



DDA bridges gap

WHEN we buy a CD in a store we not only get the music on the disc but also the liner notes, which often contain the lyrics, plus other photographs and artwork. We also get the actual case to display in our collections.

With the arrival of digital music, we still got the music but we missed out on those little extras like the liner notes and lyrics.

But a new digital music format to be launched next week is about to bridge the gap.

DDA is a new platform which, like a CD package, contains all the album's tracks across a number of digital formats, along with the



artwork, liner notes, lyrics and photos. And all of this is contained on a USB stick.

But what sets this apart from a CD is the online component that allows listeners to set up their own space within the D:Net Media System called myDDA. Once a new account is created, a user can create a back-up of all of their DDA content and access any of it from any computer with internet access. It's also possible to access their content via a mobile.

In this new virtual space, fans are also able to interact and socially network with like-minded people. Anyone who buys a DDA album owns the music on board, which can be downloaded to their computers. Content can be added to the iTunes music library and users can even burn their own CD copies of the album.

But each DDA, which is Mac and PC compatible, also comes with its own music player, track list builder and media transfer unit.

A DDA will cost the same as its CD equivalent. The first albums to be featured on DDA will be Sneaky Sound System's 2 and Gurrumul by Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

www.DDA4me.com



behind the lines

INTRODUCING DDA

• A new technology was recently launched called **DDA (D:Net Digital Albums)**, designed by Melbourne music veteran **Scott Murphy**, that allows fans to buy albums in digital form as a USB for about the same cost as a physical version. Unlike the mp3 format, when the DDA USB is plugged into your computer you have access to all of the tactile extras that you may know from the days of vinyls albums of '60s and '70s such as cover art, lyrics sheets and liner notes, but with additional content such as video clips and live footage, a music news service and artist forums. **Jimmy Barnes** became the first Australian artist to release an album along with videos, photos and biographies on a USB wristband earlier this year, but Monday 1 December, indie acts **Sneaky Sound System**, **Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu**, **Grafton Primary** and **Skipping Girl Vinegar** will be making their latest albums available in the new format through record retail outlets.

SOUND BYTES

• Sydney-based singer, keyboard player and composer **Angela Little**, who performs as **Ophelia Of The Spirits** and sings the love song *By The Boab Tree* on the Baz Luhrmann epic feature film, *Australia*, for which she also composed and orchestrated additional music, is heading into the studio with Sydney-based Icelandic producer **Geir Brilliant** and her band to begin work on her second *Ophelia Of The Spirits* EP.

• New Jersey post-hardcore legends **Thursday** recorded their latest album, *Common Existence* (Epitaph/Shock), at **Tarbox Road Studios** in Cassadaga, New York, with producer **Dave Fridman**.

• Anglo-Swedes **Razorlight** locked themselves away in **Air Studios** in Hampstead, North London, with emerging producer **Mike Crossey** – they'd originally planned to use veteran producer Tony Visconti, whose work on the early Bowie albums put him on the international map – for their forthcoming third album.

• US metallers **Lamb Of God** recorded their forthcoming album, *Wrath* (Epic/Roadrunner), in studios in New York, Virginia, and New Hampshire with producer **Josh Wilber**.

• Also due for release early next year, **Keith Urban** co-produced his as yet untitled fifth album at **The Castle Recording Studios** in Franklin, Tennessee, with producer **Dann Huff**.

• **Woodenelves** frontman **Travis Caudle** is heading to Sydney to record his forthcoming solo album with producer **Tim Powles** of The Church at **Spacejunk Production House**.

• **Love Of Diagrams** singer and guitarist **Antonia Sellbach** has a new project up and running, another Melbourne-based four-piece called **Beaches** whose self-titled debut album, out December on Mistletoe, was recorded by **Jack Farley** in Melbourne and mastered by **Bob Weston** in Chicago.

A FINN FOR OXFAM

• A sequel of sorts to the 2001 live album *7 Worlds Collide*, **Neil Finn** is to record a new album all profits from which will be donated to **Oxfam**, and will feature **Liam Finn**, Radiohead's **Ed O'Brien** and **Phil Selway**, **Johnny Marr**, Soul Coughing's **Sebastian Steinberg** and **Lisa Germano**, **Jeff Tweedy**, **John Stirratt**, **Wilco's Glenn Kotche** and **Pat Sansone**, **Bic Runga** and **Don McGlashan**. The album will be recorded over the next few months in Finn's own **Roundhead Studios** in Auckland.

ALTRUISMUSIC ONLINE

• Set up by singer, songwriter, guitarist and activist **Ash Wanders**, the digital label seeks to release music by people who are passionate about human rights, environmental and even animal rights issues though, as he explains, "it doesn't just release music related to these issues. We're also interested in music that is comedic. Singer/songwriter Paul Spencer for instance, who is already represented on the site, is both, wrapping up all three areas hilariously. We're also interested in the weird and the wonderful, and we've already got some weird and wonderful artists up there. There's also some punk and lo-fi, reflecting my own tastes, so there's quite a diversity of styles – anything and everything basically." For details call Wanders on (02) 4782 5866, 0432 114 099 or check the site at www.altruismusic.com.