

# Kodi Music Settings – Complete Setup using Pre-Configured files

(Version 2.0)

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## INTRODUCTION:

New users to Kodi often find setting up Kodi quite intimidating as they're not familiar with all the new menus and Settings required to get multichannel audio output, install add-ons like the Artist Slideshow, new skins or to customise Kodi music playback to view audio codec information (sample rates and original source type: DVDA, SACD, etc).

I have setup Kodi ready for users to add their own music Source (external USB hard drives or NAS etc). I've setup for HDMI multichannel output for CoreElec, installed the Aeon Nox Silvo skin, customised its menus, installed the ArtistSlideshow add-on and the QQ Codec Logo mod. I have created a Kodi Backup of all this including Settings for CoreElec and a zip file with these addons and settings in a zip file for other Kodi devices.

All a new user needs to do is install Kodi 18 (or one of its Linux based systems, LibreElec or CoreElec) and follow one of the procedures in this Guide and their system is setup and pre-configured (bar adding media Sources and doing a couple of user specific settings also in this Guide).

- Windows, LibreElec and Android Devices: The procedure is to Copy a couple of folders (Generic)
- CoreElec: The procedure is to Restore a Backup file from the Kodi menu

NOTE: Although the Backup files I am providing were derived from a Linux based version of Kodi, each backup file contains generic add-ons and settings that can be applied to any Kodi installation, however this guide has screen shots taken using CoreElec on an Odroid N2 media player, and Windows Kodi.

NOTE: This Backup will not overwrite any existing media database (music, music videos, movies or TV series databases, if you have already added media to Kodi. This backup only contains settings, Aeon Nox Silvo Skin and menu customisations and music media logos plus the Artist Slideshow add-on, all pre-configured

### Preparing to Apply the Kodi Music Backup:

This How To is using the Kodi Default Skin (named Estuary) as its initially installed. If you already have Kodi installed and you have changed your Skin from the default the screens will look different but still have the same names and options.

Here is a step by step guide to restore my backup to your Kodi system.

### Prerequisites:

You should have Kodi already installed. This should be Kodi 18 (Leia) ideally the latest version.  
You should download the Backup file appropriate to your system (CoreElec, LibreElec or Generic)  
You will need a USB thumb drive to copy the backup file to for the Restore procedure if using CoreElec

Download one of these Kodi Music Backups:

Links: (Choose just one that matched your Kodi device)

CoreElec: (this is for new CoreElec users that haven't set up Kodi yet)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JLLQ4uluxM6IYbFasdNc1Mwun4WnCJQ9/view?usp=sharing>

Generic: Windows, Android and LibreElec (and CoreElec users that have setup Kodi with addons)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/13qhZzISVmVSdvgxDimQ0ZHxT\\_E700jrz/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13qhZzISVmVSdvgxDimQ0ZHxT_E700jrz/view?usp=sharing)

(files updated on 16 June 2020)

Depending upon your Kodi Device:

CoreElec: (with a new CoreElec install)

Copy the backup file to your USB drive, plug-in the USB drive into your Kodi device

Windows:

Download onto your Windows device to a local drive

Android and LibreElec (and CoreElec if you have already setup Kodi on CoreElec with your own addons)

Copy the backup file to your USB drive, plug-in the USB drive into your PC (its all done from your PC)

Now find the Install Procedure for your Kodi Device that follows:

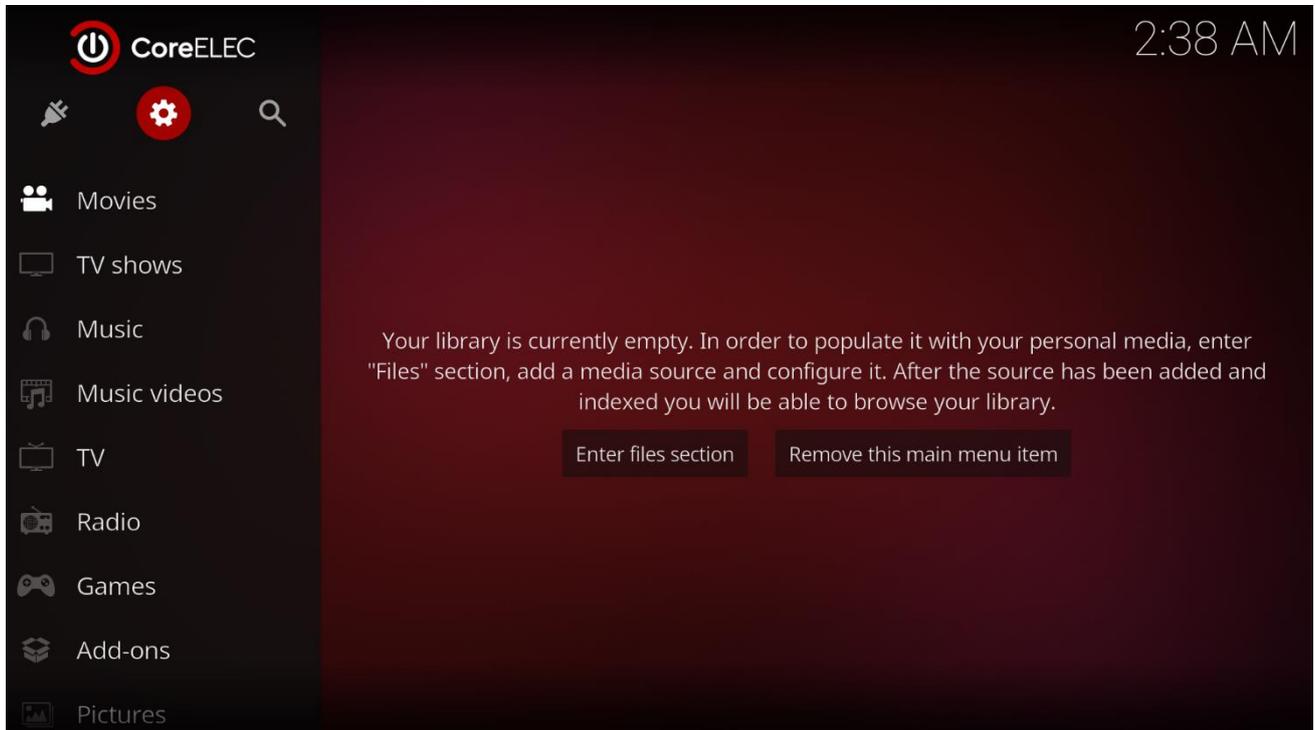
## ALL Devices:

This section only applies to all users/devices

## Kodi User Mode (initial Step):

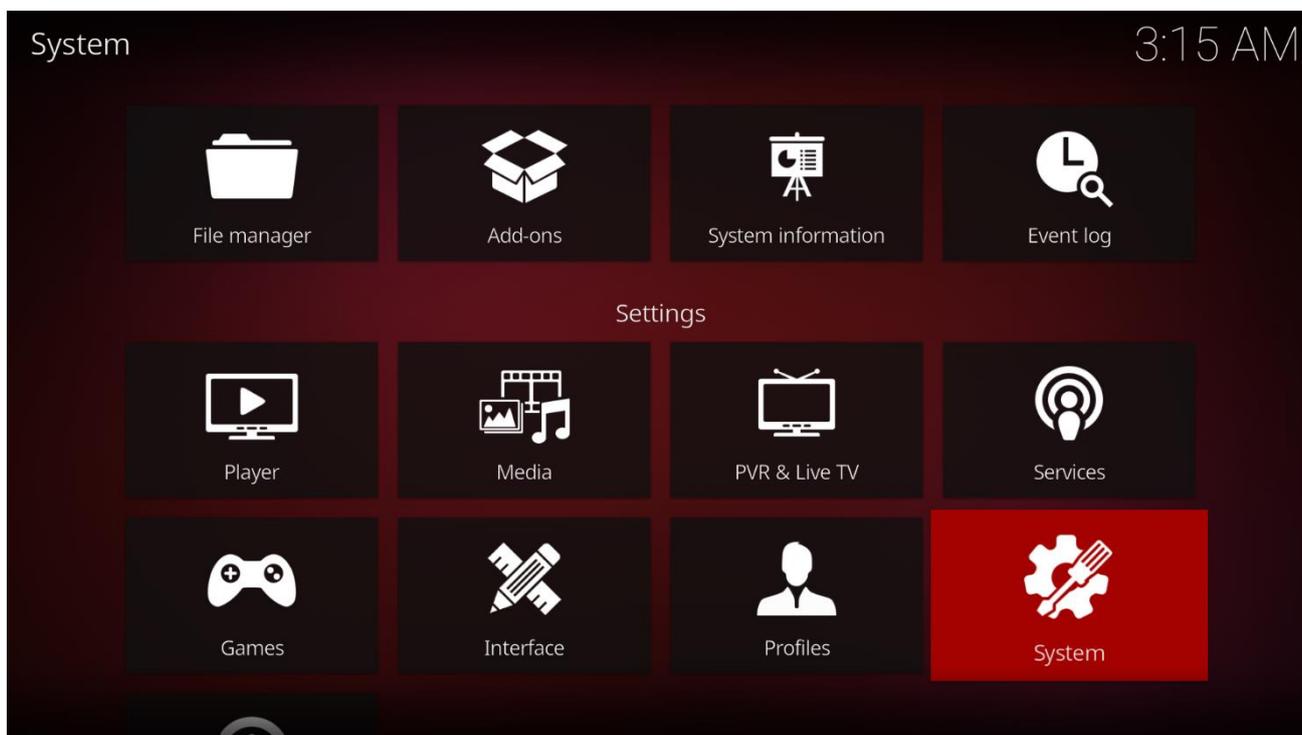
First you need to ensure Kodi's menu is set to 'Expert Mode' (if not already done)

From the Kodi Main Menu, go to the System Settings screen:



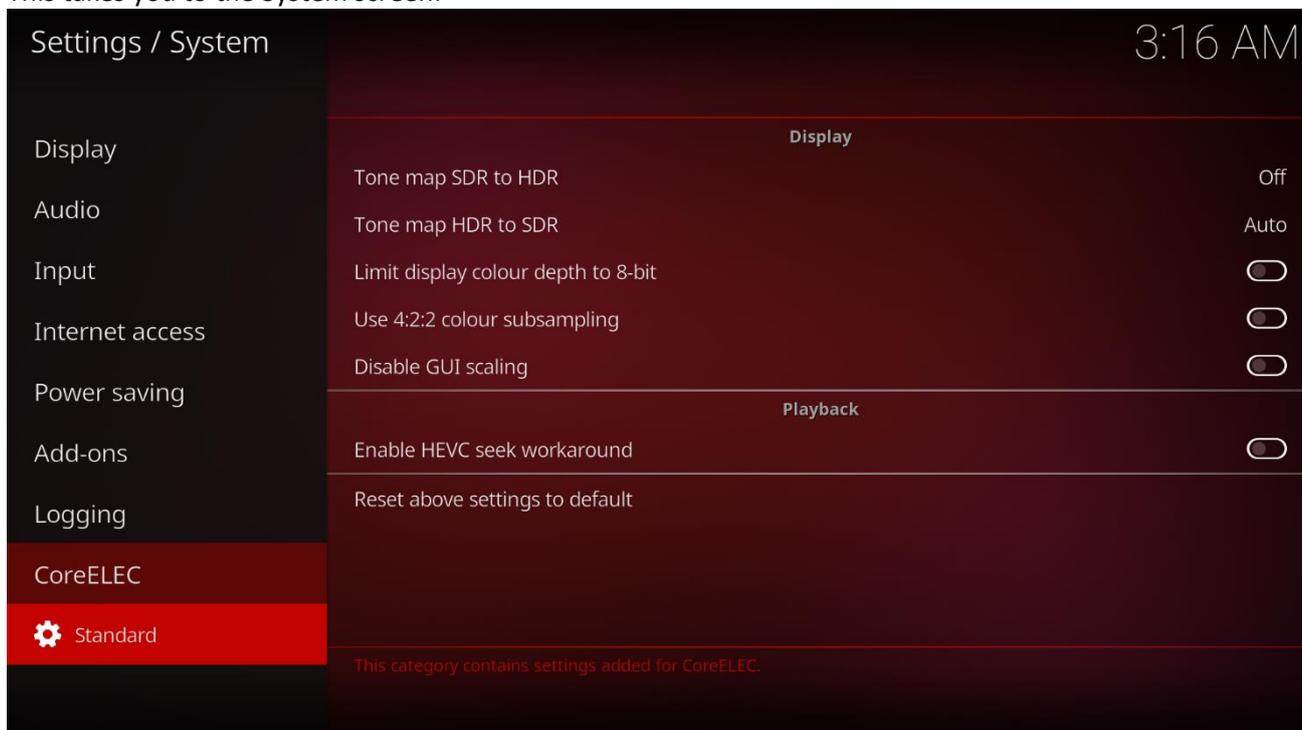
The screenshot above is for the default Kodi skin (Estuary). The System Settings menu is accessed by clicking on the highlighted System Settings icon (top red gear). In other Skins this is named System on the main menu.

You will now see the System Settings screen:



Now click on the System option (highlighted in previous screenshot).

This takes you to the System screen:



The current User Mode setting is shown at the bottom left of screen (highlighted above its set to Standard). If it set to Expert mode you are ok and you can exit this screen, and go to the next step:

NOTE: To go back to the previous Kodi screen, click 'Back' on your remote or you can hit the 'Esc' key on a keyboard.

Navigate down to the last item which allows you to change the User Mode. The default setting after a new install of Kodi is 'Standard'. To change click on this item and it will change to the next level. Click again until it shows 'Expert'.

NOTE: Changing the User Mode level gives you more advanced settings options in most Kodi Settings screens. You should always set this to 'Expert' if you are the only user. (You might consider setting this to a lower level if you have kids using your device, but not now while you are still setting up Kodi)

Next Step (Depending on you Device):

**RESTORE (COREELEC)**

or

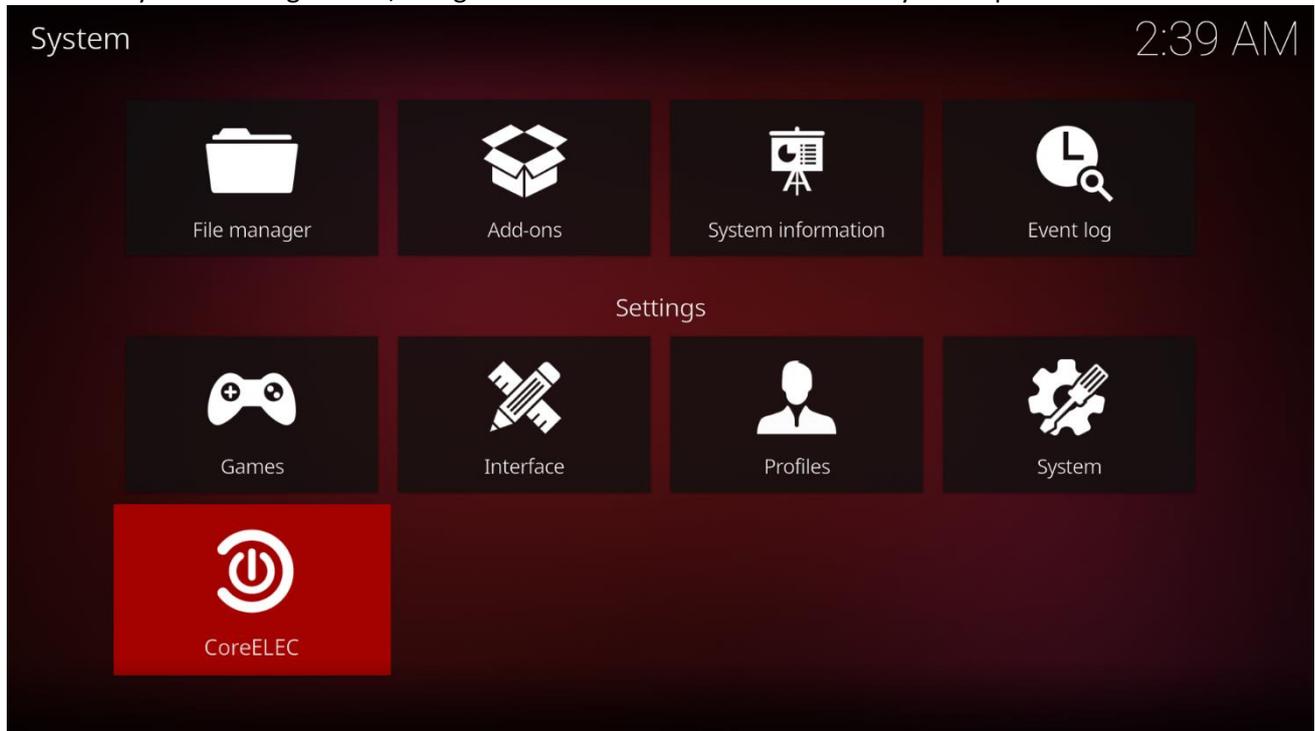
**GENERIC BACKUP - COPYING (Windows, LibreElec Android etc)**

