I want to play music directly from my iPhone/iPad/Touch.

**Solution #1**
AirPlay via an AppleTV or Airport Express.

For $99, plus the cost of an optical cable, you can keep your “i” device in your hand which makes it much more convenient to control versus walking up to an iPod dock or using the limited functions on a remote control. You can AirPlay music right from your apps including: YouTube, Spotify, Pandora, and MOG.

The drawback of AirPlay is that it tends to drain your battery so keep your charger handy! Sound quality takes a slight hit from wirelessly transmitting the data and heavy network traffic can cause dropouts and latency.

Even with those negatives, AirPlay is our favorite way to transfer music from our iPhones and iPads to our stereo systems.

**Required Hardware**
- Your iPod Touch, iPhone, iPad
- A wireless network
- AppleTV or AirPort Express
- Toslink digital cable (AppleTV) mini toslink digital cable (AirPort Express)
- A DAC

**Solution #2** (recommended for iPod Classic and Nano)
PURE DIGITAL dock found in iDac or an external one such as the Wadia, PURE, Cambridge or Onkyo dock.

A hard physical connection will give you the best sound quality and none of the network-related issues mentioned above from wireless transmission via AirPlay. Using a dock with a PURE DIGITAL connection bypasses the internal audio circuitry built into the iPod. Most docks use an ANALOG feed from the 30-pin connector and while this solution sounds better than using the HEADPHONE jack with a mini to RCA adaptor, its sound quality leaves something to be desired. Docks are not very ergonomic since you have to control most function directly on the device. Remote controls give you the ability to skip tracks, play, and pause, but it is nearly impossible to do any other navigation. The big bonus here is that your device will be charged while docked (not always the case with the iPad).

I want to play music from my Android.

In most cases it is not possible (without being a programmer) to access a digital audio feed from an Android device. To that end, we really recommend using the Android as a remote to another device that does have digital audio outputs.
**Solution #1**  
Use a Bluetooth Audio receiver to wirelessly transmit music to your stereo. This will be an analog feed but within range, it will sound fine. If you wanted the absolute best possible sound you wouldn’t be using Bluetooth would you?

One such option: Logitech Wireless Speaker Adapter $39.99

**Solution #2**  
Tackling this issue from a difference perspective, we recommend playing music back via a computer, Squeezebox, AppleTV, or Sonos box and downloading the appropriate app to turn your Android into a killer touchscreen remote control.

**I want to play music from my Mac.**

There are many music players for the Mac (Songbird, Clementine, VOX) but none of them are as deeply integrated into the Mac OS as iTunes. For the sake of keeping things simple in the immense world of computer audio, we recommend iTunes.

We recommend downloading the FREE Apple Remote app on your iPhone/iPad/Touch to control iTunes running on your computer. Now you have your entire music library available at your finger tips. If your computer is close to your system, use a USB cable to connect directly to a Peachtree DAC. If you can’t directly connect your computer, you can use the AirPlay with an AppleTV or AirPort Express and transmit from the computer to those devices.

*But I want to play FLAC files…*  
No problem. Download a free program called XLD to convert your existing FLAC collection to AIFF or ALAC. XLD will automatically add the new files to your iTunes music library.

*What about high resolution music files? i.e.: 24/96, 24/192 etc.*  
iTunes natively supports high resolution files up to 24/192. To hear these files in all of there high res glory you have to manually change settings in your computer’s MIDI control panel. A much more elegant solution is to use PURE MUSIC or AMARRA playback software which will automatically select bit-depth and sampling rates for you.

*Optical or USB*  
On Peachtree products we recommend using the USB. Optical via a Mac is limited to 24/96 and doesn’t let the DAC control the flow of information like our USB does.
I want to play music from a USB memory stick or SD card.

If you like the idea of “micro-libraries" of your music collection, then portable memory makes a lot of sense for playback. Personally I find the navigation of these libraries to be cumbersome compared to a central storage solution such as a NAS drive but there are some advantages to this method. One major advantage of using portable memory is that it is raw data with no moving or superfluous parts. It is also a popular solution for recording engineers, musicians, and bootleggers. SD cards are the new cassette tapes!

