



25th Anniversary Cobra Records

Producer's Choice Vol. 1

The Beginning—Recordings in 2ch stereo 44kHz PCM

In 1999, the idea arose to start our own label, one that had significantly different rules than those in effect at the time. Our label would, above all, give more voice to the musicians' artistic freedom. The programming would not be determined by the label, but by the musicians' explicit wishes.

The name "Cobra" was chosen after the painters' group Cobra (Copenhagen, Brussels, Amsterdam), which rebelled against the established order almost 100 years ago. But Cobra also represents a snake that weaves its way through everything.

In 2000, we presented our first album with the then-promising Osiris Trio. The repertoire choice was unusual—Messiaen's *Quator pour la fin du Temps*. This wasn't exactly a commercial choice. But the musicians and we agreed that this music deserved a sublime release, both in performance quality and in sound quality. The album was prepared with utmost dedication by both the musicians and us, using specially modified microphones, a custom-made mixing console, a high-tech dCS 2ch (44kHz) converter, and a DAT recorder for storage. Mixing was always done immediately on-site to 2-track. The album received rave reviews across the board, and that left us wanting more.

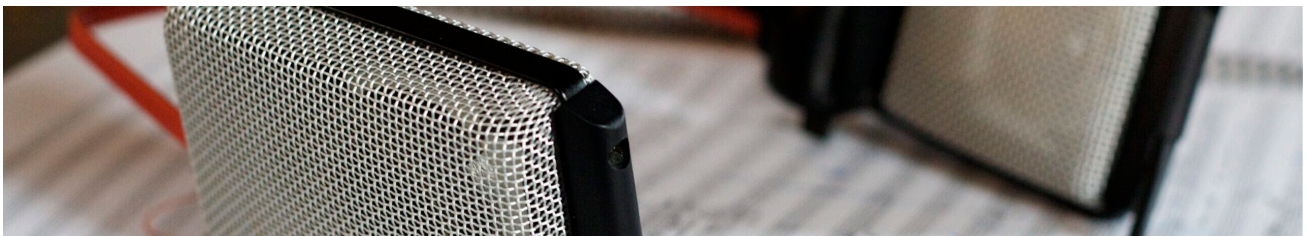
Moving to DSD with 8 channels

In 2007, we made our first recordings in DSD quality. We opted once again to make a recording with the Osiris Trio, but this time in DSD stereo and surround. We purchased some extremely expensive DSD equipment, but we didn't have enough budget left to release the recordings on SACD. That would remain the case for a while. But this was the beginning of a DSD catalog which would only become available in DSD format much later.

For recordings made between 2007 and 2014, we opted for DSD only recording. We worked with the same microphones and custom-made mixing console modified by Rens Heijnis, but now with four dCS converters 904 (AD) and three dCS converters 954 (DA). This allowed us to record a maximum of eight channels and monitor them in surround sound. For projects requiring more microphones, we created a live analog submix, as we still had the sublime custom-made mixing console built by Rens Heijnis.

A friendly, high-quality label

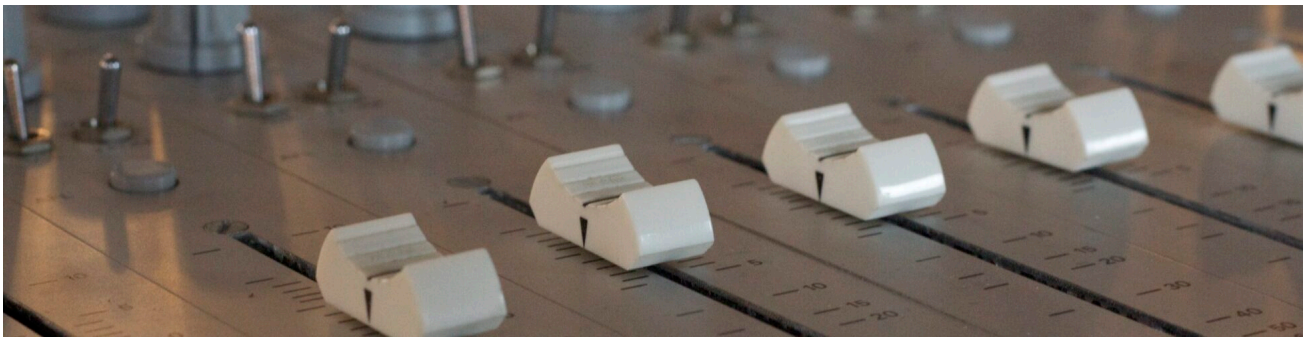
Our label became increasingly recognizable in terms of content. Productions increasingly became "storytelling" albums—much more than just a collection of beautiful/well-performed repertoire. The story got around. And more musicians spontaneously reached out to us. The musicians brought in projects for which they were deeply motivated to tell story—to share something meaningful that connected all of the music. This artistic freedom found a great match with Cobra Records, and the albums we released received many rave reviews. We quickly became known as a friendly, high-quality label.