## RESTORE (COREELEC):

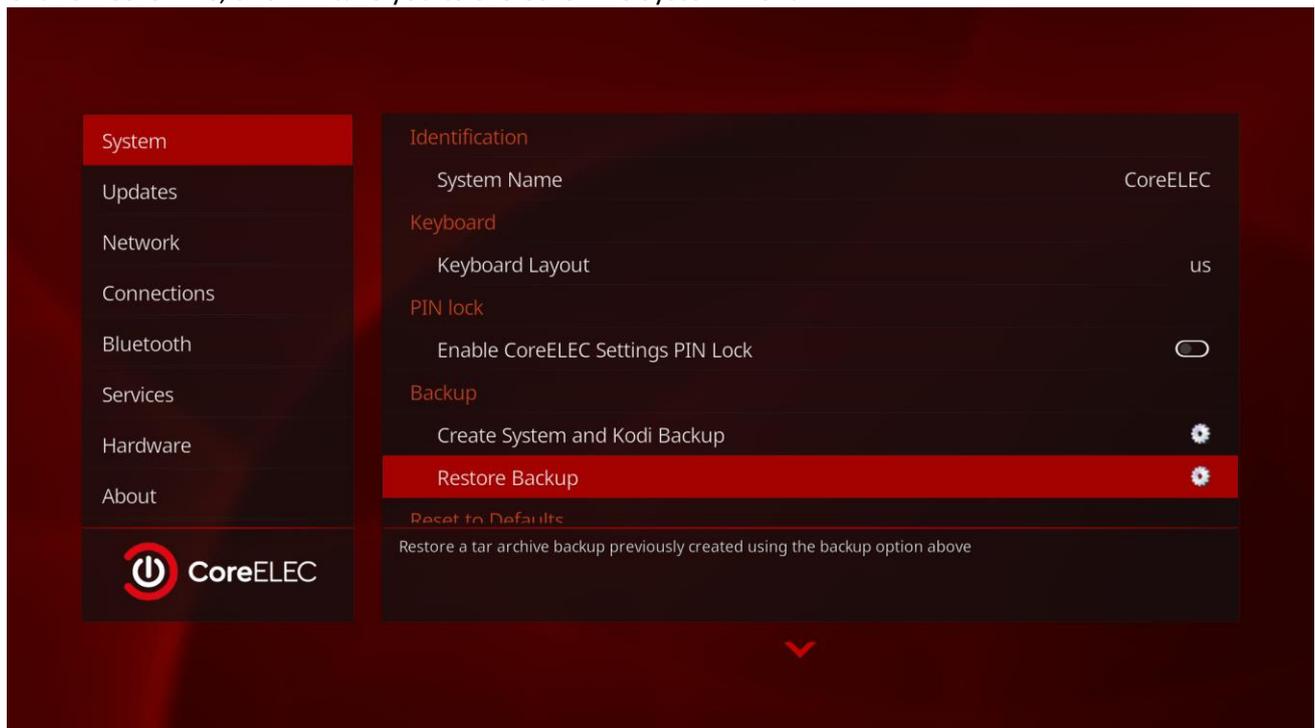
This section only applies to users running Kodi from a CoreElec installation

### Kodi Restore:

From the System Settings Menu, navigate to the bottom to the CoreELEC System option:

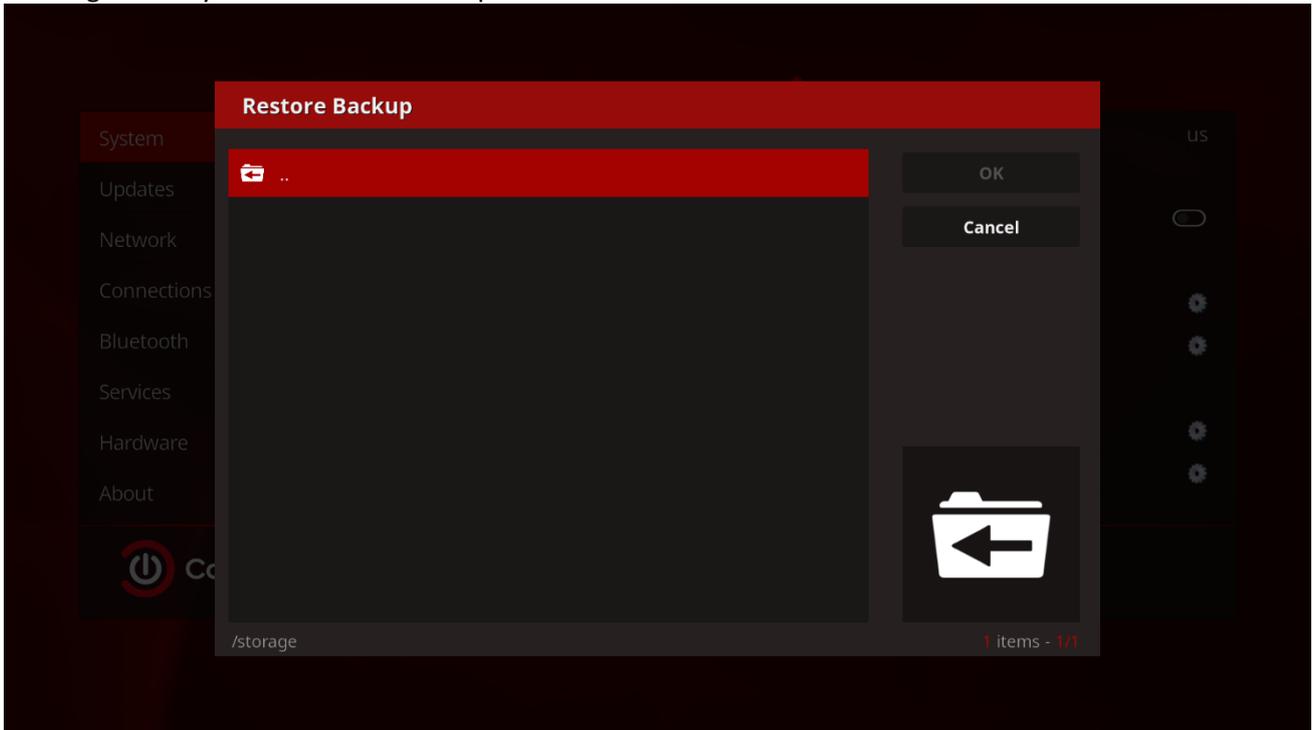


Click on CoreELEC, this will take you to the CoreELEC System Menu:



Navigate down to the System, Backup section (on right) and click 'Restore Backup'

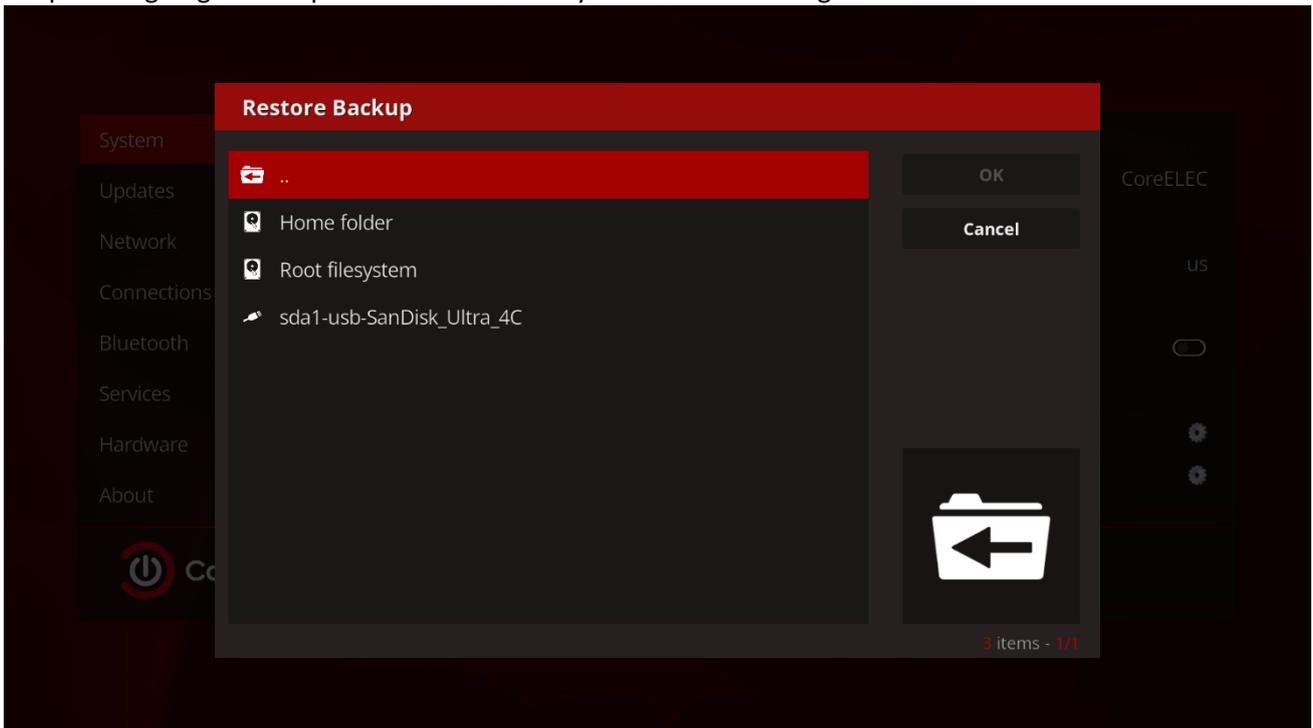
A dialog will ask you to select the backup file to restore.



You should now plug-in your USB drive with the Backup file you downloaded and wait until Kodi says the USB drive is ready. (just a couple of seconds or so).

Now navigate up the folder tree by clicking the 'Folder back ..' icon on the file selector (highlighted in the previous screenshot).

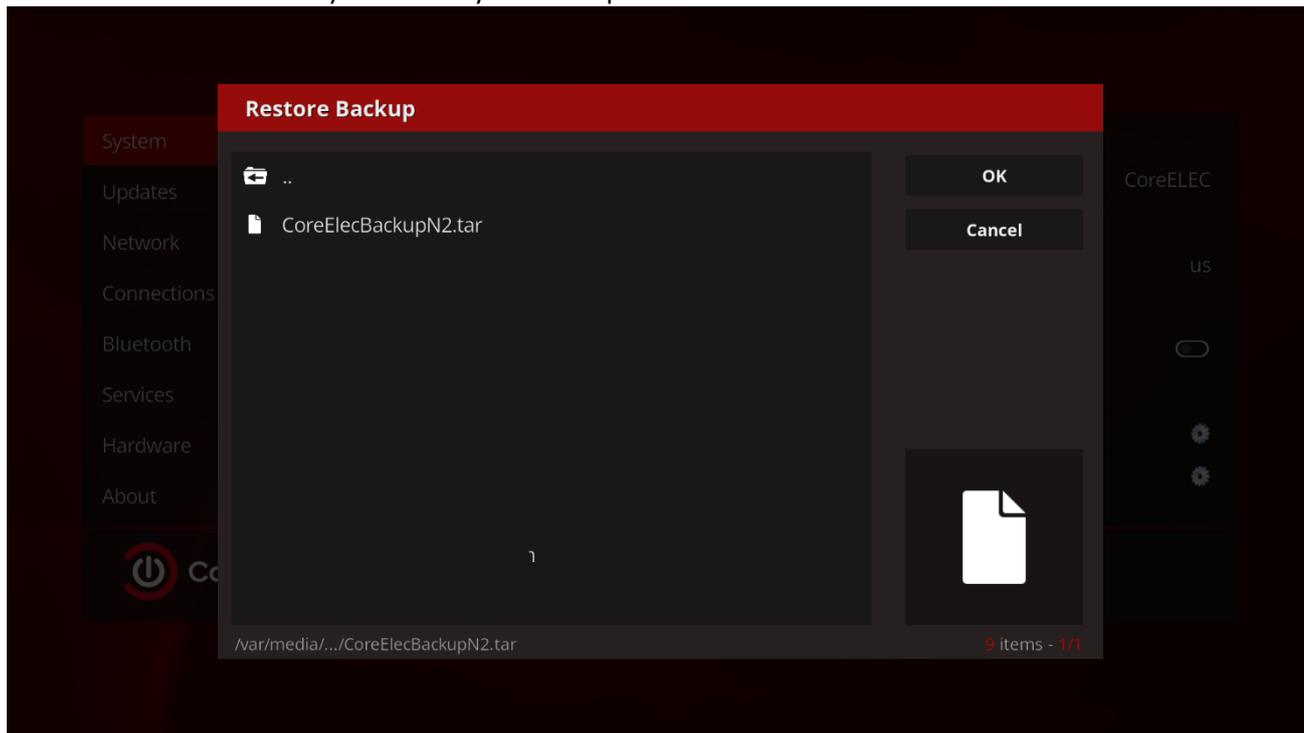
Keep clicking to go back up the folder tree until you see the following screen:



You will see two Linux folders (Home folder and Root filesystem) and your USB drive.

NOTE: Your drive will have a different name than the one shown in the screenshot, but it will have the small USB icon next to it on the left.

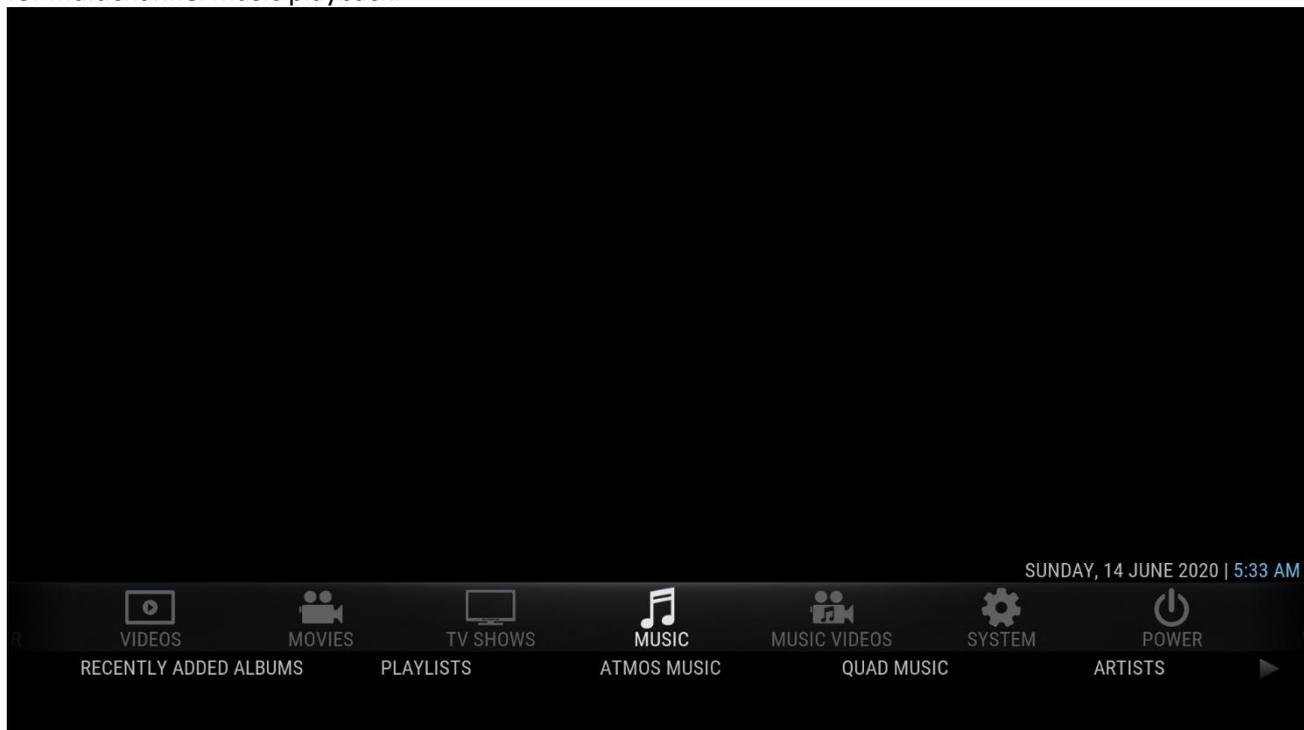
Click on the USB drive and you will see your Backup File:



Go ahead and click on the Backup file, then click 'OK' on the right of the dialog.

Kodi will read the file and ask you to confirm a Reboot to install the Backup. Hit 'Yes'.

Your Kodi device will restart. You will now see Kodi using the Aeon Now Silvo skin, with its menu customised for multichannel music playback:



## GENERIC BACKUP - COPYING (Windows, LibreElec Android etc)

### Prerequisites:

The following two Kodi add-ons will be copied from the Generic Backup zip file:

- Aeon Nox Silvo (Skin) and preconfigured settings, customised menus etc
- Artist Slide Show (Program) and preconfigured settings

I was hoping just a straight copy of the files would be ok, however Kodi has the installed add-ons referenced in its Add-on database and the only way to do that (easily) is to either install the add-ons or to Enable any copied addons (this is a little easier so we'll choose the Enable method):

The Generic installation just requires unzipping and copying all the contents of the backup zip file into your Kodi configuration folders.

You should not use Kodi while you are copying these files (you can leave it running, just do not interact with it).

