

HIDDEN VIDEO

One of CD+G's greatest charms is that each disc looks different.

CDs You Can Watch

The CD + Graphics repertory is small but growing; up to 100 titles are expected to be released by the end of the year. Here's a selection of the discs now available.

Pop Music

- *The Breathtaking Blue* (Atlantic), by Alphaville.
- *Rapture* (Elektra), by Anita Baker.
- *Groovies' Greatest Grooves* (Sire), by Flamin Groovies.
- *A Nice Place to Visit* (Atlantic), by Frozen Ghost.
- *American Beauty* (Warner Bros.), by the Grateful Dead.
- *Racing After Midnight* (Warner Bros.), by Honey-moon Suite.
- *Information Society* (Tommy Boy), by Information Society.
- *Tokyo Rose* (Warner Bros.), by Van Dyke Parks.
- *New York* (Sire), by Lou Reed.
- *Picture Book* (Elektra), by Simply Red.
- *Something Real* (Elektra), by Phoebe Snow.
- *Another Place and Time* (Atlantic), by Donna Summer.
- *Naked* (Sire), by Talking Heads.
- *Blind Man's Zoo* (Elektra), by 10,000 Maniacs.

Classical Music

- *St. Matthew's Passion Highlights* (Teldec), Bach performed by the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Nikolas Harnoncourt conducting.
- *Ninth Symphony* (Teldec), Beethoven and Liszt performed by the Berlin Philharmonic, Joseph Keiberth conducting.
- *Belcanto Domingo* (Teldec), with Berlin's Orchester der Duetchen Oper.
- *Symphony Nos. 3 and 4* (Teldec), Mendelssohn performed by the Gewandhausorchester of Leipzig, Kurt Masur conducting.
- *The Magic Flute* (Teldec), Mozart performed by the Zurich Opera House Orchestra, Nikolas Harnoncourt conducting.
- *Abduction from the Seraglio* (Teldec), Mozart performed by the Zurich Opera House Orchestra & Chorus, Nikolas Harnoncourt conducting.
- *Der Schauspieldirektor* (Teldec), Mozart and Salieri performed by the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, Nikolas Harnoncourt conducting.
- *Kinderzenen Albumblätter* (Teldec), pianist Cyprien Katsaris performing Schumann.
- *Carmina Burana, Vol. 1* (Teldec), performed by the Studio for Early Music, Thomas Binkley conducting.

Special Projects

- *GRP Digital Sampler* (GRP).
- *Home Video Album* (RCA), collection of themes and passages from popular movies.

communicate with MIDI-equipped instruments. No discs exploit the MIDI interface yet, but its presence enables CD + G discs to play back music on compatible instruments as well as loudspeakers. The interface may also make it possible to delete a particular instrumental part from a CD, so that a MIDI-linked user can play along for real.

JVC's player is not quite the only game in town. Oddly enough, CD + G hunters can also turn to the CD player NEC offers as an option to its new TurboGrafx videogame. The portable deck, designed mainly to play CD-based videogames, has the graphics decoder needed for CD + G discs.

Thanks to this equipment scarcity, acquiring a player is the biggest obstacle to enjoying CD + G. But once this is out of the way, a viewer need simply attach a TV set, switch on the stereo and slip in a disc like the Flamin Groovies' *Greatest Grooves* compilation. Immediately, the similarity to standard CD playback ends. As the opening bars of the classic "Shake Some Action" surge from the speakers, the screen erupts into a bright cartoon of the album title. Soon, another cartoon appears above real-time graphics of the lyrics. The following number, "Teenage Head," also has lyrics and a cartoon plus quotes from a book about the Groovies. Simple graphics and cartoon figures accompany each of the two dozen cuts on the disc.

One of the charms of CD + G is that each disc is different. Musicians and record companies are experimenting with a variety of approaches. In *Tokyo Rose*, the words to Van Dyke Parks' theatrical tunes mingle with steadily scrolling illustrations. *Naked*, the very first CD + G disc, dispenses with pictures in favor of lyrics, chords and a list of the instruments in use at any given moment. Information Society's eponymous debut disc offers lyrics, cartoons, a lighthearted history of the band, pop quizzes and recording credits.

On *The Breathtaking Blue*, Berlin's Alphaville trio illustrates its techno-pop approach with a collection of black & white photographs depicting Franz Kafka, dirigibles, the Challenger astronauts,

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