



# SILENT ANGEL MUNICH MU

## NETWORK STREAMER

Streaming from subscription music services and internet radio on the web, or streaming from files around the home: Silent Angel's network streamer aims to deliver it all to your system – with perfect timing.

Let's say you're the current proud owner of hi-fi system with a sound you simply adore. But it's old-school: disc-based. You crave the wavelengths of 'today's youth': you wish to engage with that nifty new thing called streaming — but you don't want to lose your classic hi-fi sound.

Then you need a streamer. Silent Angel is a brand ready to oblige. Servers, power supplies and network switches all adorn Silent Angel's current catalogue, but at the core of it all are the brand's streamers. Plug one of these network streaming components into your system and you can retain all your cherished possessions, and your classic sound signature, while injecting them with new and potentially pure digital streams of various varieties.

### Equipment

Silent Angel's Munich MU builds upon the success of the earlier (and smaller) Munich M1. When we reviewed that a couple of years ago, we had been mighty surprised by how very dinky it was at just six inches

across, but were then equally delighted by the tremendous performance it was nevertheless able to deliver.

As a 'premium' streamer the Munich MU is more substantial, and very much less likely to be taken 'on-the-go' like the M1. At some 14 inches the MU is not quite full-width but is bigger than half-width, so finding a spot on your hi-fi rack shouldn't prove too much of an issue, and it looks impressive too, an attractive slab of anodised aluminium (it's available in silver or black), with the swirly 'Munich' moniker emblazoned on the front.

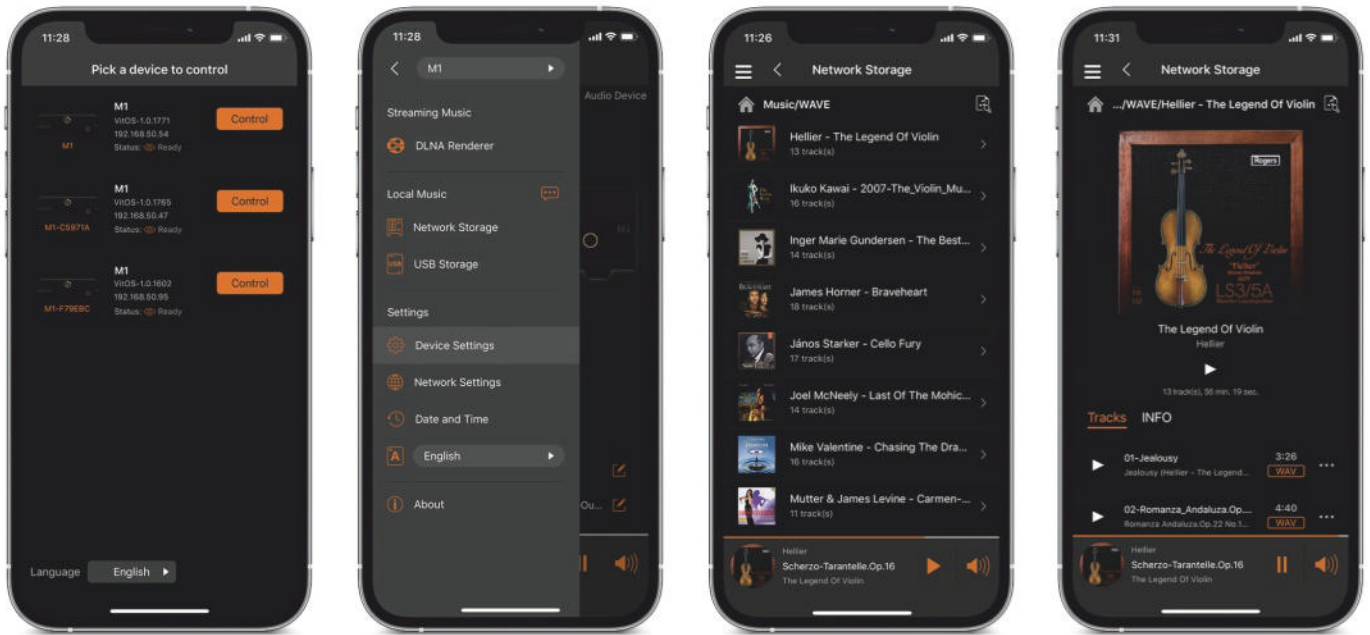
Silent Angel says it has used a double-layer chassis as being structurally better than mere welded sheet metal, claiming this delivers "enhanced resonance damping and better electromagnetic interference isolation". That's a useful feature to have, since the Munich MU will likely be parked up close and personal with not only your amplifier but other hi-fi components and potentially networking gear too.

