Symphony 90

Music Player System

Model III and Model 4/4P/4D

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SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM**, the exciting new musical software interface for both the TRS-80 Model III and Models 4/4p/4d. With the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM**, you can quickly and easily enjoy the symphonic melodies of pre-recorded musical selections from the vast music reserves of the SYMPHONY-90 library available to you at very low cost from the *Symphony-90 Music Library Collection*, owned and operated by *Computer News 80*, for only $4 per disk. Considering that there are anywhere from 10 to 20 or more music files per disk, this equals out to average just 15 cents per file. A truly *amazing* value for your dollar.

To make use of the music player system, you will need to have a SYMPHONY-90 or ORCHESTRA-90 hardware interface connected to your computer. The ORCHESTRA-90 hardware interface is no longer available, although a great many TRS-80 users had once obtained this device from Radio Shack. The new and improved SYMPHONY-90 hardware interface is available exclusively from *Computer News 80*, and provides much better sound quality than the already great sound which was available from the ORCHESTRA-90 interface.

The **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** allows you to play music for up to 5 voices through your stereo system connected to the hardware interface. Model III owners can enjoy up to 4 voices. Model 4 owners, and those using their Model 4 computers in the Model III mode can enjoy up to 5 voiced music due to their capacity to operate at a much faster 4 MHz clock speed. Please be aware that playing music designed for 5 voices can play on computers capable of playing only 4 voices without trouble, except that the 5th voice will not be heard.

DISTRIBUTION DISK FORMATS

The **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** is available in two configurations. The Model 4 version will work on the Model 4/4p/4d. Its files are stored on a single sided double density 40 track data disk, and is readable by all Model 4, DOS-6 compatible systems. Model 4 MULTIDOS users must keep in mind that their DOS is *actually* an enhanced Model III DOS, and should therefore use the Model III version, as the Model 4 version is *incompatible* with their DOS. The Model III version is provided on a single sided double density 40 track LDOS format data disk. If you are using the Model III TRSDOS 1.3 or NEWDOS/80 2.0 Disk Operating System, you can boot up the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** disk in Drive :0 by inserting it and pressing the RESET switch, and allow the distribution disk to copy its files to a *SINGLE SIDED* double density disk formatted by your DOS, by following the simple instructions provided on the screen by the copier system on the disk.

QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS

Although it is genius on the part of the user to fully read instructions before using ANY program, it is a common fact of life that most users are too anxious to use a program (or think they know all there is to know about it anyway). Therefore here is your path to quickly using the disk which came in this package.

If you are using the Model III version and are further operating under NEWDOS/80 or TRSDOS 1.3, you will need to format a blank SINGLE SIDED double density 40 track data disk. NEWDOS/80 users should refrain from "creative" formatting, and should stick with the "standard" Model III single sided double density NEWDOS/80 format as described in your operator's manual. Once you have the disk formatted for either of these DOS systems, boot up the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** disk and follow the easy instructions provided on the screen to copy the files from the distribution disk to your data disk. For future work, you should consider this new disk as your working MASTER disk.

If you are using any other DOS, or are using a Model 4 DOS, or if you have created a disk using TRSDOS 1.3 or NEWDOS/80 which you can read from, it is in your best interest to make a backup copy of the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** disk before proceeding any further! After making your backup, put the original disk away in a safe place, using the backup copy for all your future work.

QUICK DEMO

You are now ready to go! Ensure that your SYMPHONY-90 or ORCHESTRA-90 hardware interface is properly connected to the 50-pin card edge connector on the bottom or back of your computer according to the installation instructions provided with the hardware. Also be sure that you have the interface connected to your stereo system via RCA cables and it is switched on.

Once you have ensured that the hardware is properly connected and ready to go, from the DOS Ready prompt type *SYMFKEY SYMFPLAY* and press the ENTER key. This command will activate the SYMFKEY/CMD program, which will in turn access the SYMFPLAY/KEY file. You will then see a menu displayed, looking something like this:

```
=========================================
SYMFPLAY        Assorted SYMPHONY-90 Music Data Files
=========================================
A: Rock Me Amadeus                K: Entry of the Gladiators
B: And I Love Her                 L:  Flashdance (What a Feeling)
C: Star Spangled Banner           M: Ghostbusters
D: Brian's Song                   N:  Girls Just Want to Have Fun
E: Brandeburg Concerto # 3        O:  Gloria
F: Classical ORCH                 P:  Amazing Grace
G: Take Me Home, Country Road     Q:  Hello
H: Camptown Race                  R:  Holding Out for a Hero
I:  There is Nothing Like a Dame  S:  Heaven on Their Minds
J:  Dancing in the Dark           T:  99 Luftballons
=========================================
Enter Selection A-T, Z to play all, or X to QUIT
```

As you can see from careful examination of the screen, you can select playing a file by typing the letter (also number, for especially long menus) displayed to the left of the description, preceding a colon (:). For example, to play the song called "Rock Me Amadeus", you would press the "A" key, or to play "Entry of the Gladiators", you would press the "K" key. As you can see from reading the bottom line, you can press the "Z" key to play all 20 music files, one after the other, or you can press the "X" key to quit and return to the DOS prompt.