Depending on your Kodi Device find the next section on installing your Generic Backup file:

NOTE: No yet documented for Android, I need to show hoe to access the .Kodi hidden folder

Next Step: **INSTALLATION FROM THE GENERIC BACKUP FILE [YOUR DEVICE TYPE]**

## INSTALLATION FROM THE GENERIC BACKUP FILE (WINDOWS)

In Windows your Kodi configuration files are stored in:

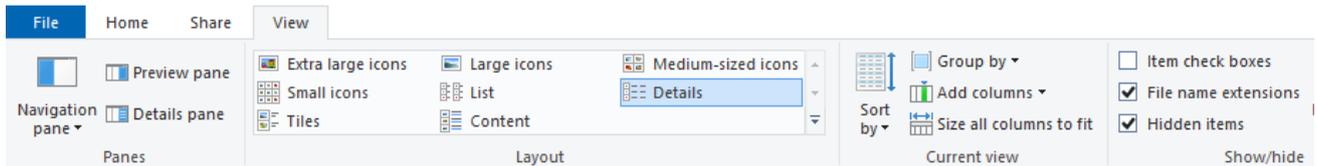
**C:\Users\[YourUserName]\AppData\Roaming\Kodi**

Example: On my PC my Kodi folder is:

C:\Users\Garry\AppData\Roaming\Kodi

### Enabling Access to Kodi System Folders:

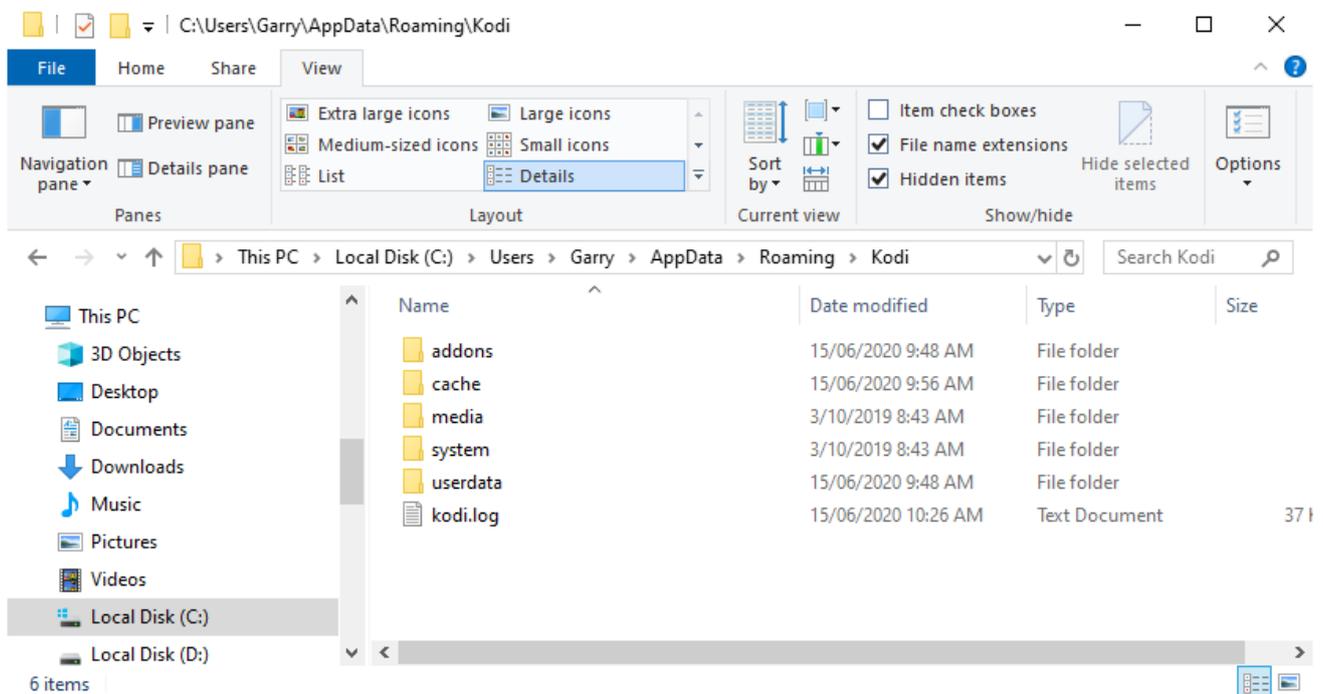
Normally your AppData folder is hidden, to enable access to the hidden Kodi folders you have to run Windows File Explorer, go to the View tag and check Hidden items (set to True), if not already set.



### Copying the Backup file:

Now navigate to your Kodi folder:

**C:\Users\[YourUserName]\AppData\Roaming\Kodi**



Now open your Kodi Backup zip file and copy the two folders for the backup zip into the Kodi folder above and overwrite all the files.

Now Start Kodi (or Exit and restart Kodi if it was running during the Copy). On startup Kodi will read all the new configuration files etc

Next Step: **ENABLING NEW ADDONS**

## INSTALLATION FROM THE GENERIC BACKUP FILE (LibreElec and CoreElec)

In Linux (LibreElec and CoreElec) your Kodi configuration files are stored in:

**/storage/.kodi/**

This is a hidden folder although some folders have been set to allow users to access them for configuration changes when LibreElec or CoreElec is first installed.

To allow users to copy the files need in this procedure you will need to add a Linux setting to allow you to access the Kodi Addons folder.

Your Device must be connected to your home network, either via wifi or connected via ethernet cable and running.

### Enabling Access to Kodi System Folders:

You can follow the instructions in my post on QuadraphonicQuad from top down to the line:

----- Task Completed -----

<https://www.quadraphonicquad.com/forums/threads/kodi-how-to-access-storage-folders-from-windows-explorer-when-using-kodi-on-linux-libreelec-coreelec-etc.26972/>

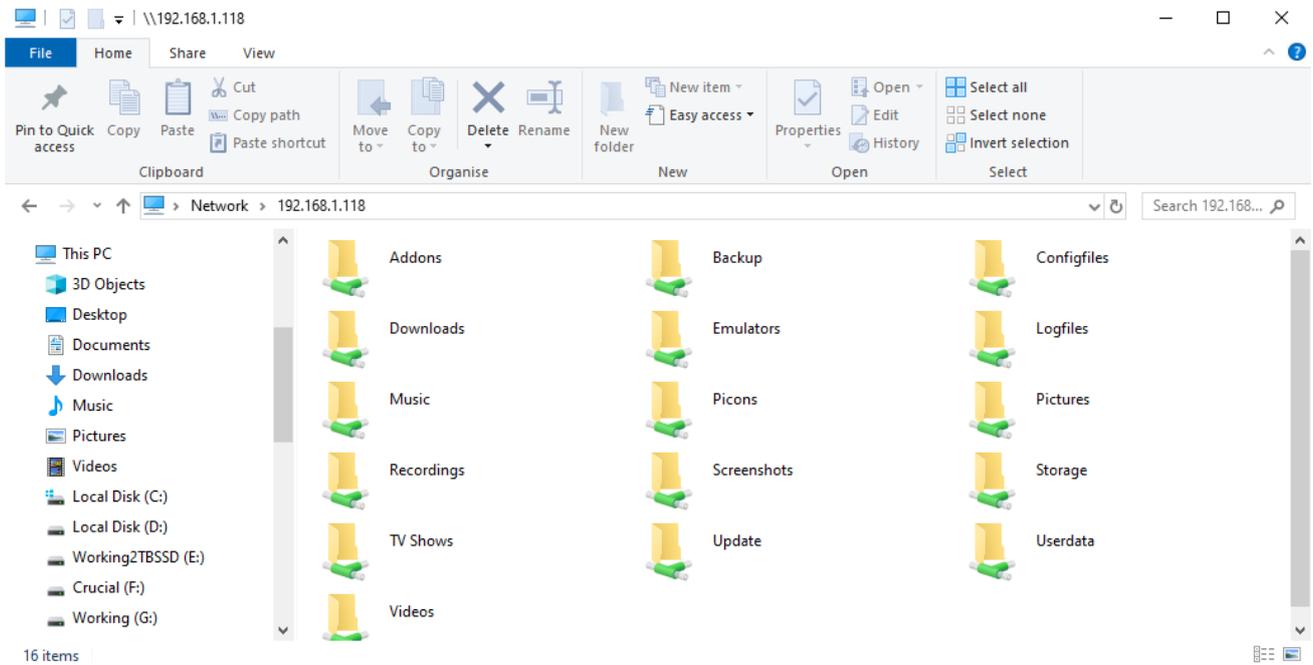
### Copying the Backup zip file contents:

In File Explorer (Windows) folder bar, enter your Kodi Linux device's IP address:

HINT: You can get the devices IP address from the Kodi 'System' menu's, 'System Info' dialogue

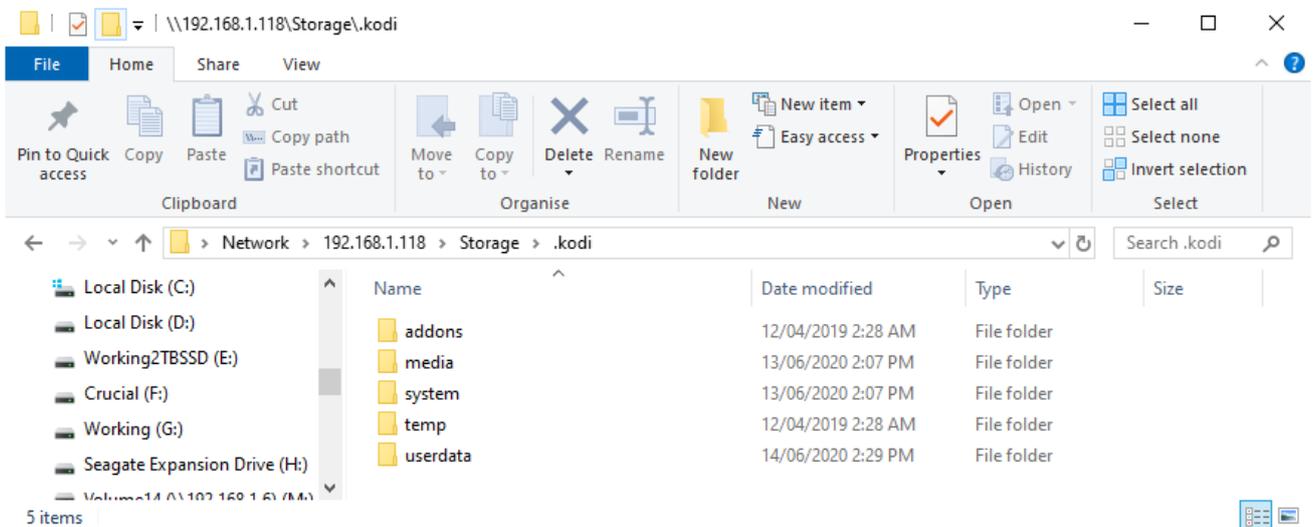


File Explorer will show the Devices shared folders in the right pane as shown in this screenshot:



Double-click on the Storage folder, to show its contents.

Now double-click on the .Kodi folder and you will see its contents:



Now copy the two folders (addons and userdata) in the Backup zip into this .kodi folder, overwriting any existing files (if any). There are quite a few files but it won't take long.

Now restart your Kodi device (there is a Reboot option). On startup Kodi will read all the new configuration files etc

Next Step: **ENABLING NEW ADDONS**

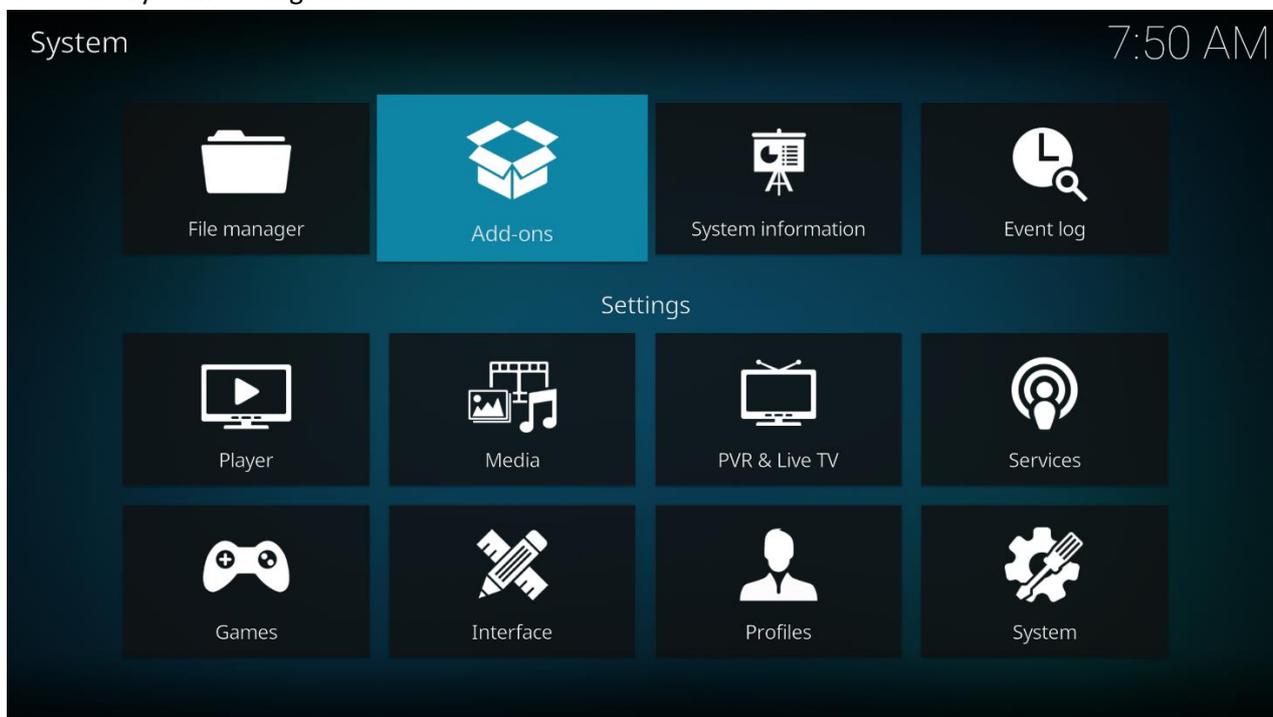
## ENABLING NEW ADDONS:

NOTE: If you have previously installed the Aeon Nox Silvo Skin AND the Artist Slideshow add-on you can skip this section.

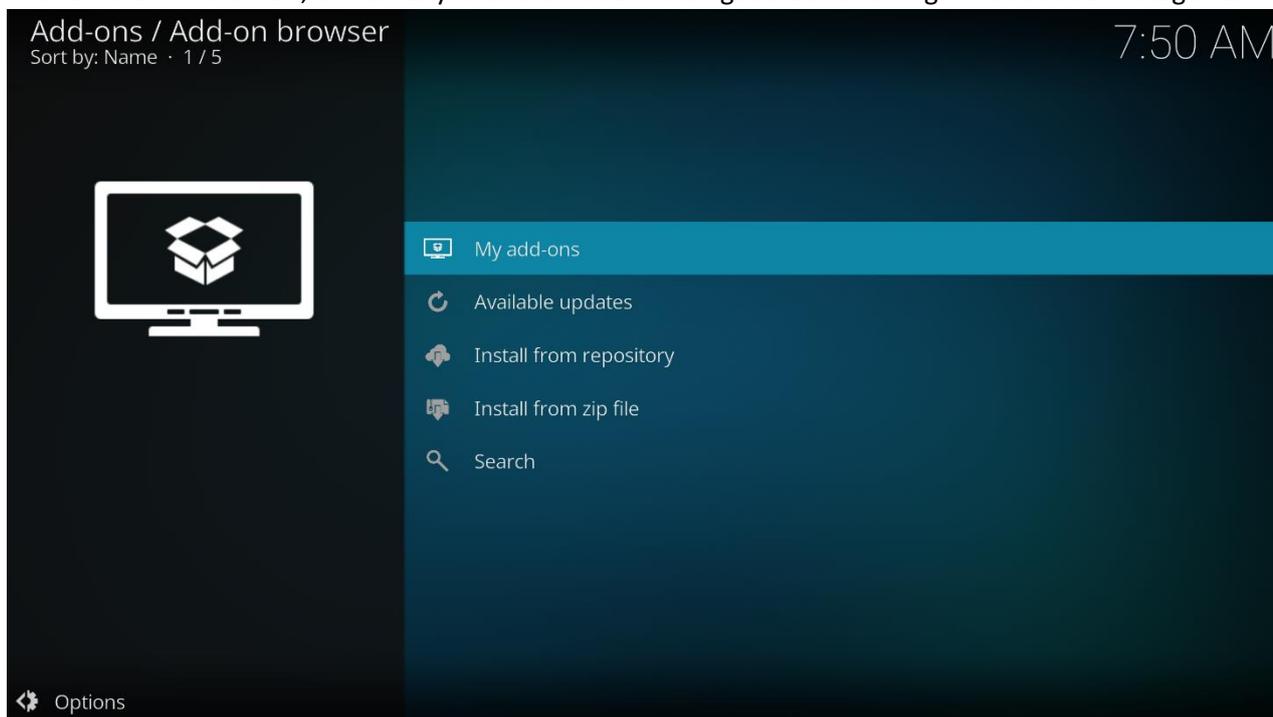
As mentioned earlier if the Aeon Nox Silvo Skin or the Artist Slideshow add-on has not previously been installed by a user they are new to Kodi and we need to Enable them prior to their use. Without Enabling Kodi will not 'see' them or use them.

