

Test your CD Audio  
By Dorman Bullard

I have always liked music, just about all kinds, including (perhaps) the "old" Rock an Roll, but nothing too heavy, and certainly nothing heavy and metallic. And I just do not consider Rap to be music. Although I listen on the Radio and TV, I never was into setting-up stereo systems and actually buying music. This kind of changed when I got access to a CD ROM drive and a trial copy of the Magic Flute (described in a previous article). I had a couple shelf speakers above the Mac to listen to sounds obtained from various sources. Listening to the Magic Flute caused me to think more about starting to actually buy and listen. At MacWorld I bought the whole Magic Flute as well as Beethoven's 9th symphony. I had also began thinking of other kinds of music, but didn't even know how to go about deciding what to buy.

While in San Francisco I read an article in the San Francisco Chronicle by Harry Somerfield, a disc jockey. He noted that finding high-quality CDs were not that easy to find. According to him, "half of the available CDs sound no better than old-fashioned grooved records. He went on to list his favorites, which include quite a variety, from classical to rock an roll. This was just what I needed so I saved the article. Some of you may be in the same boat as me, that is, you have obtained a CD ROM drive for you computer but do not have much of a collection of audio CDs. Even some of you that are well into audio CDs may find the list useful. So, here it is.

Need to make a couple things clear. For those not too familiar with CDs, note that these are audio CDs only. These will play on the plain old audio CD players. If you have a (computer) CD ROM drive, you can play normal audio CDs succ as these, assuming you have audio software, including a remote CD Player (such as the Desk Accessory that comes with the Apple CD ROM drive). The second thing to note is that the descriptions of the Audio are strictly the author, Harry Somerfield. None of the words below are mine, although I have done some editing.

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher/CD Number</b>
Pierre Varanay	Digital Test	Pierre Varanay PV #788031/788032 (A two-disc release from France containing test tones and such for setting up audio systems, as well as musical selections from some of Verany's CD releases. The jacket notes are in both French and English)
Pierre Varanay	Compact Test	Pierre Varanay PV #784031 (same kinds of tests, etc. as above)
Jennifer Warnes Erich Kunzel & The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra	Famous Blue Raincoat 1812 Overture	Cypress #661111-2 (cut #2) Telarc #CD-80041 (specifically the last 3:30 of cut #1. Bells ringing and real cannons being fired will quickly separate the great speakers and amplifiers from the mediocre)
Paul Simon	Graceland	Warner Bros. #9 25447-2 (cut #5 - Diamonds... & cut #8 - Homeland. Contains great male group-vocals and wonderful drum-beats - an all-round great compact disc)
Robert Shaw & The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Soundtrack	Carmina Burana  Beverly Hills Cop	Telarc #80056 (excellent example of how wonderful a large chorus can sound)  MCA #MCAD-5553 (especially cut #10, Axel F)
Leonard Bernstein & The Los Angeles Philharmonic Rickie Lee Jones	Rhapsody in Blue - West Side Story  Pirates	Deutsche Grammophon #410 025-2 (If you have never cared for the light classics, you soon will) Warner Bros. #3432-2 (sonically superb, but Jones is an acquired taste)
Erich Kunzel & The Cincinnati Pops	Orchestral Spectaculars	Telarc #80115 (especially cut #2, Sorcerer's Apprentice - remember the cartoon movie fantasia? - and cut #6, Les Preludes - used in the Flash Gordon serials)
The Dutch Swing College Band	Swinging Studio Sessions	Phillips #824 256-2 (Dixieland the way it should be played)
John Williams & The Boston Pops Dire Straits	Aisle Seat  Brothers in Arms	Phillips #411 037-2 (Classic music from films)  Warner Bros. #25264-2 (Rock & Roll can sound superb, and this is the quintessential example).
Erich Kunzel & The Cincinnati Pops	Star Tracks	Telarc #80094 (More film music - the "Superman" main theme is especially memorable)
Joe Pass	Blues for Fred	Pablo #2310-931-2 (Just Joe Pass playing his guitar - no other instruments - soft and sweet, and very pure. All the selections are from Fred Astaire movies)
Erich Kunzel & The Cincinnati Pops	Round-up	Telarc #80141 (This disc contains great music from great westerns -my favorite is "The Magnificent Seven")
Glenn Miller Orchestra	In the Digital Mood	GRP #D-9502 (Miller favorites, using the original arrangements)
Erich Kunzel & The Cincinnati Pops	Time Warp	Telarc #80106 (Themes from the silver screen and TV. Cut #3, "Star Trek -the movie- Main

Vladimir Horowitz

The Studio Recordings

Theme”is guaranteed to make you sit up and listen. The first notes are startling)  
Deutsche Grammophon  
#419 217-2 (A pure and simple solo piano recording....the next best solution to a piano in your home)

Papa Doo Run Run

The California Project

Telarc #85501 (is 60s surfing-type music, but in gorgeous digital sound.