

Phoenix Music Getting Started Guide

This guide will help you get started with using Phoenix to control music playback from SageTV. Some of the philosophies behind how it works will be explained so that if you read this you will be able to more fully enjoy music from Sage.

Music Browser

The music browser has two panels, each containing a list. The left side of the screen is where you can browse your collection to find the music you want to listen to. The right side of the screen is the 'New Playlist' - this is the entire contents of whatever you have selected on the left side. In the case below, the album '**Back in Black**' by AC/DC is selected, and the New Playlist contains all of the tracks from that album. In the Genre view, the New Playlist contains all the tracks that match the selected Genre.



Here is an important element to how the Phoenix Music Browser works - at any point on this screen when you hit the 'Select' key on your remote the New Playlist is going to start playing, and you will be taken immediately to the Music OSD screen. You won't get any pop-up windows asking what you want to do, or any options outside of that.

Phoenix Music is geared towards playing, with as little fuss as possible, the music you see on the screen.

The only real option you have as far as how playback is started is where you start playback. If you navigate 'Right' while an album is selected, or the 'Skip Forward' button when it's not an album, you will end up with the selection on the New Playlist :



Now the **New Playlist** has focus, and you can move up and down. Whenever you hit select playback will start from that track. Note that the entire **New Playlist** is loaded - tracks before the selected item are still in the now playing list prior to the currently playing track.

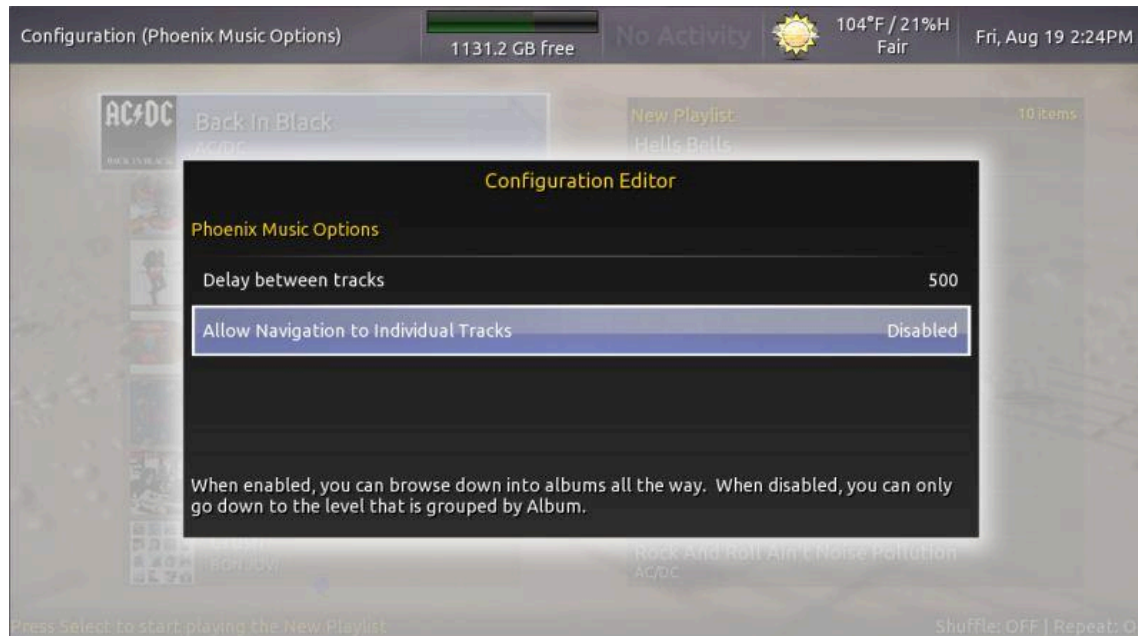
Context Sensitive Options

The universal options menu has two music playback items when opened from the Music Browser. These are for toggling Repeat and Shuffle mode.



Configuration Options

There are currently two configuration options available from the Music Browser (on the remote, 'Options' then 'Select').



1. **Delay between tracks** - this setting introduces a small delay between tracks. This is to 'fix' the situation in the Sage core that causes the first second of a song to get dropped. You can modify this to get the delay as small as possible for your system. A value of 0 disables this feature.
2. **Allow Navigation to Individual Tracks** - by default this feature is disabled. To understand what this means, you have to understand a bit about how Phoenix sees albums. An album is a **virtual folder** that contains all the tracks (media files) from said album. So by default, when you are navigating through folders you could go down to the point that the left hand list in the music browser is the actual tracks in the album. When this happens the New Playlist is a single item. So if you ever wanted to play just a single song, you need to enable this setting to let you navigate down to that level. By default this is disabled, and when you get down to the ALBUM level on the left hand side, the 'Right' arrow key on the remote will take you over to the New Playlist instead of drilling further down the folder hierarchy.

Note that you can always get to the New Playlist by hitting the 'Skip Forward' key on your remote.

Planned enhancements for the Music Browser:

1. Customized sorting - currently it uses a hard coded alpha sort based on Title at the high level, and then sorted by Track Number once you are at the Album level.
2. Quick navigation / filtering support - similar to the Universal Media Browser
3. Ability to append the New Playlist to the end of the 'Currently Playing' playlist.
4. Ability to save a New Playlist to be called back at a future time - this will introduce a 4th Music view which will be 'by Playlist'

Enhancements that are not being considered:

1. Modifying the order of tracks in the New Playlist
2. Editing the New Playlist (removing items, etc)

These are features that you might find in a desktop music browser / player, but Phoenix Music is aimed at the 10ft GUI and is going to stay simple-ish.