To enable you need to go into Kodi's System Settings for Addons:

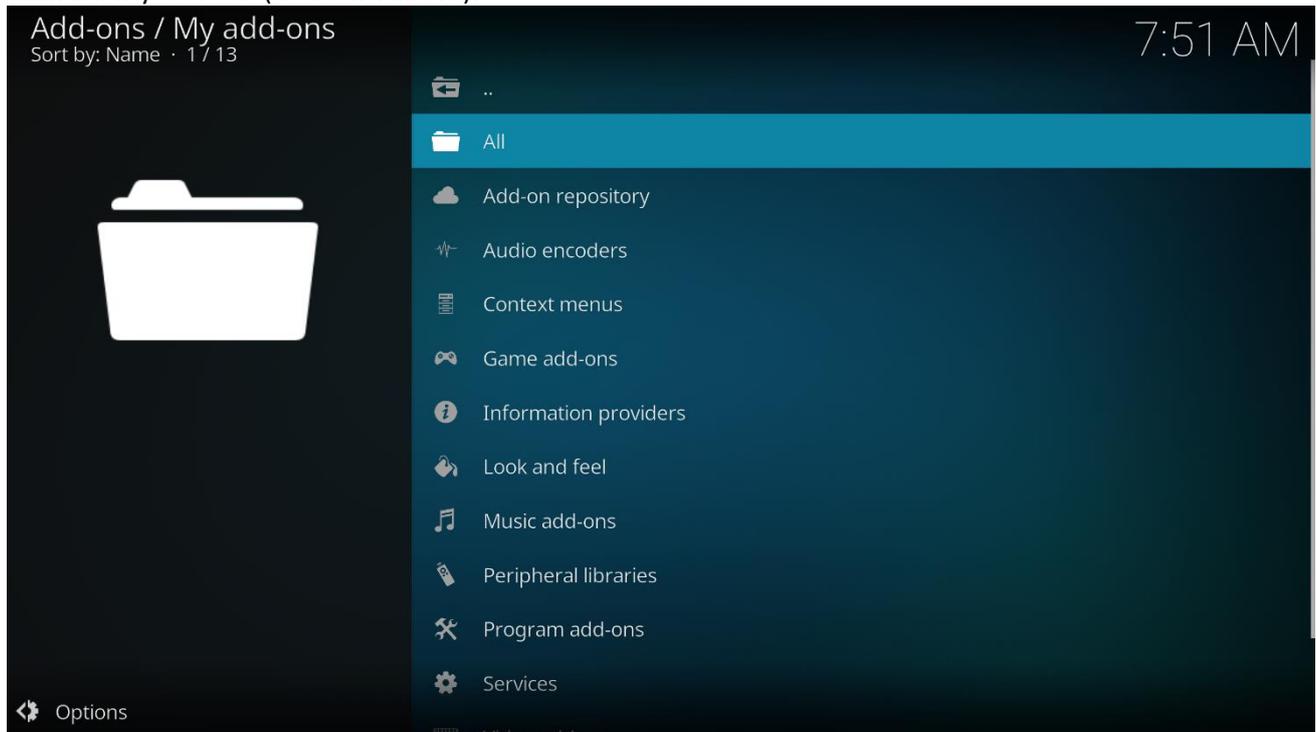
Go to the System Settings main screen:



Click on the Addons icon, this takes you to the Addon Settings screen showing various addon categories:

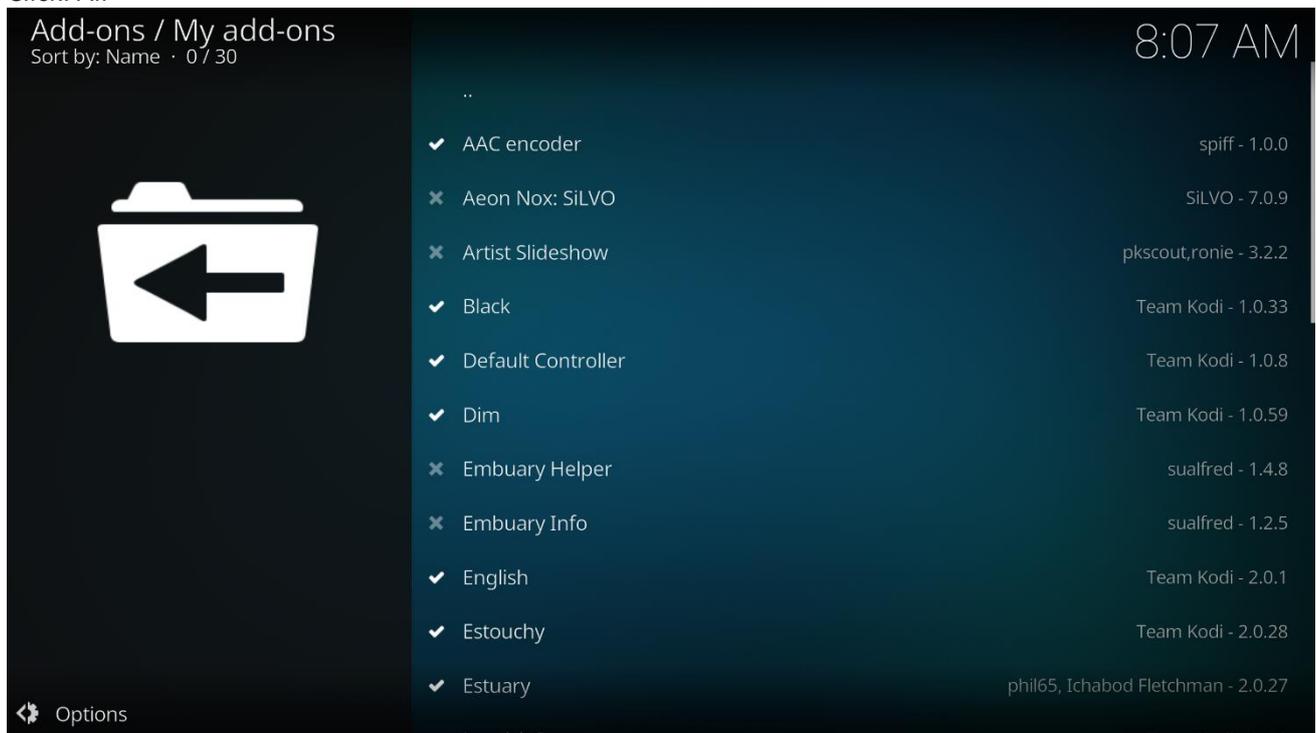


Click on: My add-ons (as shown above):



The above shows more addon categories.

Click: All

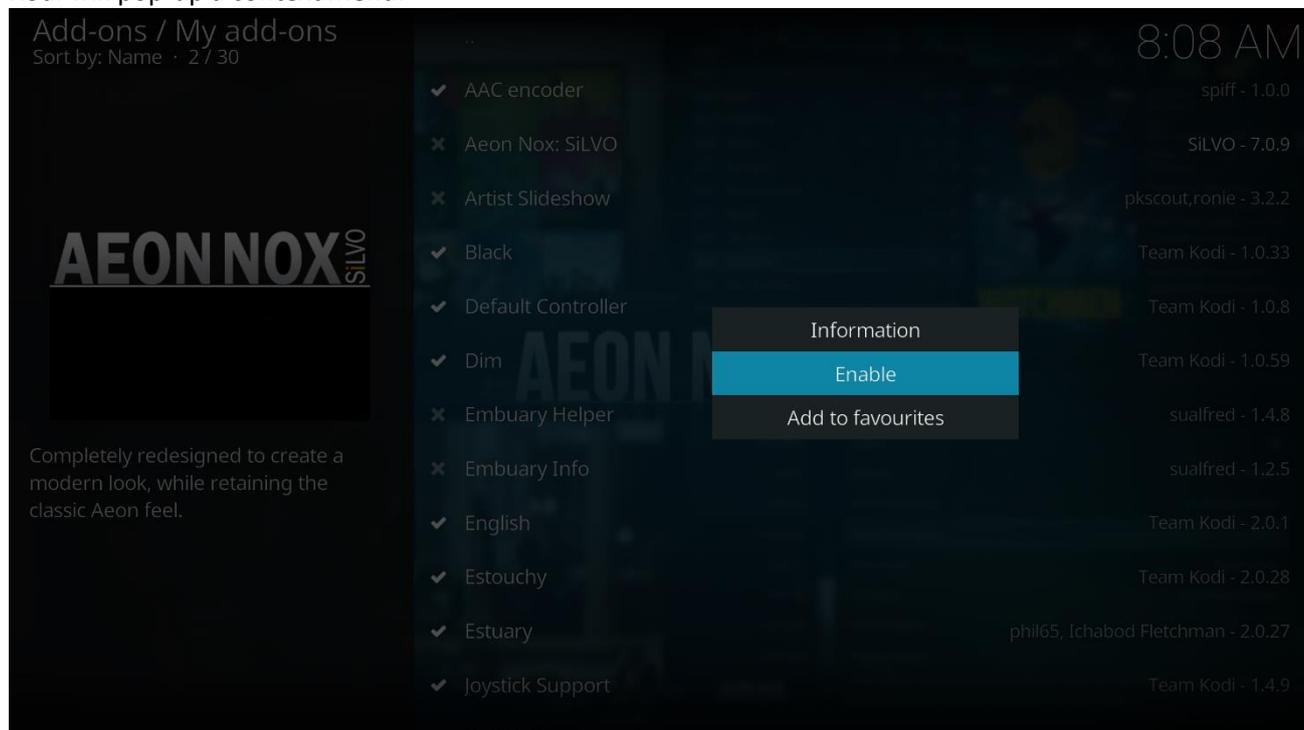


Now we can see all the current addons. If the Aeon Nox Silvo Skin or the Artist Slideshow add-on has not previously been installed, you will see them listed with a small cross indicating they are not enabled (see above example).

To enable disabled add-ons, Depending on whether you have a remote control, keyboard or mouse. You need to select a disabled add-on and:

- Remote Control: Press and hold down the Select button
- Keyboard: Press and hold down the Enter key
- Mouse: Right-Click on the folder name

Kodi will pop-up a context menu:



Click: Enable

The selected add-on is now enabled and shows a tick next to its name.

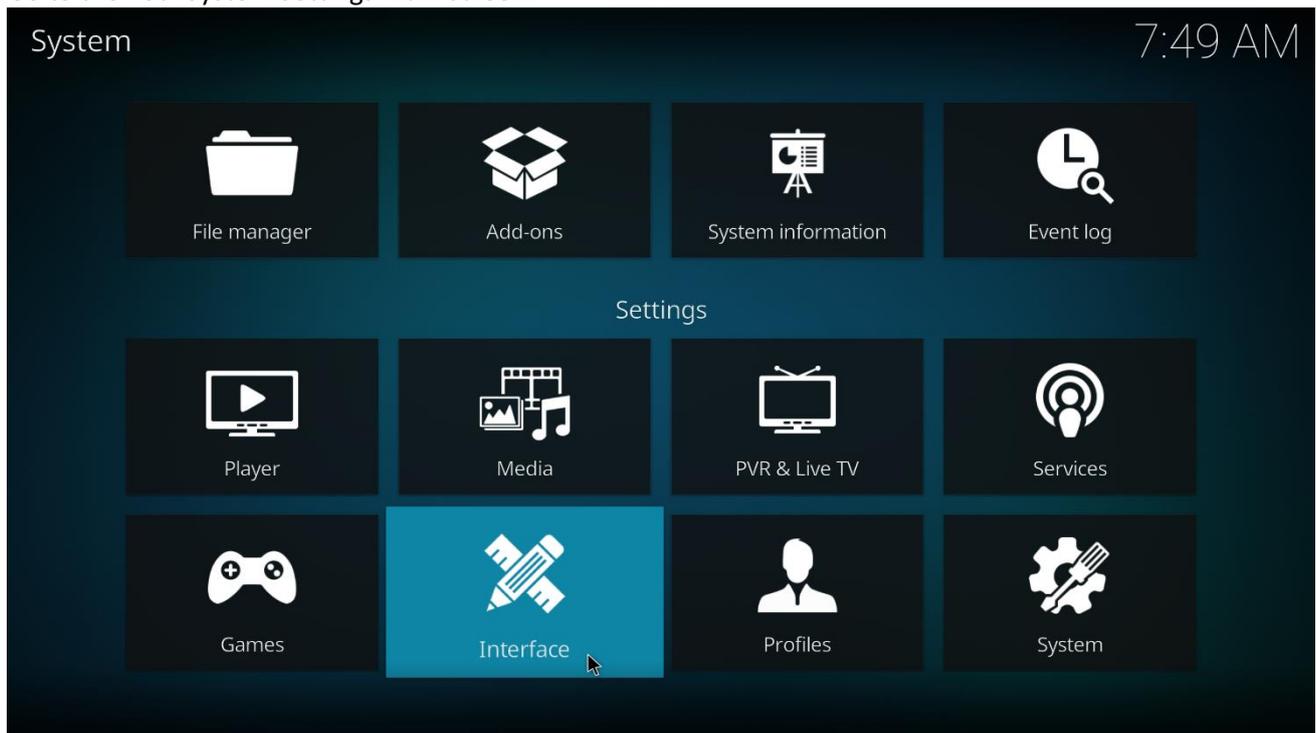
Please repeat this for a disabled add-ons in the list, scrolling down to ensure you have done them all.

OK. So now the Backup is set, and everything is in place to use on your device.

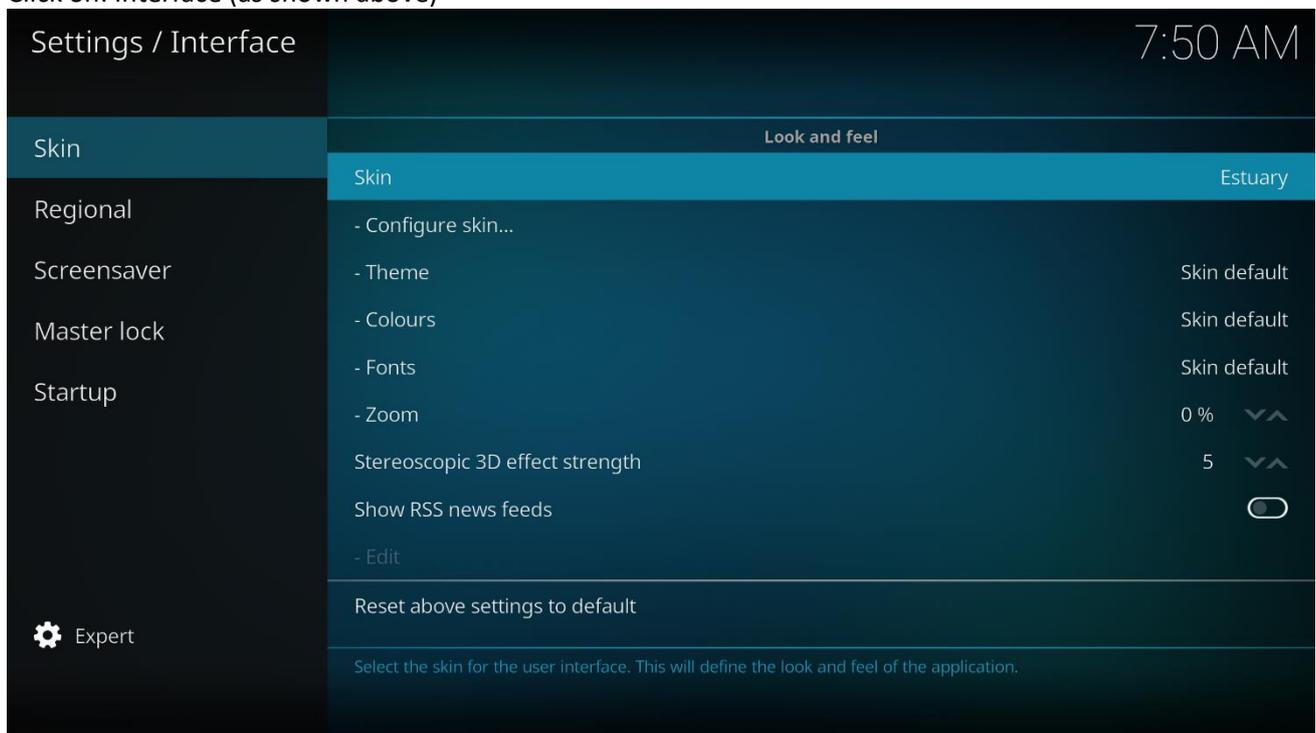
Next Step: **SET YOUR SKIN TO AEON NOX SILVO**

## SET YOUR SKIN TO AEON NOX SILVO:

Go to the Kodi System Settings main screen:



Click on: Interface (as shown above)



The first item shows your current skin name.