A small LED sits just below the logo, to shine either red, green or blue to indicate

what it's currently getting up to. A steady blue informs you it's in standby mode, a blinking red for mute, blinking green for PCM output and blinking blue for DSD. Despite being so small, we were able to clearly see which colour it was showing from the other end of our listening room.

There isn't an endless list of analogue and digital outputs, but we'd argue the options you do get are carefully considered. The analogue outputs come on a choice of balanced XLR or unbalanced RCA, while digital output options include AES/EBU, USB with support for up to PCM 768kHz and DSD 11.2M (DSD256), coaxial to PCM 384kHz / DSD128, and the HDMI-looking I2S. These digital outputs allow you to effectively bypass the Munich MU's own internal DAC and hand over those duties to something even more capable, if you have such a DAC marvel to hand.

Otherwise you take one of the analogue output pairs into an existing system. You might even create something truly simple by connecting the Munich directly to a pair of active speakers. Our review system



was more conventional, including Marantz amplification and KEF loudspeakers.

As for inputs, the gigabit Ethernet connection is of primary importance, enabling all network streaming. And there is no Wi-Fi here, so you'll need to make sure you can position the Munich MU where it can receive this physical network connection, which opens up Spotify Connect and AirPlay 2, plus native support for Tidal and Qobuz within the VitOS Orbiter app available for iOS and Android.

Other connections at the rear of Munich MU include three USB ports (two 3.0 and one 2.0) for adding external sticks or drives; you also have the option of installing a M.2 NVMe SSD drive up to 4TB in size, to store files locally on the Munich MU. There's also an input for an external 10MHz clock (the optional Genesis GX Word Clock) and a dedicated power supply (Silent Angel's own Forester F2 comes highly recommended by the maker). Other optional extras to improve the performance further include a range of Bonn network switches designed to "reduce signal distortion and noise".

Silent Angel has given the MU a 6-core processor, comprising a 1.8GHz dual-core ARM Cortex-A72 and 1.4GHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A53 chips. In practice, we experienced little to no lag when selecting a song from within the VitOS orbiter app and hearing it from our speakers: if we did experience a stutter, it seemed more an app issue than the main Munich's response.

That's all the physical aspects of the Silent Angel Munich MU taken care of — we would note, however, that unlike the smaller Munich M1, there is no headphone output to be found here.

You'll want to get accustomed to that VitOS Orbiter app, as it's the only means of control for the Munich MU — there's no physical remote control here, and no buttons on the unit itself. But the advantages of the app are that it opens up control of the aforementioned streaming services, and also allows easier browsing of music on NAS drives and USB storage. It allows you to create custom playlists and to tweak certain settings, including informing the Munich if you use an external DAC.

## Performance

Our first musical port of call was the opening track *House* from London Grammar's latest album release, a scintillating number with a pulsing bass line, coupled with lead singer Hannah Reid's spine-tingling vocals. We streamed a 24-bit/44.1kHz version via Qobuz and the Munich MU ate it up and served it back out with a level of depth and dynamism we hadn't previously appreciated. Each underlying bass hit gained gusto, being delivered with both tightness and confidence, while Hannah's vocals soared above with exceptional clarity; it was a spellbinding listen.

Realising the Munich had the means to unearth nuances in our favourite tracks, we moved to old favourite *On My Knees* by Australian electronic trio Rüfüs Du Sol. Again not only clear vocals and 'whump whump whump' from underlying synths being delivered with panache, it was the extra elements to the track, usually background detail, which the Munich MU was picking out and placing perfectly in





the soundstage which it presented with an almost spatial audio-like quality.

Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now* (2000 version) is a track to which we often gravitate, so we can sink back into our chair and be treated to the beautiful vocal performance. That's exactly what we enjoyed via the Munich: an exquisite treat from start to finish, with Mitchell's voice coming through front, centre, and lifted from the orchestral backing. String instruments were pronounced without sounding harsh, while Wayne Shorter's saxophone towards the end pierced its way into the soundstage without any compression to the surrounding swirls.

