

EAT. SLEEP. DJ.







contents contents













REGULARS

06 Editors Welcome

This month, we're thrilled to bring you an exciting lineup of features and insights into the world of music technology and artists

08 The PRESS Room

Local and international music industry news

12 Home Grown Music

Newly released music for you to listen to

INDUSTRY REVIEWS

14 Precision in Percussion

PowerWorks PDMK-7 Drum Microphone Set

Pioneer's Cutting-Edge DJ Controllers

A New Era of DJing

40 Audio Technica Turntables
AT-LP1 20-USB vs. AT-LP1 20XBT-USB

INTERESTING ARTICLES

26 The Dynamic Role of Mobile DJs

The role of a mobile DJ stands out as a crucial element in curating unforgettable experiences.

34 Audio Technica Gaming Headphones

Redefining Gaming Audio Excellence

The LES PAUL Showdown

GIDSON VS. EPIPNONE

66 Ntsiki Ntsele

60

The Bio of a Maestro

4 The SPHERE

Redefining Spectacle In Entertainment

Contents

















EXCITING EQUIPMENT

28 The AQM-15A

Your Ultimate Portable Audio Companion

48 Unveiling POLAR

Your Complete Sound Solution for Musicians,

DJs, and Event

56 MIDAS DM12 & DM16

Exceptional Studio Powerhouses

58 Ashdown - RM-414T-EVO II

Super Lightweight Bass Cabinet

64 Blackstar - HT Club 40 MKIII

The Modern Musician's Arsenal

68 NORD - Musical Expression

Offering musicians an unparalleled blend of innovation, versatility, and exceptional performance.

RESPECTED ARTISTS

18 | Sir LSG

His Journey Through Music and Industry Insights

30 Mia Pretorius

The Interview

36 Dean Fuel

A mesmerizing glimpse into his electrifying journey within the electronic music realm.

44 V. Underground

Shares experiences, insights, and upcoming projects

52 Pierre Pienaar

His relentless passion for music

CASE STUDIES

70 | Sonance-Powersoft Collaboration

Oxbow Country Estate and Fame Productions Revolutionize Sound for Newly Weds.



WELCOME,

to the December 2023 edition of **Proaudio Sound Press Magazine!**

As we approach the end of the year, we're thrilled to present a starstudded lineup of artists and an array of cutting-edge equipment that will elevate your auditory experience to new heights.

In this edition, we're honored to feature a diverse ensemble of musical talents. From the soulful rhythms of Sir LSG to the electrifying beats of DJ MIA, the sonic landscapes of Dean Fuel, the underground vibes of V. Underground, the melodic mastery of Pierre Pienaar, and the captivating piano compositions of Ntisiki Ntsele, each artist brings a unique flavor to our pages, promising an enriching journey through sound.

But the magic doesn't stop there. Our showcase of equipment will immerse you in a world of innovation and sonic excellence. Explore Pioneer's cutting-edge DJ controllers, witness the power of portable audio speakers, delve into the realm of gaming headphones, and experience the prowess of power concert-grade mixers. Our turntables comparison will guide you through the nuances of these iconic devices, while column array speakers, guitar amplifiers, Gibson vs Epiphone, and drum microphones will redefine your understanding of quality sound production.

Additionally, our case study featuring the collaboration between Sonance and Powersoft is a testament to the fusion of expertise and innovation, offering insights into the future of audio technology.

Whether you're a music enthusiast, a budding artist, or a seasoned professional, there's something in these pages that will spark your imagination and inspire your creative journey.

Join us on this captivating expedition through sound as we celebrate the convergence of artistry and technology in the realm of audio excellence.

STAY INSPIRED!

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This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.





Taking home the award for the second year in a row, as well as placing at No.18 in this year's poll, Belgian maestro Charlotte de Witte has continued to champion her driving techno sound across the globe in 2023.



Tomorrowland announces 2024 festival dates and theme, 'LIFE'

Returning to the city of Boom in Belgium once again, Tomorrowland will celebrate 20 years of events in 2024. Next year's festival will take place across the weekends of 19th-21st and 26th-28th July.





David Guetta crowned The World's No. 1 DJ in DJ Mag's Top 100 DJs 2023

The Frenchman has returned to the No.1 spot for the fourth time — more than a decade after he was first crowned the world's No.1 DJ back in 2011. His great friend and mentee Martin Garrix topped the poll last year. With four wins a piece, the pair are now second only to Dutch trance legend Armin van Buuren, with his five No. 1s.