Click on the Skin name (highlighted above) and from the list click: Aeon Nox: Silvo

Next Step: **SETTING UP THE ARTIST SLIDESHOW'S ARTIST INFORMATION FOLDER**

## KODI MULTICHANNEL AUDIO SETTINGS:

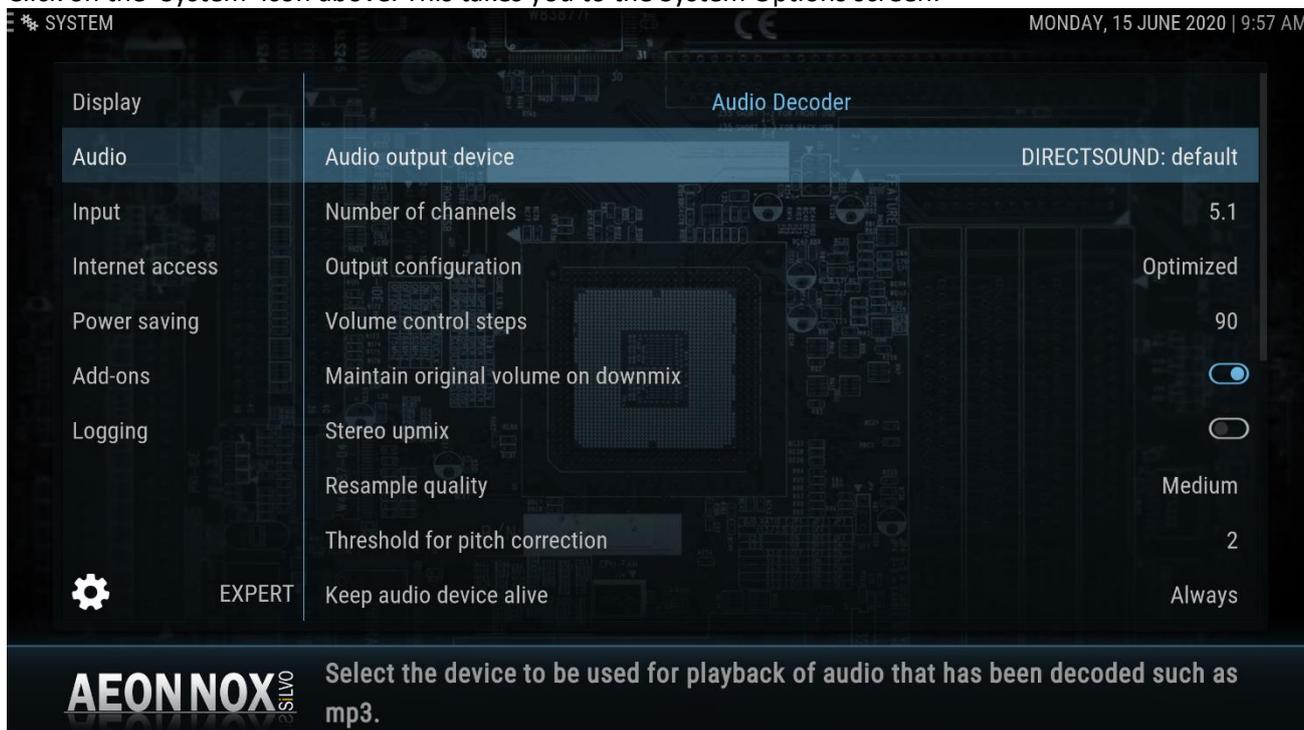
Each Kodi device has its own audio configuration based on the device's hardware. By default, Kodi is set to stereo (not surprising!). You need to set its output to HDMI Passthrough so it can send high resolution audio codecs like DTS-HDMA and Dolby True HD (or DTS and Dolby Digital) to your AVR. For PCM audio like FLAC you should also set the number of channels your have in your system (5.1, 7.1 etc)

From the Kodi main menu, click 'System'

The 'System Settings' main screen appears:



Click on the 'System' icon above. This takes you to the System Options screen:



On the left menu click on 'Audio' options and then set these audio settings:

- Audio output device: Set this to 'HDMI' or 'HDMI Multichannel' if it is there)
- Number of channels: Set this to your AVR's speakers for PCM audio (usually 5.1 or 7.1)

You can also navigate down to the bottom of the Audio options

- Enable Audio Pass-Through

and then confirm your AVR's decoding capabilities. Whether it can play DTS-HDMA, TrueHD etc. If your AVR cannot decode any format Kodi will decode to PCM for you. (example: a DTS-HDMA stream will be decoded and output as PCM)

If your multichannel music is in FLAC format, none of the AVR decoding settings will affect you. These are only required for playing files that contain encoded DTS and Dolby streams, typically MKV files or DVD and BDV rips of music concerts, movies and TV shows.

NOTE: You may need to have your AVR connected to your device so it can 'see' the AVR

OK. You are nearly all set to start enjoying Kodi setup up for a great user experience. Just a couple more settings (please read on)

Next Step: **SETTING UP KODI'S ARTIST INFORMATION FOLDER**

## SETTING UP KODI'S ARTIST INFORMATION FOLDER:

If Kodi is connected to the internet (highly recommended for the best user experience) both Kodi and the Artist Slideshow will gather information about Artists and Albums. It will also find artist fanart images and album cover images.

Kodi & the Artist Slideshow will store this information on a local storage drive it does not have to constantly download this every time you access an artist or album. The default settings are not recommended (hidden files etc) so I strongly recommend you set a specific folder so that you can edit and maintain this information at any time. For example, you can easily add your own images or update an artist's biography etc.

The Artist Information folder can be on any drive, but the best location is a folder on your media drive (the drive with your music files), this can be on a USB Hard Drive, internal drive on Windows) or on a NAS or server.

NOTE: You should ensure it is on a disk drive (and folder) that is always connected when you play Kodi Music as Kodi and the Artist Slideshow want to access this folder and its data.

I suggest you create a new folder under the drive root called: 'Artist Information'.

Example: **F:\Artist Information**

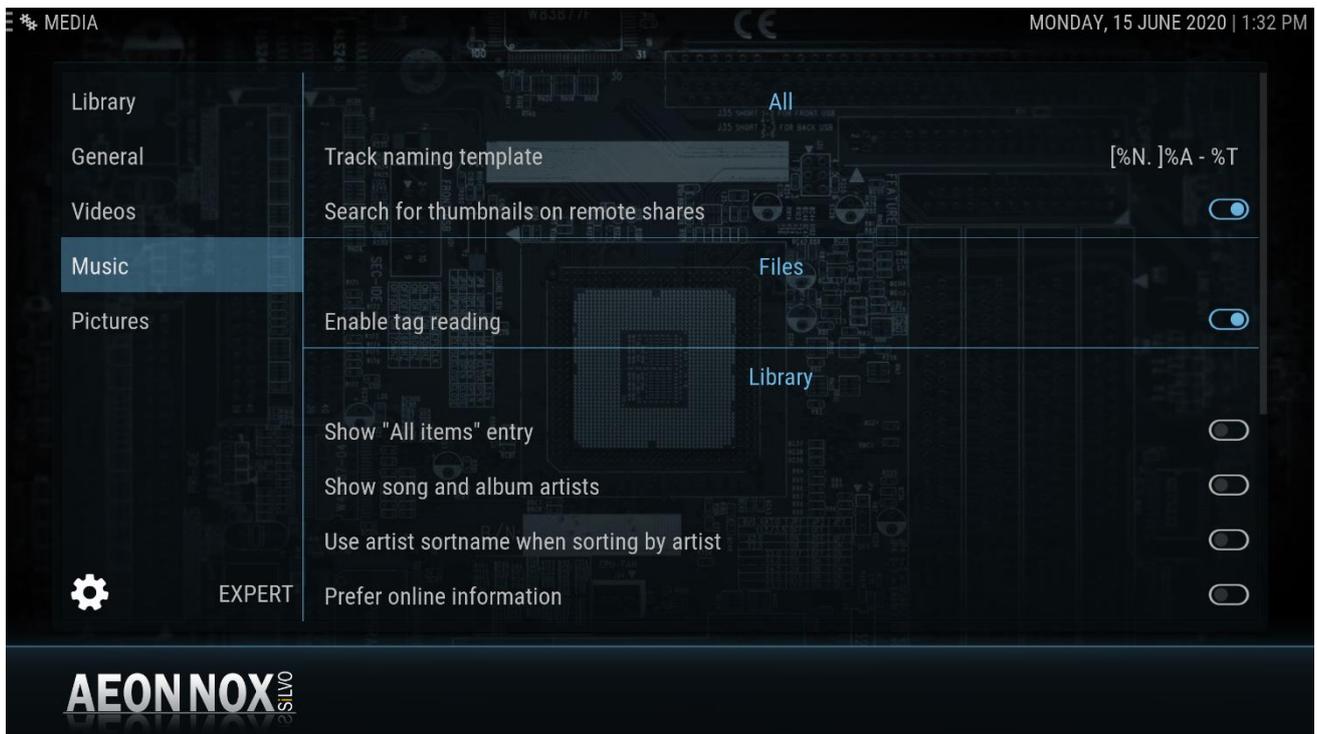
To set a new folder name you need to use an existing folder, so if you have an external USB Drive with your media ensure its plugged-in or if you use a NAS or Server ensure it up and running prior to following this setup below.

Set the Kodi Artist Information Folder:

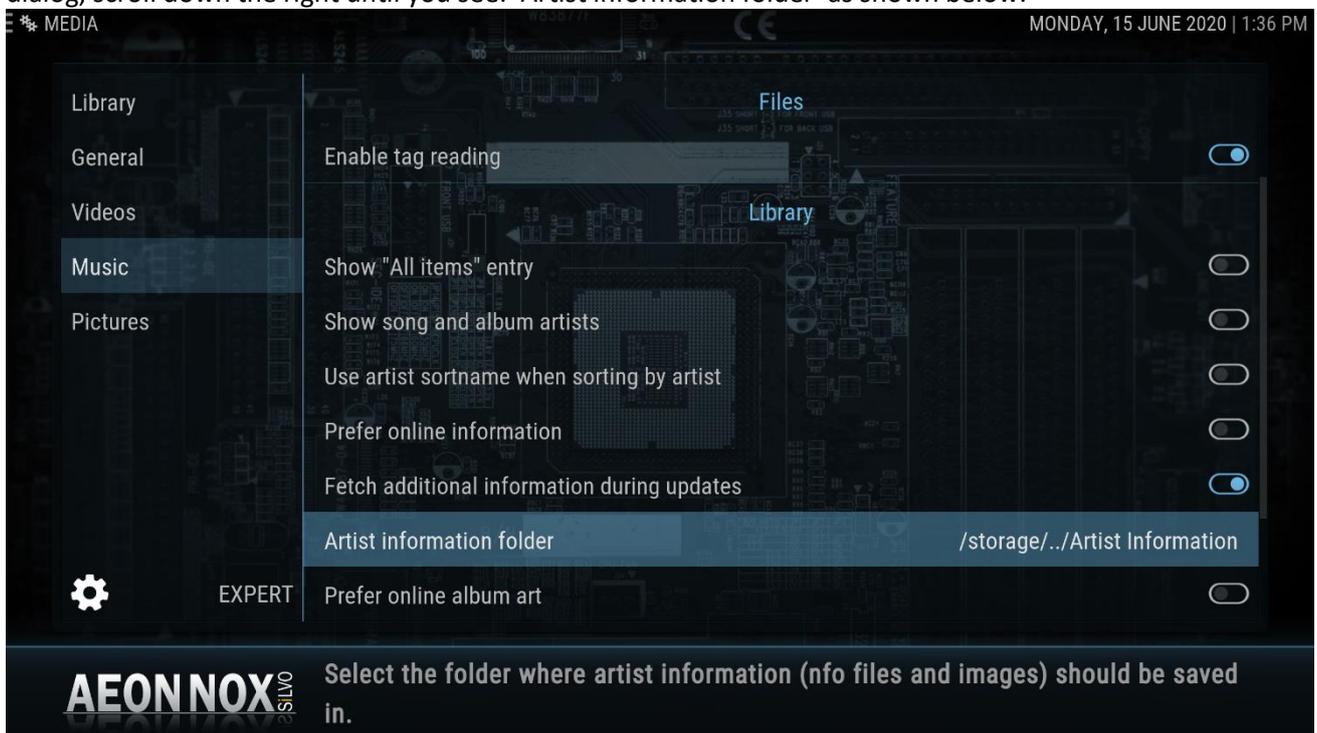
Go to the Kodi Settings screen: (click 'System' on the main menu)



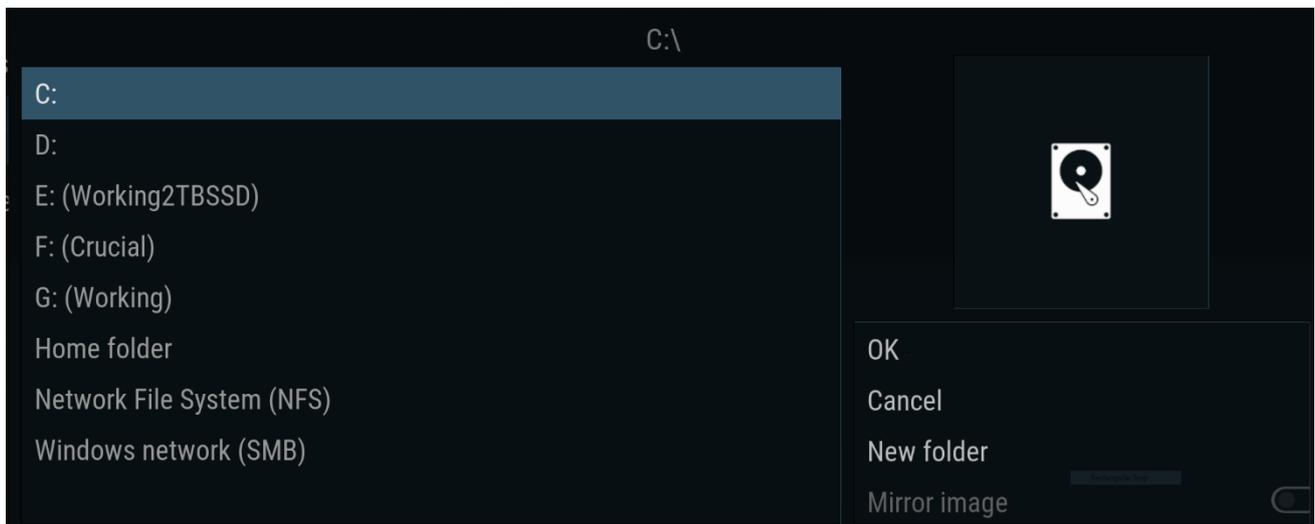
Click the Media icon (above) to bring up the Media Settings detail screen (below):



On the left side menu click on 'Music' (highlighted above). This displays Music settings on the right of the dialog, scroll down the right until you see: 'Artist information folder' as shown below:



Click on the Artist Information folder text and Kodi pops up a dialog allowing you to select an existing folder:



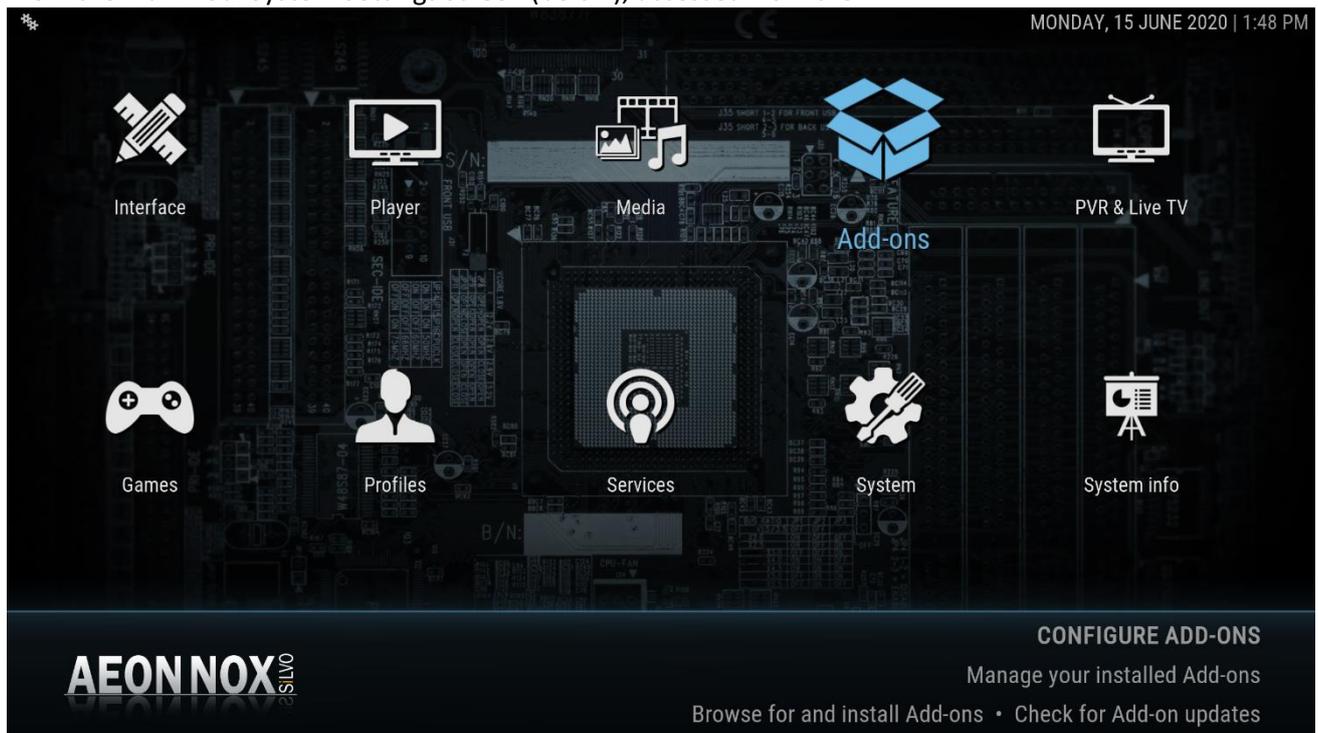
This is just a folder selection dialog, you can pick any disk drive and any folder on the selected disc drive. Then click 'OK'