What about?

Why no AirPlay built-in?
We figure you just can’t beat an AirPort Express or AppleTV for $99. This keeps it simple to upgrade/update later on should you want a change of technology. The day we can make a better internal solution, we will do it.

Why no Bluetooth built-in?
Unfortunately we haven’t found a Bluetooth solution that is of consistent quality for both sound and connection. Bluetooth can be a convenient way to stream some tunes from your phone or computer, just don’t expect great sound quality. If you want that convenience we recommend using a Bluetooth audio receiver, which you can find for less than $50. If you are running an Intel based OSX machine, or “i” device, we recommend using one that has APTx technology for less compressed sound. If your device doesn’t support APTx, look for a model that uses A2DP protocol.

Bluetooth receivers:
QED uPlay with APTx technology approximately $100 US (have to order from UK)
Logitech Wireless Speaker Adapter $39.99

Can I use other digital sources?

CD player
Even your CD player can be upgraded with an external DAC. Connect it via coax or toslink digital to your Peachtree Audio product in lieu of the analog output.

Music Server
Music Servers are computers that are optimized for the playback and navigation of your digital music library. Some have built-in DACs, some only have digital outputs, but all of them can be connected to a Peachtree DAC by using USB, toslink, coax, or a BNC connection.
Configuring your computer for the best audio experience.

To get the best quality and musical experience out of these multi-function machines, it’s going to require a little time and a little elbow grease. A dedicated computer for serving music is going to get you the best results and will save you the pain of having to optimize your computer every time you want to listen to music.

- Let’s start with the basic USB connection. The USB cable leading from your computer to the DAC needs to be a straight shot. No USB hubs, no extenders, and please try to keep those cables below 3 meters long.

- If you are using a USB DAC you should not be using any USB peripherals like external hard drives, mice, keyboards, and printers. Using multiple USB devices slows down the bus speed which can cause a reduction in sound quality and pops and clicks while listening to music. Don’t do it. If you must use multiple peripherals like external HDDs, then use Firewire, eSata, Ethernet or Thunderbolt for those devices.

- Not all USB connections are the same. Make sure you are using a USB 2.0 output. Even if all of your USB connections are 2.0 some of them run through an internal hub (common on PC desktops) which splits a single USB off the motherboard. Connections on the back of your computer are typically faster than ones on the front or side.

- Hundred of processes are happening in the background of any given computer. Restrain yourself from editing that picture in Photoshop, while downloading from that torrent, while listening to that 24/192 HD music file. At best sound quality takes a hit, at worst YOU WILL experience audio dropout, pops, and clicks.

- It is almost always better to have your music collection on a hard drive separate from your operating system. Your OS is almost always paging the hard drive it is running on and search tools such as Spotlight are constantly indexing the drives for faster search results. Having a dedicated drive just for your music gives you better quality audio.

- Maximize your RAM. System resources are constantly being fought over by all running programs. Don’t run low and have to resort to virtual memory on your HDD. The more RAM, the faster your computer is to respond to commands and less the chance of it locking up in the middle of your playlist.

- Check your system preferences to make sure all those beeps and bloops run through your computer’s internal speaker instead of to the DAC. It is really embarrassing to hear “You’ve got mail” through your Hi Fi system.
• Make sure you are outputting bit-perfect audio. Check you MIDI settings in Mac. Use WASAPI on PC.

• Electrically isolate your computer from your system. Use a power conditioner to have some isolation between those high speed processors, switching power supplies, and generally bad juju circuits that are in your computer from your home electronics.

• Disable any programs that you aren’t actively using.

• Select Optimum Performance in PC control panel. Turn off superfluous graphic enhancements that eat up processor power.

• Use cache or memory mode music players that load music into RAM instead of playing directly off the HDD.