



Get it sorted

Jon Myles looks at Melco's new Intelligent Music Library software – and is impressed.

Melco's music servers pretty much set the standard for how well this technology can be implemented for storing an entire music collection.

Not a computer, not a basic music jukebox but a machine designed to play back files at the highest quality possible.

Now the company has moved its products further forward – with the release of a new software upgrade entitled Intelligent Music Library.

On a basic level this means owners of existing Melco servers will get an automatic update over wi-fi. It brings the majority up to what is now Melco's EX standard.

However the biggest improvement is the Intelligent Music Library now has SongKong built in.

So what's SongKong? SongKong for Melco is a powerful tool designed to make tagging digital music files with metadata (song, album, composer,

artist etc), as well as adding album artwork, as easy as possible. Anyone who has thousands of files stored will know how difficult it is to keep this consistent.

Basically, the programme takes samples of each song and uses them to get a match against an online database. Using information from MusicBrainz and Discogs it can download and fill in all relevant information automatically. It will even look for duplicate songs in a library and give the option to delete them.

Special attention has been paid to Classical music, SongKong capturing information such as composer, conductor, performers and even Movement numbers where appropriate.

Now, with this new software update SongKong is there at your fingertips, via a smartphone or tablet. Clever? Very. It makes searching a large music library much easier.

Looking for jazz tracks? Just dial it in. Pop? Same again. Rock? Yes. It's

a very easy way to go through your entire music collection.

SOUND QUALITY

To be honest this upgrade doesn't really boost the Melco's sound quality – which is already superb. However, what it does do is add extra functionality and bring a welcome way of searching through music libraries – whether they be on the Melco itself or housed on a UPnP server.

As such it rivals the likes of Naim in terms of ease of use yet retains Melco's unique selling point – something built exclusively for storing music and nothing else.

Oh, and as it is free that makes it a bargain!

CONCLUSION

An impressive piece of software that lifts Melco's music servers to a new level. Easy to use, intuitive yet powerful in terms of song, album or genre searching. Existing Melco users will love it – new buyers will be enthralled.

MELCO INTELLIGENT MUSIC LIBRARY



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VALUE - free

VERDICT

Works better than you would expect. Moves Melco's servers up to a new level.

FOR

- ease of use
- SongKong built-in
- Free
- Superb interface

AGAINST

- nothing

www.melco-audio.com