That's now set the Artist Information folder for Kodi

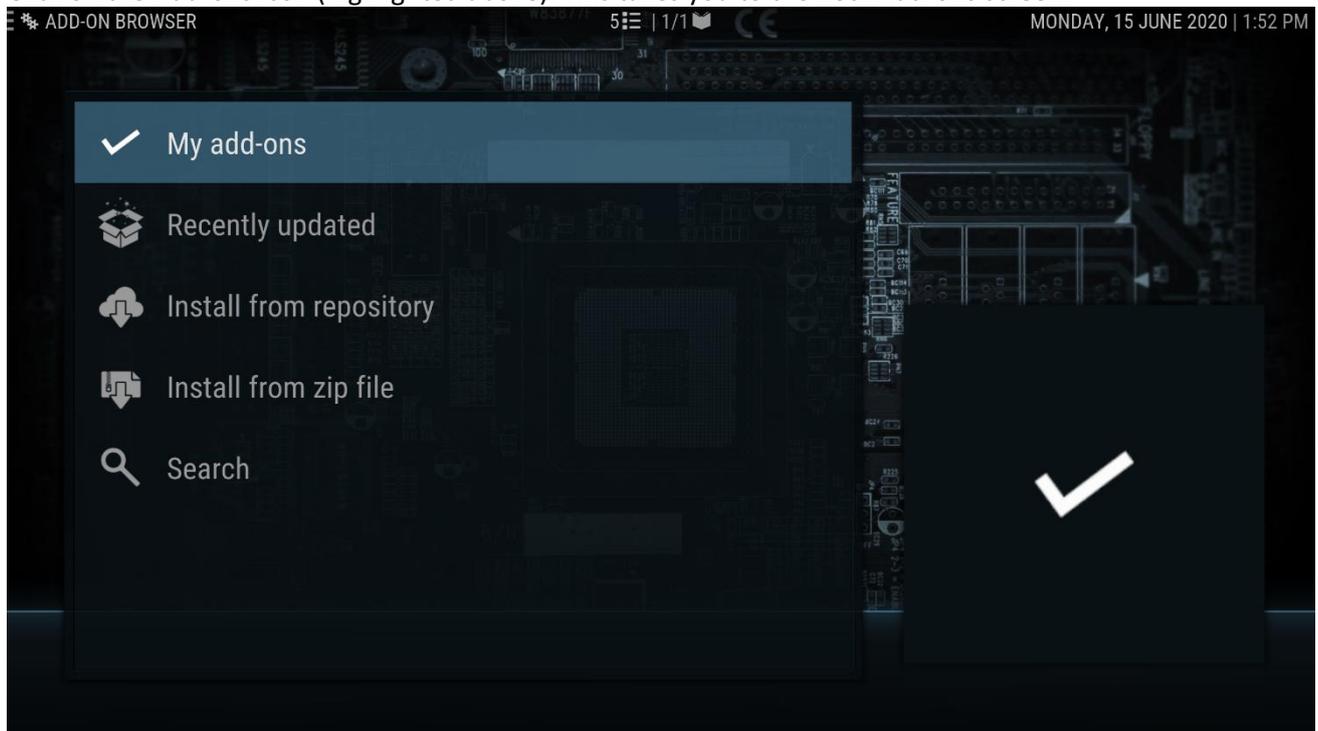
Next Step: **SETTING UP THE ARTIST SLIDESHOW'S ARTIST INFORMATION FOLDER**

## SETTING UP THE ARTIST SLIDESHOW'S ARTIST INFORMATION FOLDER:

From the main Kodi System Settings screen (below), accessed from the

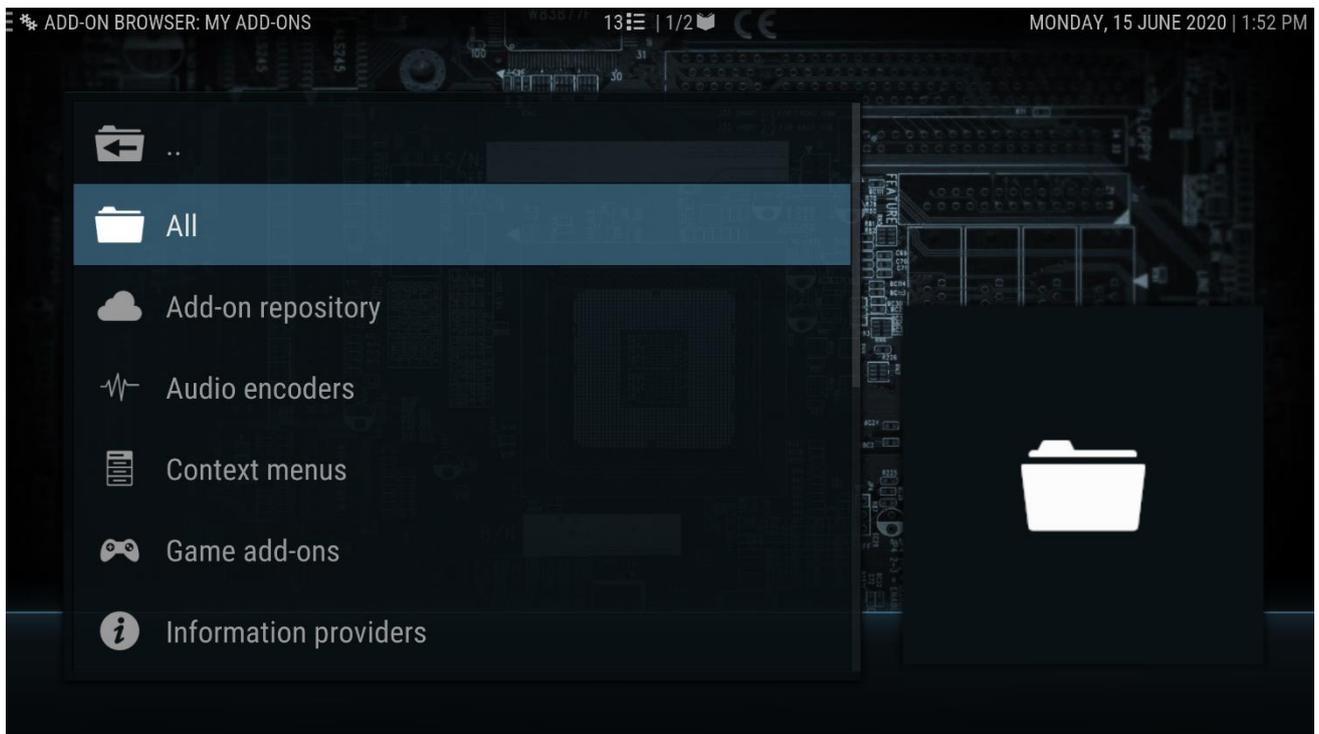


Click on the Add-ons icon (highlighted above). This takes you to the Kodi Add-ons screen:

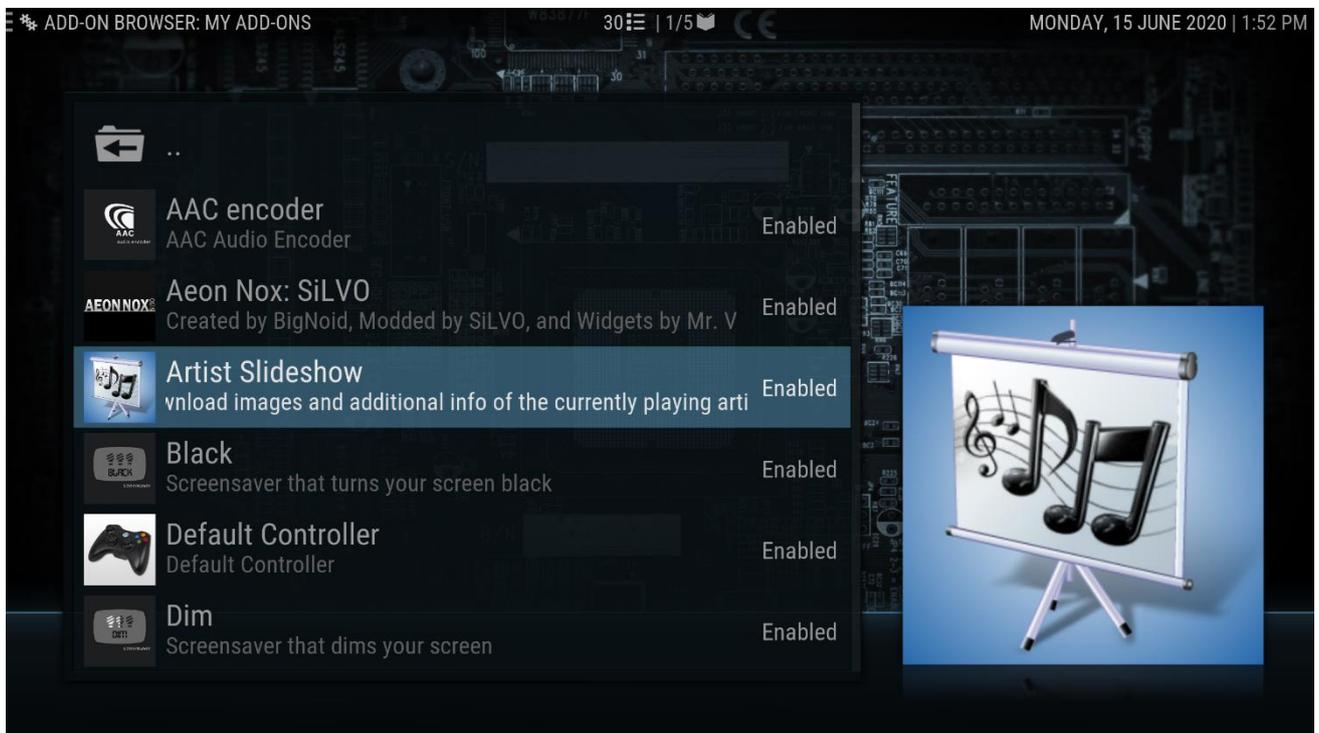


Click on My add-ons (highlighted above)

This takes you to a list of add-on categories, as shown in the next screenshot:

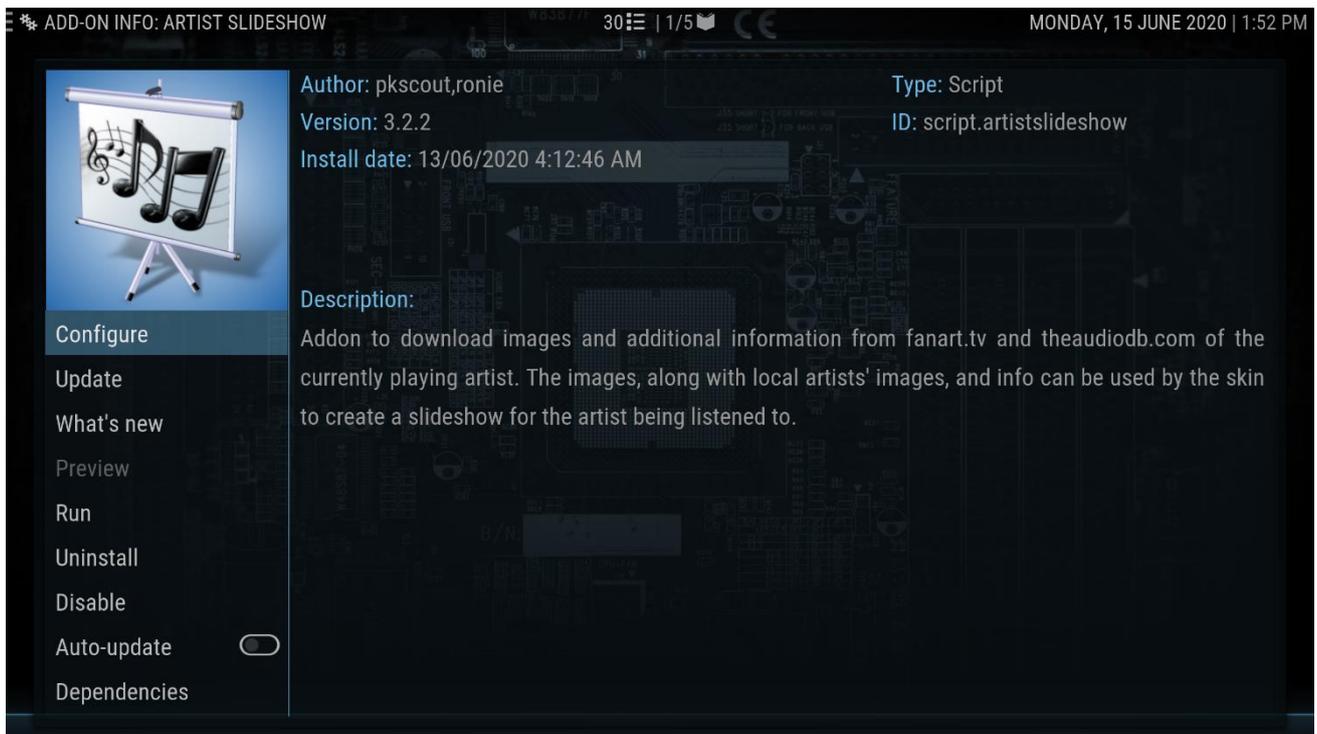


Click All (highlighted above), now you see a list of all your Kodi add-ons (the ones currently installed):

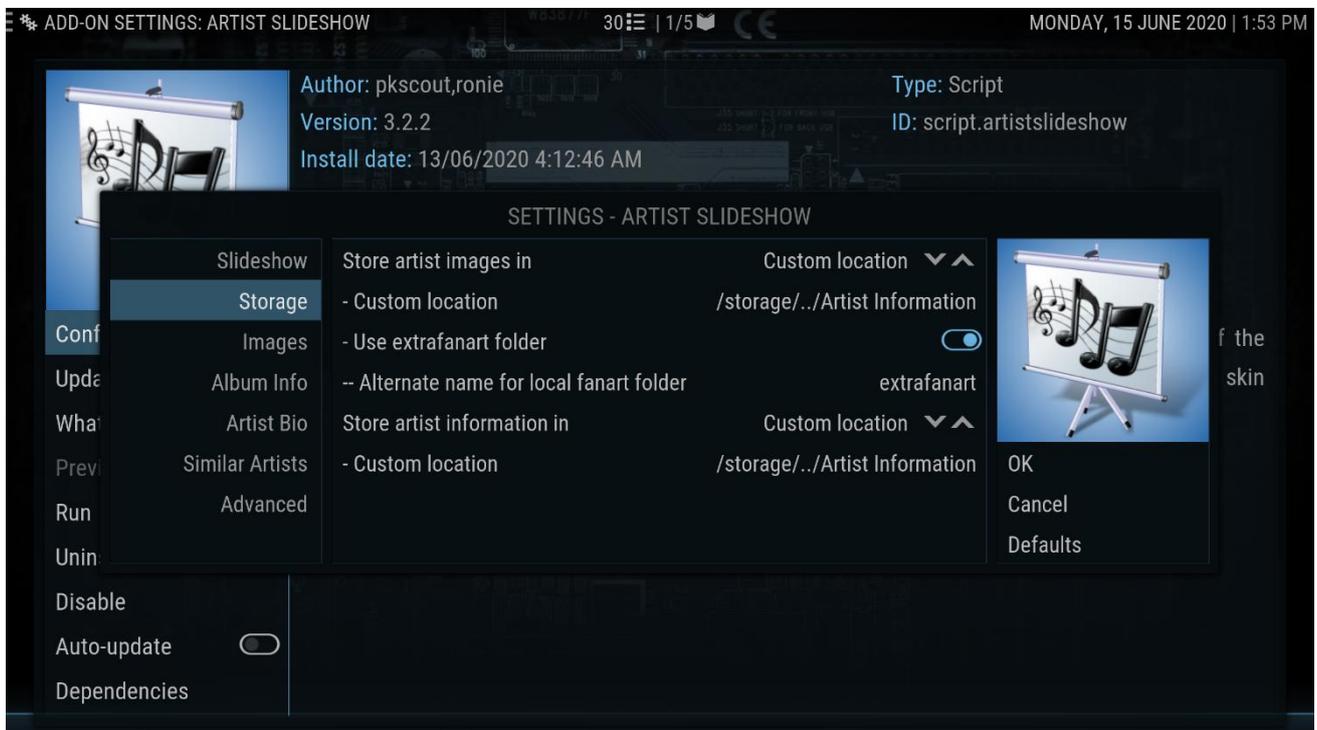


Click on Artist Slideshow as shown above (it's near the top of the alphabetically sorted list)

The Artist Slideshow add-on window appears:



In the left side menu Click Configure. This displays the Artist Slideshow Settings screen:



In the Settings – Artist Slideshow window, click on the Storage option on left (highlighted above)

This displays your current Slideshow settings for Storage (folder locations).

Ensure all the settings are as shown in the screen shot above EXCEPT you must select an existing folder for the two Custom Locations. This MUST be the same folder you set your Kodi Music Artist Information folder (in the previous section in this guide.

To select a new folder, simply click on each Custom Location and a folder browse dialog pops up, navigate to your folder.

Once both folders are set in the dialog above click OK on the right of the above dialog to save the changes.

OK now your ArtistSlideshow knows where to find existing fanart AND where to save new fan art that it auto downloads (if your Kodi device is connected to the internet)

That's it all the setup done! Now we can add our music to Kodi.