Other menu files can be obtained from ***Disk # SYMF900*** and ***Disk # SYMXMS90*** from the *Symphony-90 Music Library collection,* available from *Computer News 80.* Be sure to ask about any other menu disks which may be available by the time you order.

FILES ON THE DISK

There are a total of 26 files on the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** disk. There are 4 program files, 2 data files, and a total of 20 ready-to-run music files.

PLAY/CMD -- This program in the "star" of this package, and is the program which allows you to enjoy your music files.

ASC2SYM/CMD -- This program converts files from standard ASCII files, having an /ASC file extension, which some SYMPHONY-90 or ORCHESTRA-90 music files are stored in on some computer bulletin board systems, to SYMPHONY-90 format, having a /SYM file extension.

SYM2ASC/CMD -- This program does the opposite of ASC2SYM/CMD in that it will convert SYMPHONY-90 files to ASCII format, in case you need to edit a music file to correct a scoring error or change the voicing arrangements to suit your personal tastes (Note: music programming knowledge required).

SYMFKEY/CMD -- This utility allows you to use pre-programmed menu files (special files having a /KEY extension) that provides an interactive user interfacing environment which makes using PLAY/CMD even easier than what it already is.

SYMFPLAY/KEY -- This data file is a menu file which can be used by SYMFKEY/CMD to allow you to play the 20 files included on this disk by choosing files to play from a menu, to include playing all 20 files consecutively by making only a single key selection (Disks containing menu files for *ALL* disks in the *Symphony-90 Music Library Collection* are now available from *Computer News 80).*

SYMFPLAY/TXT -- This is an ASCII text file which is for your reference, and lists the music files on the **SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM** disk, and explains what each music file's actually plays (i.e., what song it plays).

All other files have a /SYM file extension, and are music files which can be played using PLAY/CMD, or selected using the SYMFKEY/CMD interactive user interface.

USING PLAY/CMD

To use PLAY/CMD is almost as easy as falling off a log. All you have to do is append the PLAY command with the name or names of the file(s) to play, separated by spaces. For example, if you wanted to play ANTHEM/SYM, which is on this disk, you would enter the command *PLAY ANTHEM.* When PLAY loads, it will first look for a file called ANTHEM/SYM. If it does not find it, it will look for a file called ANTHEM/ORC. If it does not find either, it will exit to DOS. The /ORC extension is of course the extension used for ORCHESTRA-80 music files. If you wish, you can add an extension to the file. Thus entering *PLAY ANTHEM/SYM* will cause PLAY to look specifically for ANTHEM/SYM, and will not subsequently look for any /ORC variation. Additionally, you can also specify a drive specification. Thus *PLAY ANTHEM:1* will cause play to look for ANTHEM/SYM on Drive :1, and if it is not found, it will look for ANTHEM/ORC on Drive :1. If you enter *PLAY ANTHEM/ORC:1,* it will look exclusively for ANTHEM/ORC on Drive :1.

By default, if you do not provide a file extension when selecting to play a music file, PLAY will first look for a file with a /SYM extension, and if it is not found, it will look for a file with an /ORC extension. However, if you have a very large ORCHESTRA-90 music file collection, you can patch a working copy of PLAY/CMD (*NOT* the original) to first look for a default extension of /ORC, and *then* looks for a file with a /SYM extension. This is done by patching either the Model III or Model 4/4p/4d versions of PLAY/CMD at hexidecimal address 5200 with a non-zero value.