Music OSD

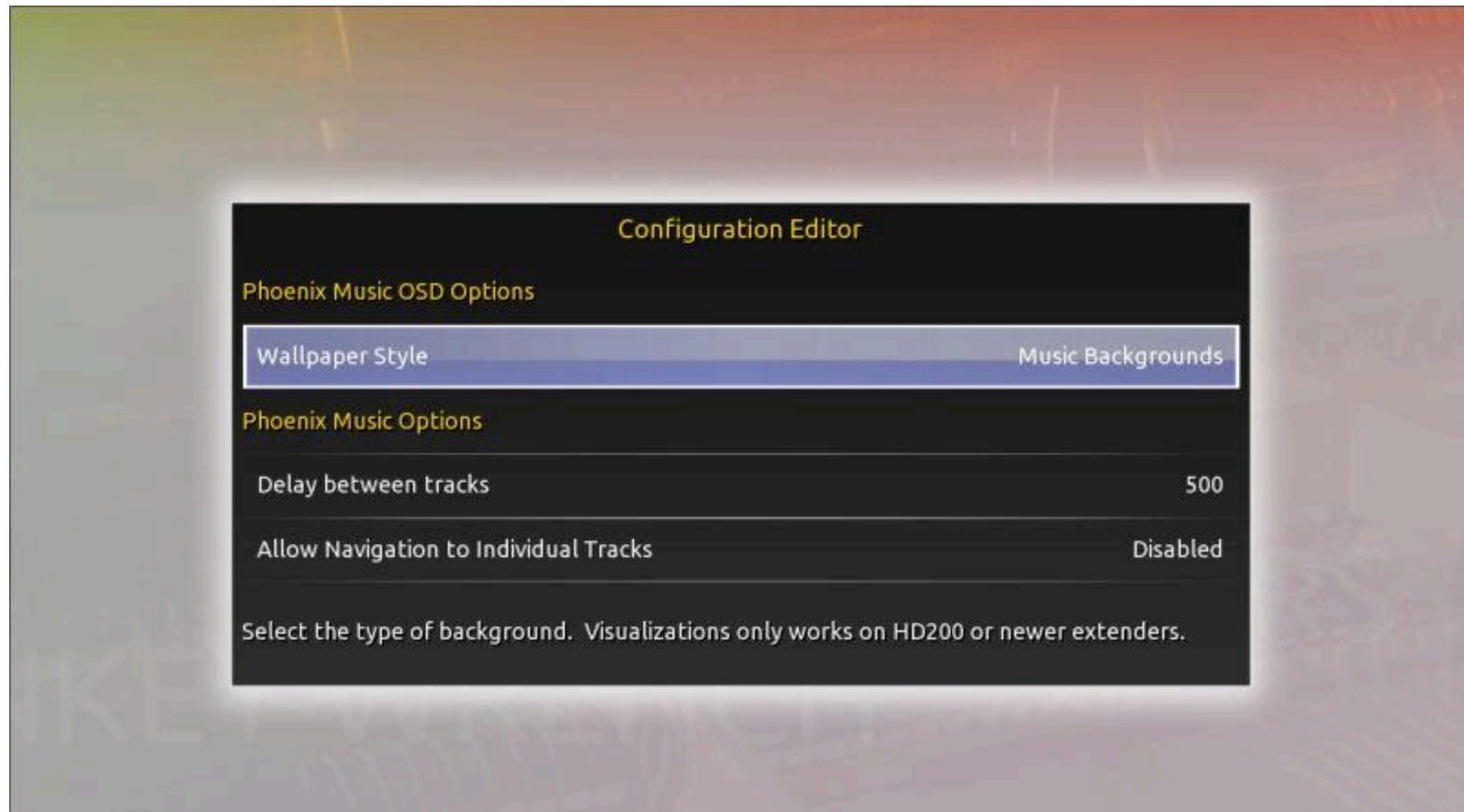
The Music OSD screen is where you end up as soon as you start playback. It's very self explanatory - if you hit 'Select' while music is playing you get the OSD popup - which gives you big album art, track info, and list of the current playlist that you can move around in and switch to a different track.



There are repeat and shuffle mode icons in this screen shot - on either side of the time bar.

There are currently two options for the Wallpaper Style while music is playing:

1. Music Art - a collection of music instrument wallpapers
2. Visualizations - these are the stock graphic visualizations. These only work on HD200 extenders or newer



Active controls from the Music OSD:

1. Play - shows the time bar (with track title) if the music is already playing. If paused resumes
2. Skip Forward / Skip Backwards - skips the same amount as these controls do on video.
3. Skip Forward 2 / Skip Backwards 2 - next / previous track
4. Stop - halts playback and returns the the menu that launched the Music OSD.

Playback mode (Repeat and Shuffle) are accessed the same way they are in the Music Browser - through the global options menu.

Planned enhancements for the Music OSD:

1. Fanart Backgrounds - the next release will contain actual fanart of the artist, when available.
2. Photo Slideshow Backgrounds