Next Step: **ADDING MUSIC SOURCES TO KODI:**

## ADDING MUSIC SOURCES TO KODI:

### Overview of Sources:

Media Sources are folders on a disc drive or NAS that contains media you want to consume in Kodi and add to Kodi's Libraries. Kodi has Sources and Libraries for:

- Music (audio only)
- Music Videos
- Movies
- TV Series

These Kodi databases contain all sorts of information about each media file. For music, this includes for every audio file: its Source (disc and folder location and file name), the Album, Artist, Year, Track No., Genre, etc (the file's tags) plus Length, codec information.

To get Kodi to read all this data there are two steps:

First: Ensure the file is added to an existing Kodi Music Source folder (you need to create the Source if it does not already exist in Kodi)

Second: Tell Kodi to Scan the Source for changes (i.e. New albums/files or changed files)

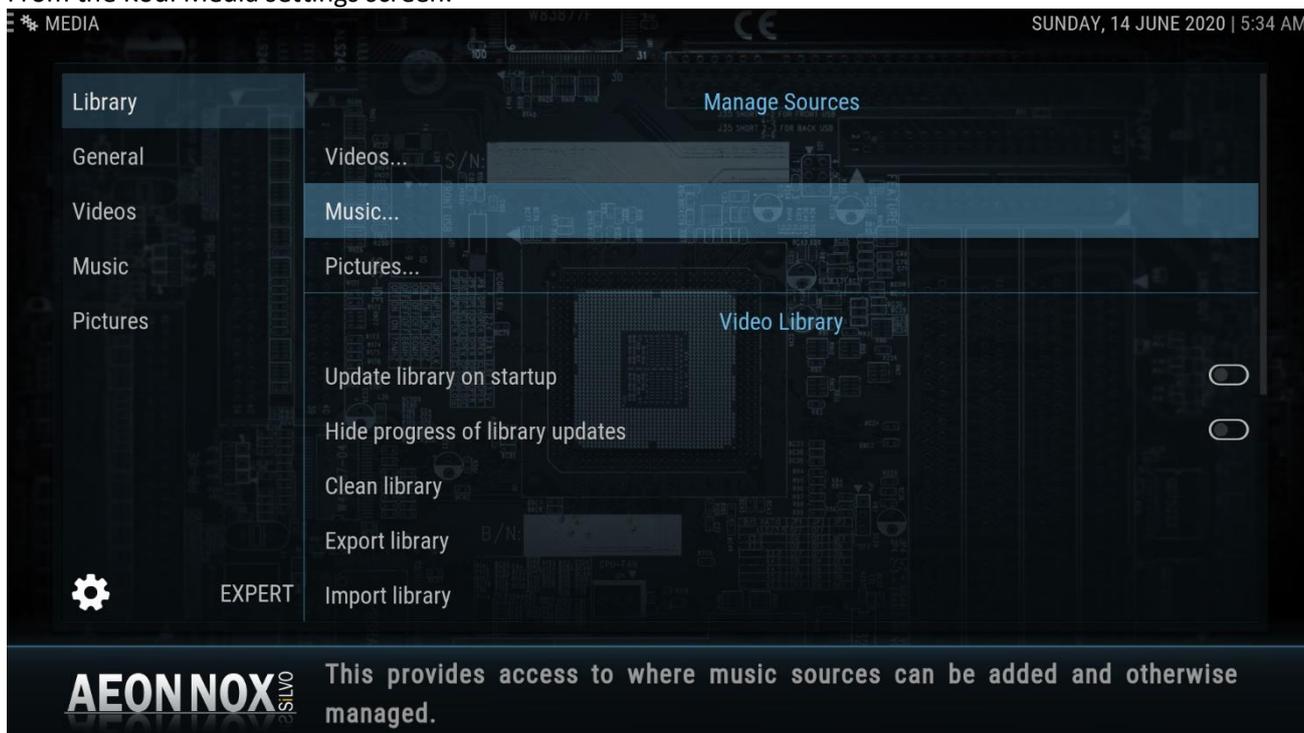
Add a new Music Source: (This may not apply to users with existing Kodi systems as its already done)

Plug-in a new USB Drive that contains your music media (or ensure your device is connected to your network server). In this section we will only cover USB drives.

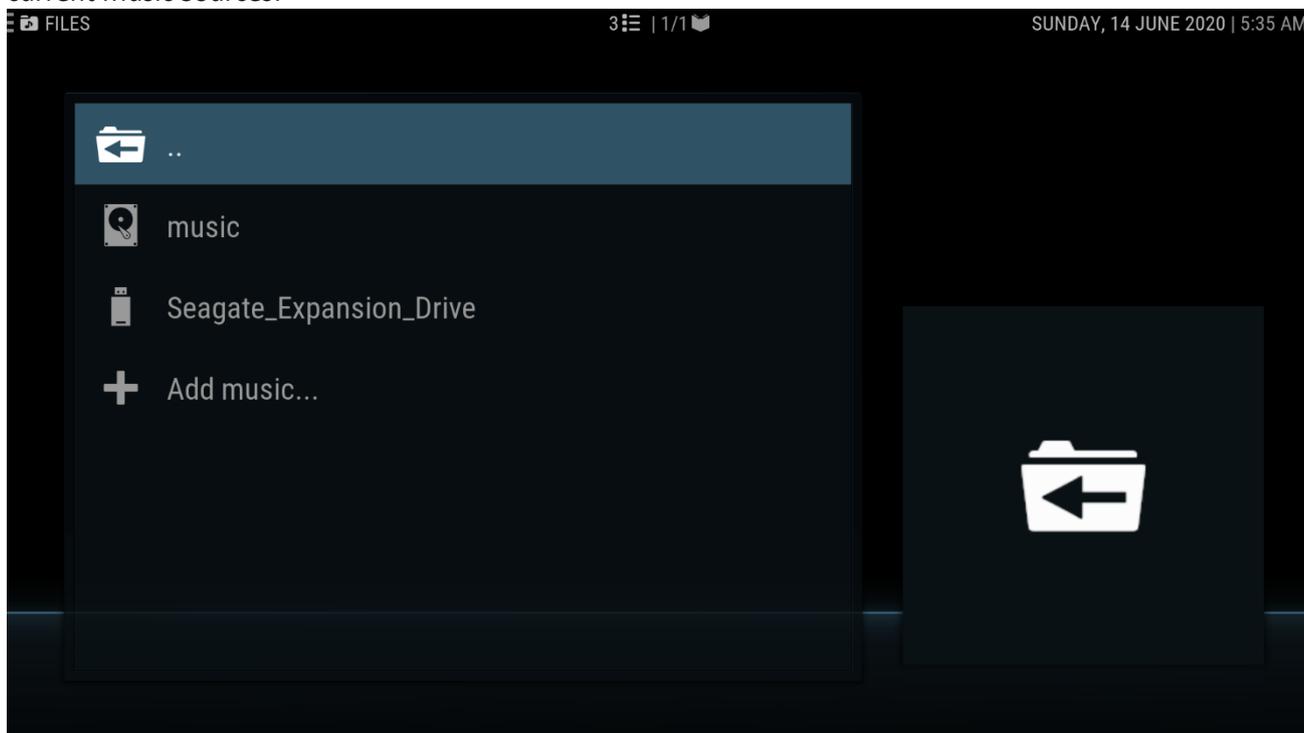
From the Kodi System screen, select Media (highlighted below):



From the Kodi Media settings screen:



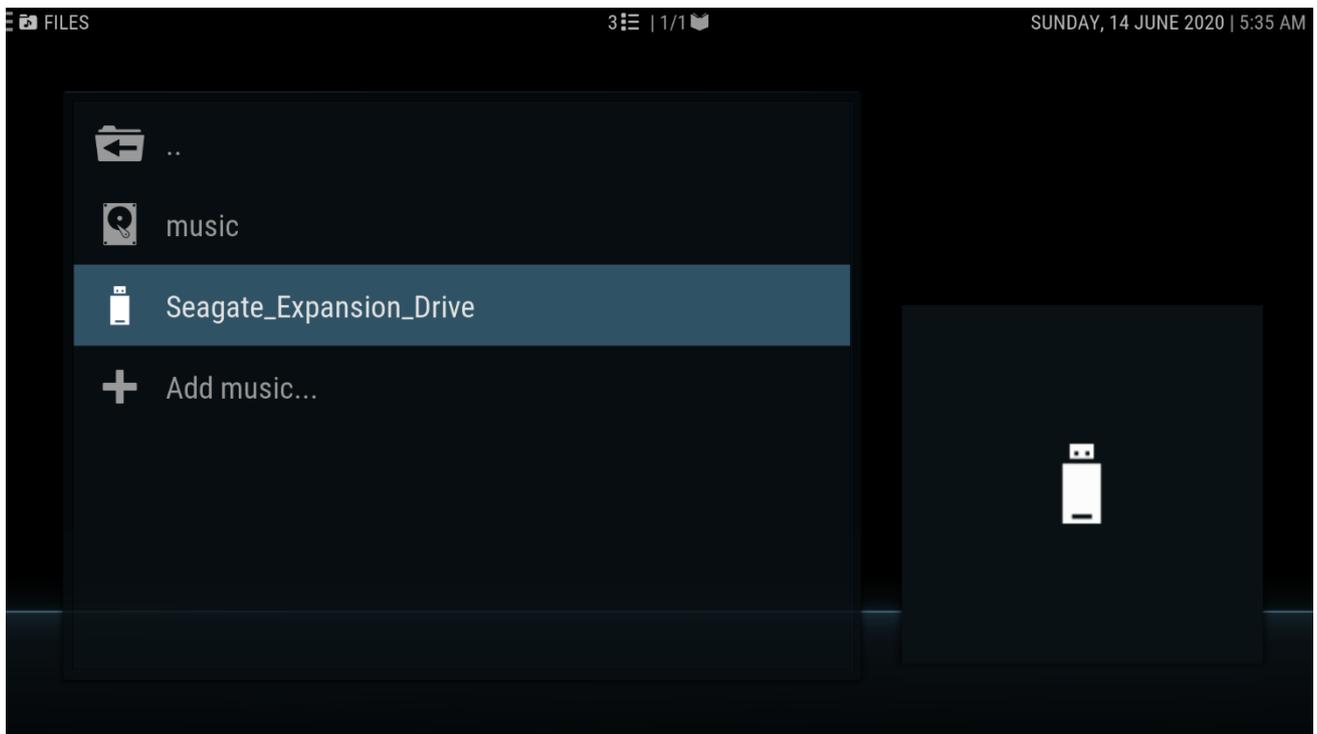
Select the 'Music' setting in the Media settings screen above, this brings up a new dialog showing your current Music Sources:



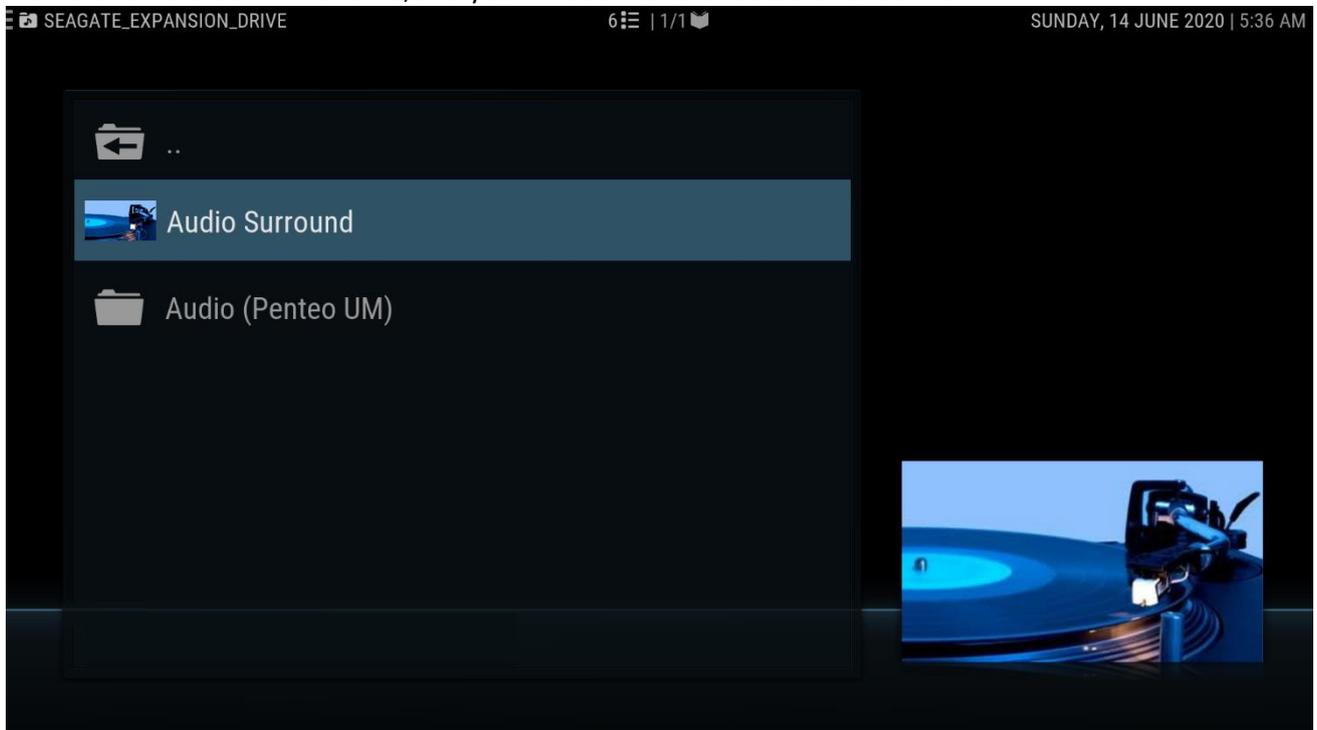
I have already plugged in a new USB Drive with all my music (tagged media files in artist and album folders).

I recommend you also have your Kodi device connected to the internet at this point as the Scan will also fetches additional information about the albums and artists in your music collection

This USB drive is shown in the above list.



Now click on the USB Drive name, and you will see the root folders on the drive:

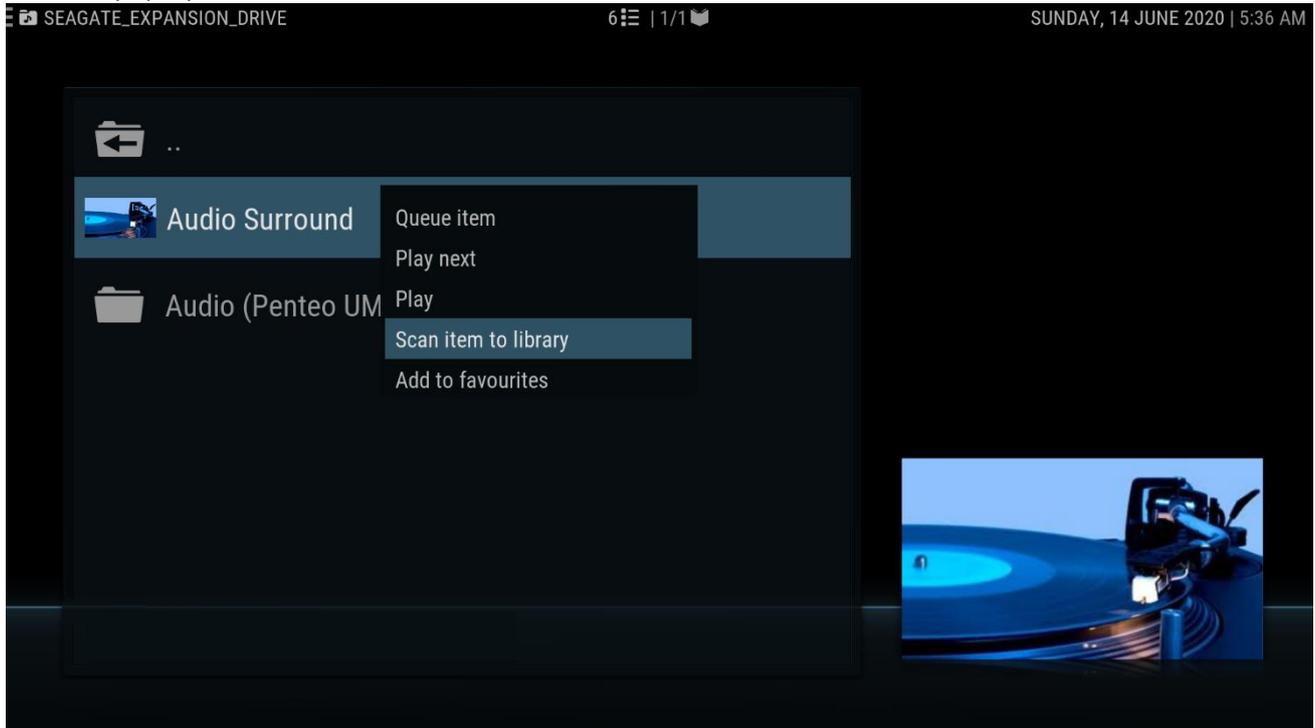


Navigate to the folder you want to add as a Music Source – DO NOT CLICK ON IT YET! If you accidentally click just navigate back up the folder tree by clicking on the 'folder back ...' icon to get back to the above screen.

Depending on whether you have a remote control, keyboard or mouse. You need to do:

- Remote Control: Press and hold down the Select button
- Keyboard: Press and hold down the Enter key
- Mouse: Right-Click on the folder name

Kodi will pop-up a context menu:



Select the option: 'Scan Item to Library'

Click 'Yes' to the dialog to confirm the scan.

