way MQA brings to life the panning motion of circular sound in the chorus.

Trondheim Solistene - Arnesen: MAGNIFICAT 4. Et Misericordia, from Magnificat (2L)

This lush recording by long time MQA partner and advocate, Morten Lindberg of Norwegian label 2L, is a great taster for 2L's amazing collection of recordings. Originally recorded in DSD and encoded in MQA, this level of super high quality was impossible to stream before MQA – now you can listen to this and many others via TIDAL Masters!