Pure DSD for the 25th Anniversary Producer's Choice Vol. 1

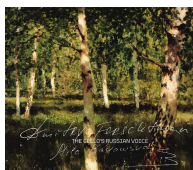
For the 25th anniversary compilation album of Cobra Records, I have chosen to select from the recordings we made in DSD during this period of 2007-2014. To achieve the most accurate and transparent reproduction of these recordings, I asked NativeDSD mastering engineer Tom Caulfield to re-master all the tracks entirely in the DSD domain, without any PCM in the mixing process. To accomplish this, the original, unmixed DSD tracks from our archive were collected. The result is a complete Pure DSD album that matches the original recording perfectly, but in sound quality that even better matches what I hear in the studio. For more information about this, please refer to NativeDSD's article [What We Mean By Pure DSD](#).

The recordings on this compiled album are all at least 10 years old, but they are still dear to my heart. Often, these are personal memories that unfolded during the sessions, but especially the beauty of the performances that these tracks showcase. Many albums mark the beginning of long-term collaborations with musicians, while others yielded a fine debut that led to opportunities with major labels. We can still be proud of both.



I encourage listeners to listen to these tracks with an open mind, savor the beautiful sounds, and, above all, discover the fascinating story behind each release. You'll undoubtedly discover gems that will pique your interest in the entire accompanying album. I wish you much listening pleasure!

Tom Peeters

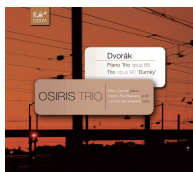


01.

[COBRA0023](#)

Dimitri Ferschtman, Mila Baslawskaja

Again, as before (Pjotr Tchaikowsky)



02.

[COBRA0025](#)

Osiris Trio

Piano Trio in E minor: IV. Andante moderato (quasi tempo di marcia) - Allegretto scherzando - Meno mosso - Allegro - Moderato (Antonin Dvořák)

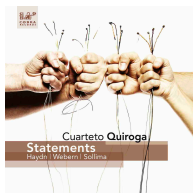


03.

[COBRA0034](#)

Trio Suleika

Trio pour violon, violoncelle et piano: II. Pantoum -Assez vif (Maurice Ravel)



04.

[COBRA0035](#)

Cuarteto Quiroga

Sonnets et Rondeaux: IV.Rondeau (Allegro)
(Giovanni Sollima)



05.

[COBRA0036](#)

Música Temprana

Songs and dances from Trujillo, Peru - Tonada La Lata



06.

[COBRA0037](#)

Cuarteto Quiroga

Streichquartett D-Dur (1897): IV.Allegro



07.

[COBRA0038](#)

Hannes Minnaar

Die Seele ruht in Jesu Händen (Johan Sebastian Bach)



08.

[COBRA0041](#)

Philippe Graffin, Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Ari Rasilainen

Violin Concerto op. 13, MV 63 - III. Allegro Vivace

(Tauno Marttinen)



09.

[COBRA0042](#)

Sirius Saxophone Quartet

Quartetto Nr.1 - 1.Allegro con brio (Carlos Micháns)



10.

[COBRA0044](#)

Música Temprana

Gozos a Nuestra Senora de la Antigua (Juan Bautista Comes)



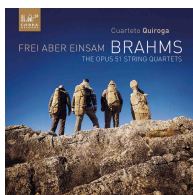
11.

[COBRA0046](#)

Philippe Graffin, Brabants Orkest

Violin Concerto no.3 in G major K216: II.Adagio

(Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)



12.

[COBRA0048](#)

Cuarteto Quiroga

String quartet op.51 nr1: II. Poco Adagio (Johannes Brahms)



13.

[COBRA0049](#)

Winds Unlimited

Le Nozze di Figaro - VI. Susanna or via sortite
(Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Georg Kasper Sartorius)



14.

[COBRA0051](#)

Música Temprana

Sonata III á 2 con órgano - III. Largo (Anonymous)

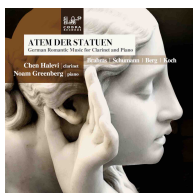


15.

[COBRA0054](#)

Lisa Jacobs & The String Soloists

Locatelli Violin Concerto No I - 3. Allegro
(Pietro Antonio Locatelli)



16.

[COBRA0057](#)

Chen Halevi, Noam Greenberg

Sonata in F minor op. 120/1: II. Andante un poco Adagio
(Johannes Brahms)



17.

[COBRA0058](#)

Mengjie Han

Iberia - El Puerto (Isaac Albéniz)