Kodi will now recursively scans every folder's files and loads the data about each file into the Kodi Music Library database. It will also add Artist information and finds existing album and disc images etc. This may take some time if you have a large music collection. Kodi will also gather additional artist and album metadata from the internet (if your device is connected to the internet through your local network).

Once the Kodi Source Scan is completed you can go back to the main menu, select music and start playing your favourite albums or tracks.

NOTE: You can add more than one Music Source. Just repeat the above for each additional Source.

Next Step: **TIPS FOR USING KODI**

## DONE:

Congratulations! Your Kodi device is setup with all the music customisations required for a truly wonderful user experience, including the Artist Slide Show while audio is playing, menu options to view Atmos Music and Quad Music, these just filter the database on certain folder names.

When a music file is played you will see the album cover and disc image (if you have these in your album folders), Kodi will display codec information, artist biography (if your device has internet access), Artist logo and also display the original source format logo (based on album folder naming) and channel layout.

An example screenshot showing the Artist Slideshow add-on with the QQ codec mod that's just been installed with this back up:



NOTE: You now need to add your Music Sources to Kodi so it can scan your albums and files reading their tags to populate the Kodi Music Library database.

## TIPS FOR USING KODI:

### Returning to Previous Menu screen:

When navigating the Kodi Menus you can go back to the previous screen by:

Remote Control: Click the Back button

Keyboard: Hit Esc key

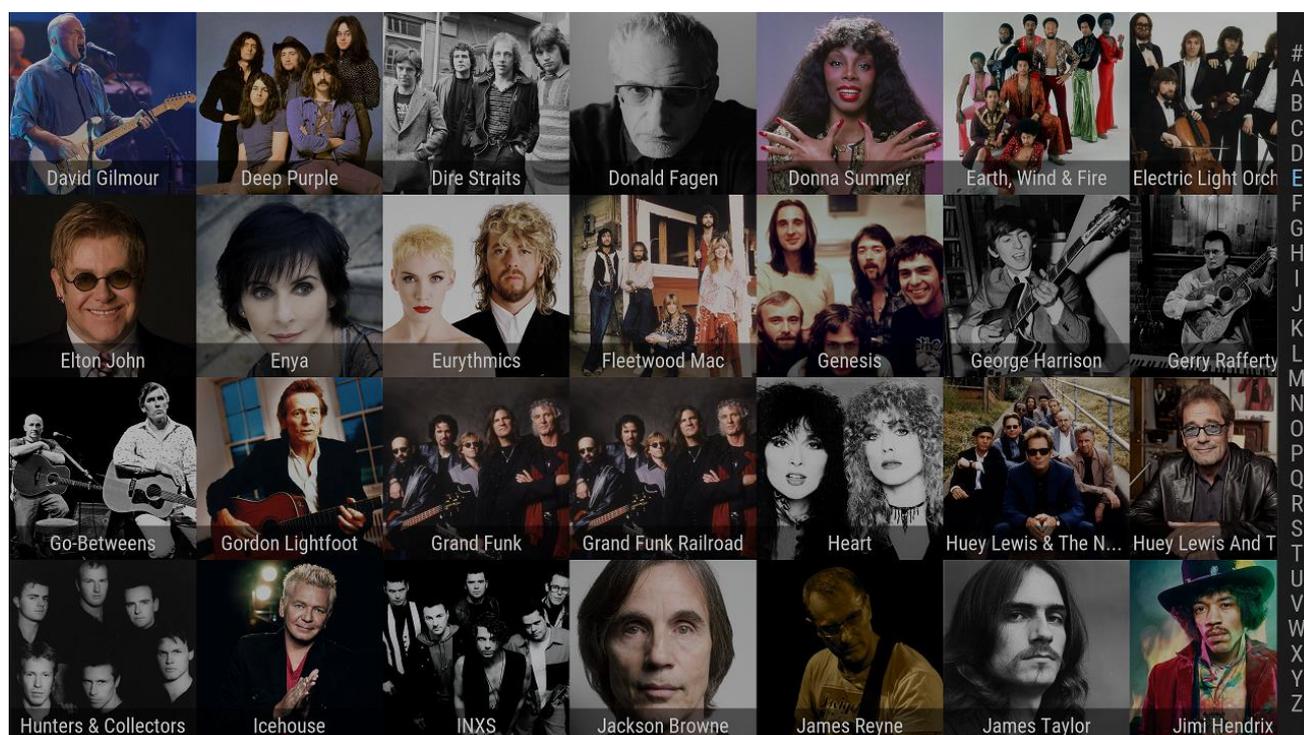
Mouse: Navigate using icons (right click will return to the Home/Main menu)

### Returning to the Artist Slideshow after 'playing' in the menu:

Click the TAB key on your remote or keyboard

### Faster Navigation in the Artist View:

If you have many artists instead of clicking through the view to find an artist near the end you can navigate to the right off the view and a right hidden menu pops out when using the Aeon Nox Silvo skin (see extreme right of this screenshot – an alphabet list):



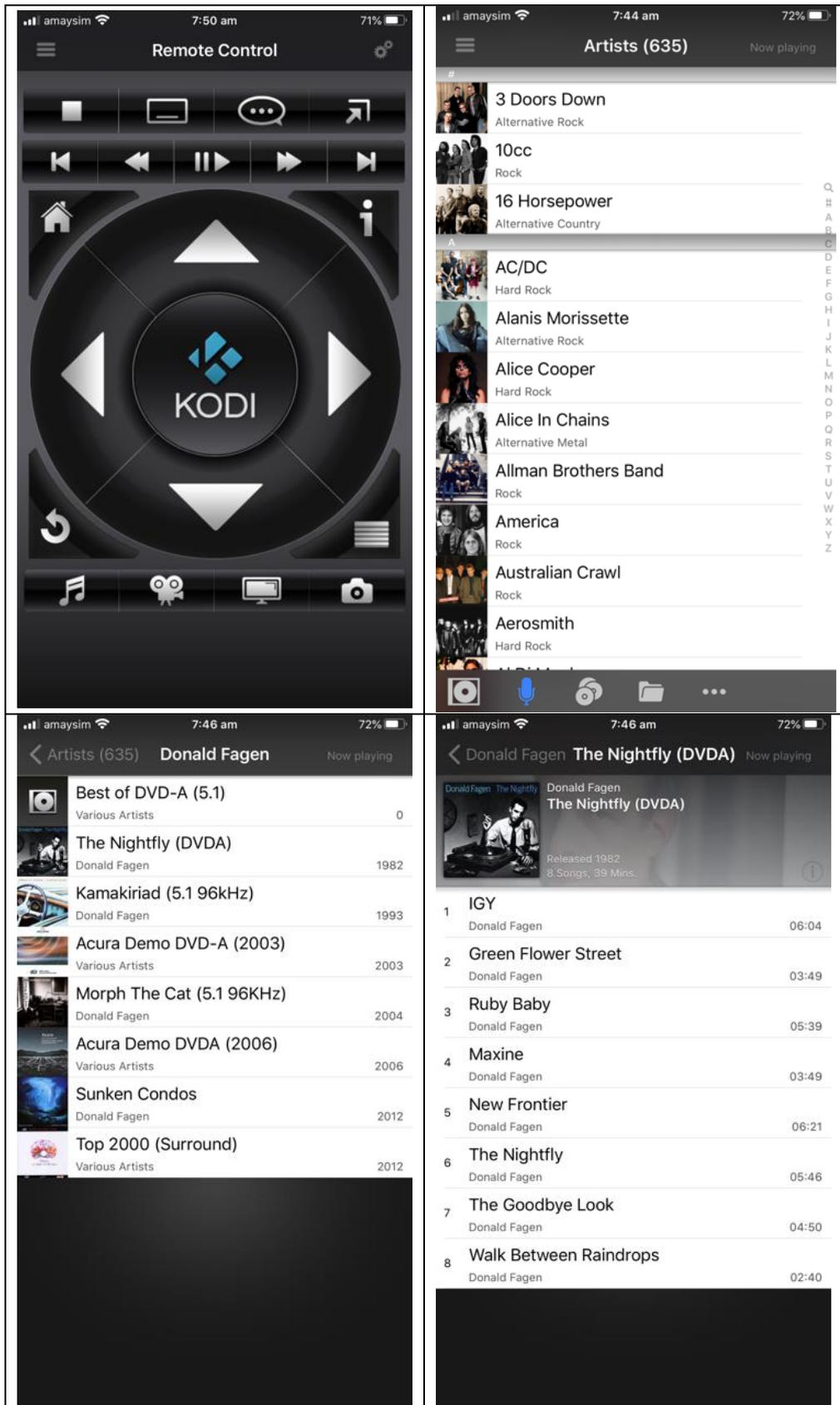
You can now just click down to the first letter of the Artist name and the screen will scroll to display the first artist beginning with the selected letter.

**Kodi Remote apps for iOS (iPhone/iPad) and Android (phones and tablets) have touch screen interfaces to the Kodi Music library. Many are developed by the Kodi Dev Team and are free. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND EVERYONE USING KODI USES A REMOTE APP ON A HAND HELD DEVICE!!**

NOTE: These devices need to be on the same home network as your Kodi device (all connected via WiFi and/or ethernet)

## Remote Apps to Control Kodi:

Remote controls are last century tech. You really need a touch screen graphical interface to get the best user experience. Example from the free Kodi Remote app for iPhone/iPad (screen shots from my iPhone):



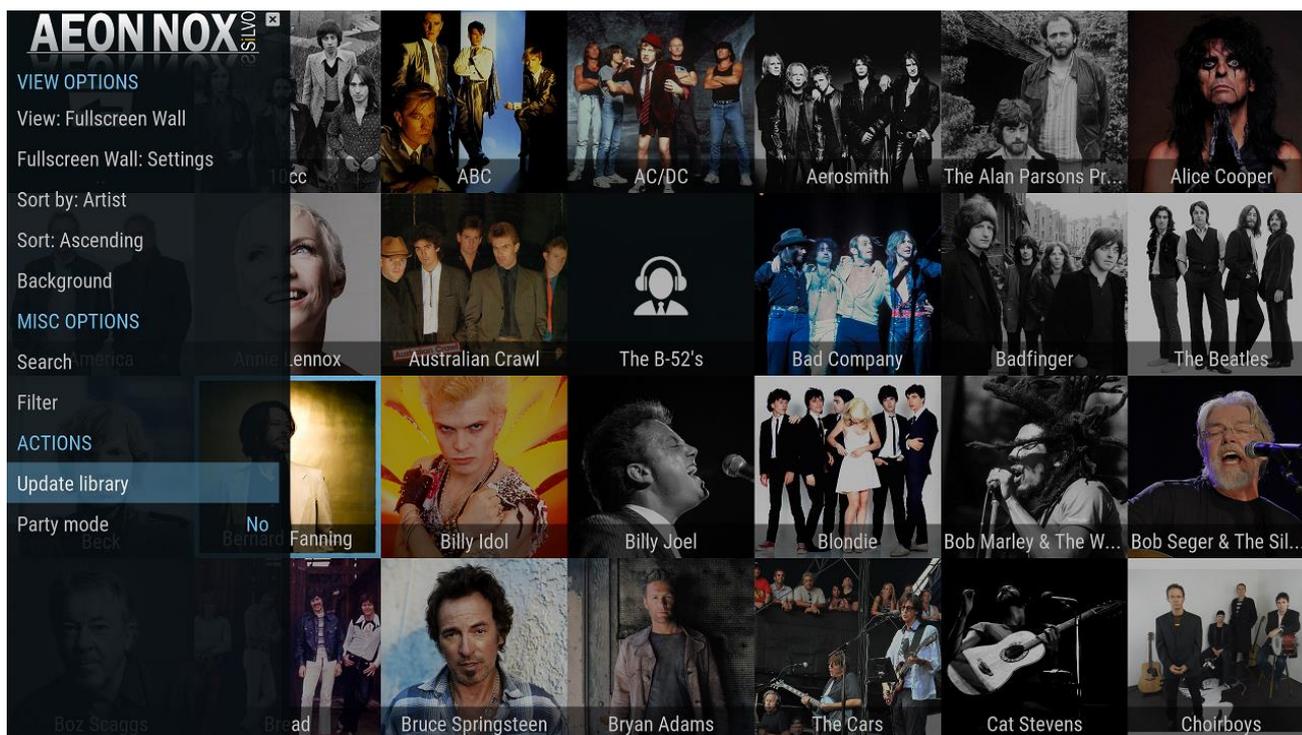
## Updating the Kodi Music library (database) on Media File Changes and Additions.

When you initially scan a new Source Kodi gives you the option to Scan the folders for new media files. It reads the Tags and loads this info along with folder location and filename into the database. When you navigate your music collection in Kodi you are browsing the music database. That is why its many, many times faster than browsing a folder/file structure on a disc drive. (think Blu-ray player file navigation)

But this means you cannot just copy a new album folder (with its track files) to your Source disc drive and get Kodi to play a song. The new files need to be added to the Kodi library database. Also, if you change a music file tag you must get Kodi to re-read the new tags to update its music library database. Renaming a file means Kodi wont find it as the filename in the library is no longer valid.

How to add new or updated files:

Use the Update Library command from most Music views:



In most music views (above is the Artist view) left click off the screen and the Kodi hidden Left Menu ops out. Near the bottom click: Update Library

Kodi will read all folders and files in all its Music Sources and add new albums/songs and update tagging (if the file already exists in the Kodi Library and the file name is the same).

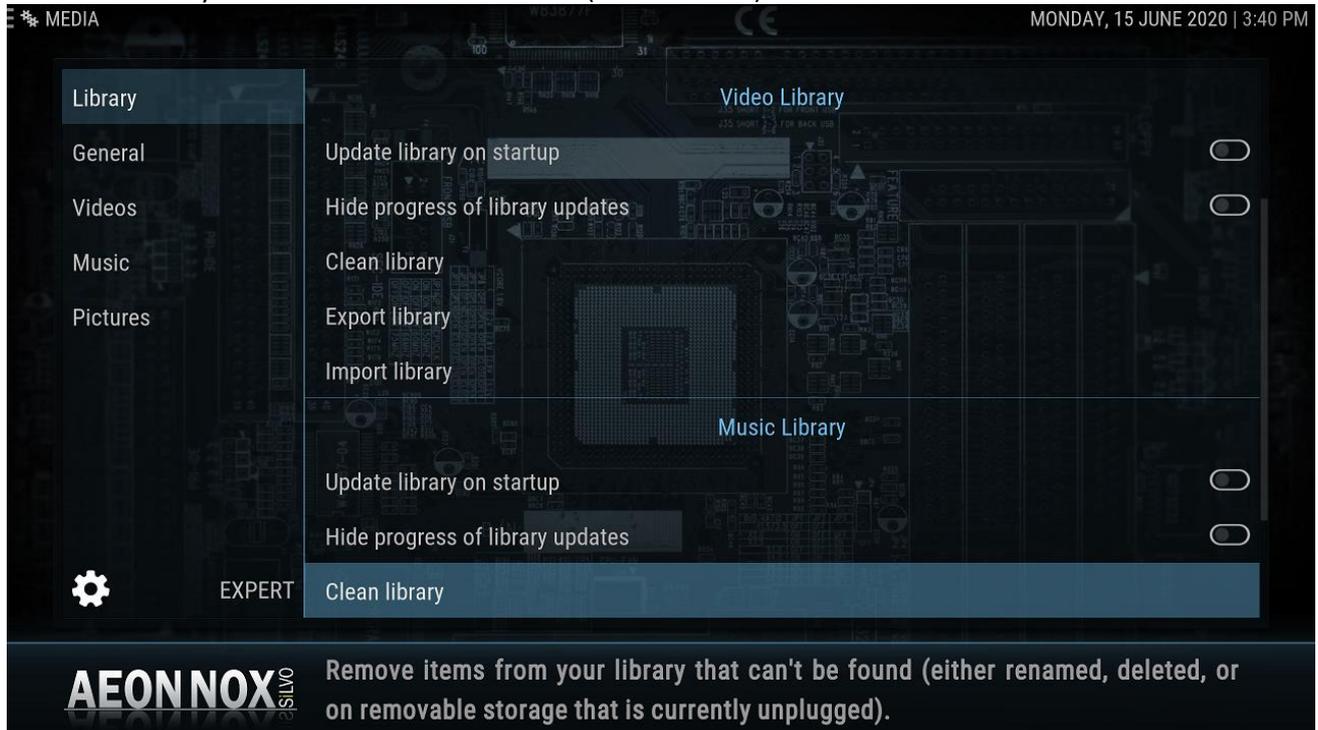
It only looks for files that are new and at existing files (in the database) to see if they have changed.

## Updating the Kodi Music library (database) on Media File Deletions.

So the previous Update does not look for deletions.

To remove music from the Kodi Music Library (database) you must delete the music from you Source drive using Windows, Linux etc. Then Clean your Kodi Library by:

Go to the Kodi System menu then Media screen (shown below):



Using the Library option (top left menu above), scroll down the right panel until you see Clean Library in the Music Library section (not the Video Library section).

Click: Clean Library

Kodi now scans all your Sources and looks for files in the database that no longer exist. If a file cannot be found its information is removed from the database. If no album files exist, the album is removed too.

This is extremely fast

### TO DO:

I will update this document further to discuss other important things you need to know about using Kodi for music and setting up and maintaining your music collection and Kodi Music Library.