



*In this article the HQMM principle, which is developed by Northstar and executed in all of Northstar's recording projects, is explained.*

*The principle is more of a philosophy than a technical requirement and has its basis in 25 years of recording practice with a large variety of artists and ensembles. The level of success of the principle however is largely dependent on the quality of the equipment used, because extreme correct temporal behaviour and proper tonal and harmonic balance are key elements. Northstar collaborated with many "High End" audio manufacturers to be able to reach an extreme high level which truly defines the HQMM.*

This High Definition Surround Recording was Produced, Engineered and Edited by Bert van der Wolf of NorthStar Recording Services, using the 'High Quality Musical Surround Mastering' principle. The basis of this recording principle is a realistic and holographic 3 dimensional representation of the musical instruments, voices and recording venue, according to traditional concert

practice. For most older music this means a frontal representation of the musical performance, but such that width and depth of the ensemble and acoustic characteristics of the hall do resemble 'real life' as much as possible. Some older compositions, and many contemporary works do specifically ask for placement of musical instruments and voices over the full 360 degrees sound scape, and in these cases the recording is as realistic as possible, within the limits of the 5.1 Surround Sound standard. This requires a very innovative use of all 6 loudspeakers and the use of completely matched, full frequency range loudspeakers for all 5 discrete channels. A complementary sub-woofer, for the ultra low frequencies under 40Hz, is highly recommended to maximally benefit from the sound quality of this recording.

This recording was produced with the use of Sonodore microphones, Avalon Acoustic monitoring, Siltech Mono-Crystal cabling and dCS Converters.