The Silent Angel Munich MU is clearly capable with high-res audio, but CD quality can sing just as well. From The Killers' early days we selected *When You Were Young* on Qobuz in 16-bit/44.1kHz, focusing particularly on the ascending clash of guitars after the bridge, about two-thirds into the song, to assess the Munich MU's dynamic prowess. They came in loud and kept wanting to go louder still, highlighting the Munich MU's ability to really dig out the detail available in a recording.

### App control

That the Silent Angel Munich MU can be controlled only via an app may be good news for some and bad news for others. Some users like the feel and reliability of

a physical remote control, while longterm reliance on an app requires regular updates and no redundancy from the provider; botched app updates can cost a company customers. A saving grace in such a case might be that the MU can have music sent to it via AirPlay, Spotify Connect and Roon, which all work beyond the specific VitOS Orbiter app control here.

Having said that, the VitOS Orbiter app is one of the more accomplished we've come across. Running on an iPhone 15 Pro it connected immediately to the Munich MU every time we came back to it, with no searching and no stuttering, instead presenting us instantly with the familiar options to select and stream via our saved music streaming services.

Adding Qobuz was a hassle-free process; there's also TuneIn Radio for internet radio access. There is an option for Amazon Music HD in the left-hand menu, but at the time of writing it wasn't available to use (the app says it's "working on recovering it").

Accessing other device settings was a pain-free process, including initially getting the Munich MU added to our network. You're also able to adjust the maximum file resolutions for PCM and DSD conversions that you want the internal DAC to handle, as well as toggling volume control for the internal DAC on or off.

The VitOS Orbiter app also provides helpful images of the rear panel of the

Munich MU, highlighting the connections each particular menu is referring to.

Overall we found the app to be logically organised and very simple to use. Settings are where you'd expect to find them, not hidden several layers down in sub-menus. We also appreciated the fact it displays the various music streaming service apps in almost native fashion, meaning that Qobuz, for example, is presented very similarly to what you're used to seeing in the native Qobuz app, making searching for favourite songs and playlists second nature.

### Conclusion

It really can pay to invest in a product that has one sole purpose. The Silent Angel Munich MU is built for streaming, not only today but for the future, with a number of options for later upgrading, including isolating its streaming smarts and handing over DAC duties to an even higher performer. But its own DACs and processing performed beautifully during our listening through its analogue outputs, with easy app operation fulfilling the package here for anyone looking to add highly-capable network streaming to their music system. 🎧

### SILENT ANGEL MUNICH MU

- Versatile connections and streaming support
- Excellent clarity and detail
- Speedy performance
- No physical remote control or on-device buttons
- No headphone output

**Price:** \$4390

**Inputs:** USB (PCM 384kHz and DSD128), Ethernet, External Clock (10MHz)

**Outputs:** AES/EBU, coaxial, I2S, RCA, XLR

**Expansion USB port:**  
2 x USB 3.1, 1 x USB 2.0

**SSD storage option:**  
NVMe SSD, up to 4TB

**Control:** VitOS Orbiter (iOS, Android), UPnp, Roon

**Streaming:** AirPlay 2, Qobuz, Tidal, Spotify, DLNA, internet radio

**Dimensions (hwd):** 7.3 x 36 x 22cm

**Weight:** 4.65kg

**Contact:** Absolute Hi End

**Telephone:** 04 8877 7999

**Web:** absolutehiend.com



SILENT ANGEL



## Munich MU Music Streamer

A High-End premier network streamer, advancing the formidable capabilities of the iconic M1. The development of this sophisticated, double-layer chassis design was inspired by our State-of-the-Art Bonn NX and Genesis GX combined with meticulous fine-tuning and relentless testing, complemented by specialized system software, every effort has been devoted to creating an unmatched digital audio experience.



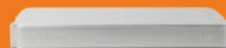
Also available:  
(black & silver)



Bonn NX



Forester F2



Genesis GX



Rhein Z1 Plus

### Sound Gallery

soundgallery.com.au  
03 9578 8658

### Class A Audio

classaaudio.com.au  
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### The Audio Experts

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03 9545 5152

### Audiophile Shop

audiophilesshop.com.au  
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