For TRSDOS 1.3: **PATCH PLAY/CMD (ADD=5200,FIND=00,CHG=FF)**

For LDOS 5/TRSDOS/LS-DOS 6: **PATCH PLAY/CMD (X'5200'=FF)**

USING ASC2SYM/CMD

If you have a SYMPHONY-90 or ORCHESTRA-90 file which has been stored in ASCII format, you can convert it to a format usable by PLAY/CMD. To convert the file, you must ensure that the file has an /ASC file extension. Use the RENAME command to change it to this if it currently does not have it. You then issue the command: **ASC2SYM filename**. Be sure that you do *NOT* include a file extension. You can optionally include a drive specification. For example, to convert a file called SAMPLE/ASC on Drive :1, you could use the command *ASC2SYM SAMPLE:1.*

When you enter the command, another file will be created with the same filename, but with a /SYM file extension. If you specify a drive number, this file will be created on the same drive, otherwise it will be created on the first available non-write-protected drive which contains a readable disk.

USING SYM2ASC/CMD

If you have knowledge of the music language used by SYMPHONY-90 and ORCHESTRA-90, you may wish to use this utility to correct bugs which you may find in files obtained elsewhere than from the *Symphony-90 Music Library Collection,* or if you desire to change an arrangement, you can use this utility to convert a SYMPHONY-90 music file to ASCII format, where you can use a standard wordprocessor or text editor to edit the file and make your changes. You can afterward use the ASC2SYM/CMD program desribed above to convert it back to /SYM format. The file you wish to convert must have a /SYM file extension. If it does not, you can use the RENAME command to change it to /SYM. You then issue the command: **SYM2ASC filename**. Be sure that you do *NOT* include a file extension. You can optionally include a drive specification. For example, to convert a file called SAMPLE/SYM on Drive :1, you could use the command *SYM2ASC SAMPLE:1.*

When you enter the command, another file will be created with the same filename, but with a /ASC file extension. If you specify a drive number, this file will be created on the same drive, otherwise it will be created on the first available non-write-protected drive which contains a readable disk.

USING SYMFKEY/CMD

To use the SYMFKEY/CMD menu interface, you must have a specially constructed menu file having a /KEY file extension. These /KEY files allow you to conveniently select music for playing by choosing from a menu. You activate SYMFKEY by using the command: **SYMFKEY filename**, where **filename** is the name of the /KEY file. You do not need to include the /KEY file extension, as it will be included by default. You can also include an optional drive specification. As demonstrated from earlier in this text, the further usage of this program requires no more explanation.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

If PLAY/CMD keeps trying over and over to load a music file, then the file contains an error in its scoring, and will have to be corrected. This is *very* rare, and is possible on files which are not a part of the *Symphony-90 Music Library Collection*. Again, this is rare, but possible. If you understand the ORCHESTRA-90 music language, you can use SYM2ASC/CMD to convert the file to ASCII format, and *then* use a text editor to edit and correct the scoring. Use ASC2SYM/CMD to convert it back to SYMPHONY-90 format. Sorry, *Computer News 80* does not have the facilities to correct your problem with files you obtained from sources other than their own.

If the PLAY program appears to load your file, but no music is produced, check your hardware connections. Also be sure that your stereo system is turned on and that the connections to your stereo from the computer are selected. Most frustrations on the part of the user is due to the user either not properly selecting the right setting on your stereo, or connecting the hardware interface on the computer improperly. Also, remember that connections on the Model 4/4d and on the Model 4p are opposite by orientation.

If you hear a lot of static while the music is playing, then a CPU option board, such as an XLR8er may be installed in your system. Though most option boards will not interfere with the interface, if you use an alternative CPU board which contains a non-Z80 chip, it is possible that the differing interrupt structure of the alternative CPU will conflict with the Z80 structure which the hardware music interface is designed to work with. Mind you, the program *will* work with these boards, but the quality may suffer.

If you cannot read the distribution disk, are you using TRSDOS 1.3 or NEWDOS/80? If so, read the first page of this manual to see how to read the disk.

If the programs refuse to run, are you sure that you have the proper version of the SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM disk? The Model 4 version should be used only with DOS-6 compatible systems. If you have Model 4 MULTIDOS, you should use the Model III version, as Model 4 MULTIDOS is actually a Model III DOS which utilizes Model 4 features. If all else fails, you may have received a blank disk by rare mistake. You can receive a replacement by returning it to *Computer News 80* for an immediate replacement.

NOTICE

The SYMPHONY-90 MUSIC PLAYER SYSTEM is copyrighted and is the sole properly of David Goben, and is available for sale exclusively through *Computer News 80*. Obtaining it from any other source constitutes piracy. Remember, piracy has already driven may great programmers from further support of your computer system. Don't take the chance of losing it entirely. The programs on the provided disk cannot be duplicated, archived, or copied in whole or in part except for your own personal use, and cannot be sold or traded or given away, unless you retain no copies in whole or in part. Support will be provides only to those who have obtained their "stuff" from *Computer News 80*.

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