

## Norwegian indie label showcases the power of HD music with new Blu-ray Disc – SA-CD combo album

Independent Norwegian record label, 2L, might be small but as the adage goes, the best things normally come in small packages. The record label is fast gaining an enviable reputation for its pioneering work in developing High Definition music on both the Super Audio CD (SA-CD) AND Blu-ray Disc formats.

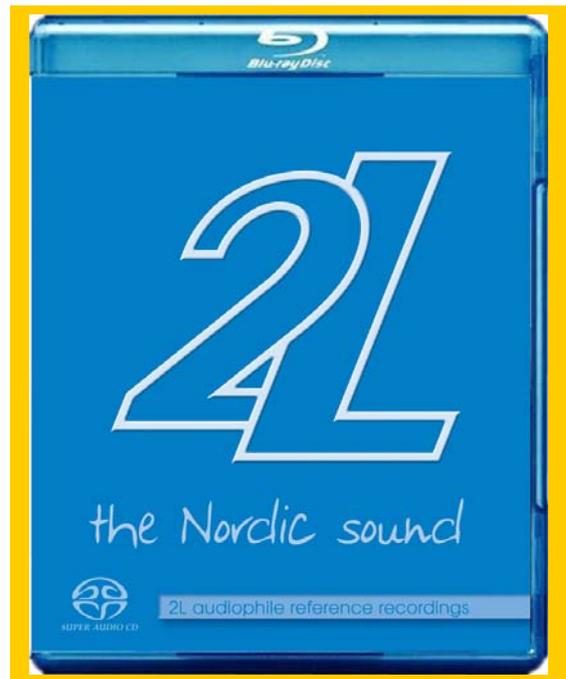
2L was the first record company in the world to release special two-disc versions of its artists' album utilising both high resolution audio formats.

The latest news from Norway tells of a special new SA-CD / Blu-ray Disc sampler disc set - Nordic Sound - featuring some of the label's most excellent recordings. Two of the albums presented in this collection were nominated for the Grammy Award's "Best Surround Sound Album" and "Best Performance".

"Blu-ray is the first domestic format in history that unites theatre movies and music sound in equally high quality," explained 2L's founder and creative force, Morten Lindberg. "The musical advantage of Blu-ray is the high resolution for audio, and the convenience for the audience as one single player will handle music, films, the DVD-collection and your old library of traditional CD. What we are seeing is a completely new conception of the musical experience.

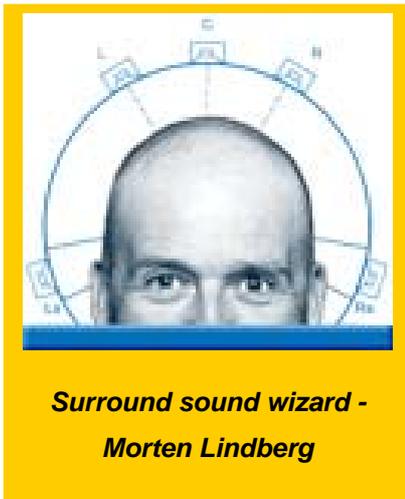
"Recorded music is no longer a matter of a fixed two-dimensional setting, but rather a three-dimensional enveloping situation. Stereo can be described as a flat canvas, while surround sound is a sculpture that you can literally move around and relate to spatially: with surround you can move about in the acoustic space and choose angles, vantage points and positions," Lindberg continued.

"At 2L, we prefer to record in spacious acoustic venues - large concert halls, churches and cathedrals. This is actually where we can make the most intimate recordings. The qualities we seek in large rooms are not necessarily a big reverb, but openness due to the absence of close reflecting walls. Making an ambient and beautiful recording is the way of least resistance. Searching the fine edge between direct contact and openness - that's the real challenge. A really good recording should be able to bodily move the listener.



“This core quality of audio production is made by choosing the right venue for the repertoire, and balancing the image in the placement of microphones and musicians relative to each other in that venue. Planning and discussions with the musicians create trust and a sense of occasion and excitement that translates onto the recordings. What we insist upon in the recording phase is time. We usually spend from four to six days of recording on a 60-minutes repertoire.

“In credit of the musicians I need to say that this is not in need of getting the score right, but in order to bring forward the right mood and dimensions. At most projects, the entire first day is spent bringing the dimensions down from a 1500-people hall to the proximity encountered on a home-visit to your living room. The challenge of this process is to get the volume down, keeping the intensity and energy up, without being intrusive.



“There is no method available today to reproduce the exact perception of attending a live performance. That leaves us with the art of illusion when it comes to recording music. As recording engineers and producers we need to do exactly the same as any good musician; interpret the music and the composer's intentions and adapt to the media where we perform. The advent of new formats such as Blu-ray and SA-CD provide us with a much better toolkit to achieve this goal,” concluded Morten Lindberg.

This pure audio Blu-ray Disc has been designed to offer two ways of operation, either with or without a TV screen: you can either navigate the on-screen pop-up menu or simply use the dedicated buttons of your remote control. The numeric keys directly access the corresponding track number and the desired audio stream can be selected by the coloured keys on your remote. DTS HD Master Audio is preselected. These functions are developed by msm-studios and Lindberg Lyd and anticipate what they expect to find in the future profile 3 for Blu-ray players.

## Surround sound from your TV stand – great audio with no cables

Continuing on the subject of High Definition surround sound within the home setting, we come to the perpetual trade-off between acoustic quality and aesthetic appearance. Whilst many consumers see no problem with a few cables and the odd additional speaker, their presence in the living room can frustrate other home entertainment enthusiasts.

But now, Sony has devised a neat solution: elegantly designed and perfectly unobtrusive, Sony's RHT-G Series offers multi-channel surround audio artfully concealed in a TV stand. For anyone wanting the heightened home cinema / home audio experience without the visible speakers or cabling, it is the ideal solution.

The three new models cater for a wide range of TV sizes. The *RHT-G950* is designed for 40-46" TVs, while the