

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASEJanuary 16, 2014 || Page 1 | 2

GRAMMY Nomination for *Opus One*, Available Now for Download in AAC Surround Sound

ERLANGEN, Germany (January 16, 2014) – Surround sound music can now be conveniently downloaded and enjoyed on billions of consumer devices, thanks to its availability in the high quality AAC 5.1 audio format. For the first time, the music label mediaHYPERIUM3 (mH3) distributes its Grammy nominated surround sound music album, *Opus One*, using the AAC audio codec that was co-developed by Fraunhofer IIS.

Apple's iTunes has been using AAC to sell stereo music since the launch of the service and the majority of music streaming services relies on AAC. *Opus One* is now entering a new level of music experience by offering high quality 5.1 surround sound downloads using the AAC audio codec at 320 kbit/s. Android and other platforms natively support AAC 5.1 playback and can be connected via HDMI to home theater systems. This makes surround sound music for the first time accessible and appealing to a broad consumer audience.

"Fraunhofer IIS congratulates the producers of *Opus One* on their Grammy nomination for Best Surround Sound Album," said Harald Popp, head of the Business department of the Fraunhofer IIS Audio and Multimedia Division. "And we applaud them for opening a new era in the distribution of online music," Popp added.

Opus One was produced by digital music service and record label mediaHYPERIUM3. It contains some of the most important orchestral works of the Classical repertoire performed by world renowned orchestras and conductors. The style and quality of the recording made the album ideal for the application of AAC as the codec fulfills the highest demands in terms of sound quality and bit rate efficiency.

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"mediaHYPERIUM3 is thrilled to offer audiences a new listening experience with the release of the label's premier album *Opus One*," said Herbert Walth, President of mediaHYPERIUM3. "Our engineers meticulously mixed and mastered the cuts to present the artistry of each performance in surround sound playback while preserving the artistic qualities of the original performances," Walth added.

PRESS RELEASEJanuary 16, 2014 || Page 2 | 2

Opus One was produced by surround sound producer Herbert Walth, surround sound mix engineer Leslie Ann Jones, and surround mastering engineer Michael Romanowski. It is available for download at <http://mediahyperium3.com>. Walth was awarded with two Grammys in 2005 for Album of the Year and Best Surround Sound Album, both for Ray Charles' *Genius Loves Company*.

About Fraunhofer

When it comes to innovative audio technologies for the rapidly evolving media world, Fraunhofer IIS stands alone. For more than 25 years, digital audio technology has been the principle focus of the Audio and Multimedia division of Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS). From the creation of mp3 and the co-development of the AAC to the future of audio entertainment for broadcast, Fraunhofer IIS brings innovations in sound to reality.

Today, technologies such as Fraunhofer Cingo for virtual surround sound, Fraunhofer Symphoria for automotive 3D audio, AAC-ELD for telephone calls with CD-like audio quality, and Dialogue Enhancement that allows television viewers to adjust dialogue volume to suit their personal preferences are among the division's most compelling new developments.

Fraunhofer IIS technologies enable more than 6 billion devices worldwide. The audio codec software and application-specific customizations are licensed to more than 1,000 companies. The division's mp3 and AAC audio codecs are now ubiquitous in mobile multimedia systems.

Fraunhofer IIS is based in Erlangen, Germany and is a division of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. With 22,000 employees worldwide, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is comprised of 66 institutes making it Europe's largest research organization.

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