Amapiano sensation Kabza De Small emerged as the standout victor at the 29th South African Music Awards (SAMAs) during Saturday's event. The ceremony was hastily relocated to Sun International's SunBet Arena in Pretoria due to the KwaZulu-Natal government's withdrawal from hosting. Despite the shift, De Small claimed multiple honors, including Best Duo/Group of the Year with DJ Maphorisa, Best Produced Album, Best Amapiano Album, and Best Kwaito Album. Yet, in line with a trend among South African musicians, De Small was absent from the ceremony, mirroring the absence of K.O, DJ Maphorisa, and Zakes Bantwini. Notably, Bantwini was represented by his wife, singer Nandi Madida. Gospel sensation Ntokozo Mbambo closely followed De Small, clinching three awards—Female Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, and Best Contemporary Faith Album. The late rapper AKA continued his posthumous winning streak by securing awards for Male Artist of the Year, Best Collaboration, and Best Engineered Album.

DJ BUHLE: Pioneering Female House DJ in Johannesburg's Music Scene

At the balcony of The Living Room, an open-air rooftop music bar offering a view over the bustling streets of Maboneng, a vibrant district in central Johannesburg renowned for its venues, including the famed deep house spot, 115, the conversation shifts to another broadcasting gem of Johannesburg, YFM, it's emphasized, played a pivotal role in the surge of house music. Here, we encounter DJ Buhle, a Soweto-born artist. Hailing from South Africa's largest township, housing around 1.3 million residents, she stands as one of the earliest female house DJs in the country, leading Bezulu Records. She speaks passionately about the influence of Gauteng's trailblazers on her journey. She singles out Da Vinci and DJ Bubbles—particularly known for exploring tech, funk, and electro—as pivotal figures who inspired her deeply. "Before I started, many would say things like 'female DJs play strawberry music.' They meant something soft, sweet, akin to disco... I was determined not to fit that mold. Yet, gaining recognition as a female DJ, especially playing more intense tunes, was a challenge," she recounts, reminiscing about her initial attraction to the deep 4/4 sounds around 2000. "House music was already dominant, but we lacked resources and networks for a long time." "People like DJ Christos have achieved so much growth, making it easier for us to handle the business side, ensuring sustainability," she elaborates. "There was a gap to bridge and an understanding to establish. Today, animosity has lessened, but township infrastructure remains a challenge. I mean, we've had rainfall for two days, and houses are flooding. It's frustrating. However, in terms of music, we've closed the gap; we've made our mark."



One of SA's Biggest line ups to date!

Hey Neighbour is a global 3-day music festival from 8 - 10 Dec at Legends Adventure Farm in Pretoria. We're bring artist from around the globe to unite through music.

H20 Defected NYE - JHB



H2O Party brings you the Massive DEFECTED NYE "six degrees of celebration"!

Global dance super brand and Africa's biggest dance music festival collide this New Year's Eve to bring you the country's most electrifying NYE dance experience featuring 2 international Defected artists!

Dance away 2023 with DEFECTED AT H2O PARTY and be a part of the global celebration as DEFECTED host 7 events in 6 continents / 6 cities over the New Year period which coincides with the entering into Defected's and H2O Party's 25 Year Anniversary!



Renowned DJ and producer Peggy Gou has teamed up with legendary musician Lenny Kravitz to deliver a captivating R&B-infused single titled 'I Believe In Love Again'. The collaborative track exudes a powerful message of positivity and hope, resonating with listeners on a profound level. Reflecting on the creation of the single, Gou expressed her admiration for the 90s, a decade that significantly influences her music. While known for her prowess in dance, house, and rave genres, Gou disclosed her deep-rooted love for R&B, citing Kravitz as a personal favorite artist. "He came into the studio and transformed the guide vocal into magic, writing new lyrics and creating that incredible guitar riff," she shared.

'I Believe In Love Again' marks Gou's second preview from her highly anticipated debut album, slated for release in 2024 under XL Recordings. The single follows the success of her previous hit '(It Goes Like) Nanana', showcasing the diverse musical range she is set to explore in her upcoming album.

With 'I Believe In Love Again', Peggy Gou and Lenny Kravitz have delivered a track that embodies optimism and resilience, offering a glimpse into the melodic synergy between two celebrated artists from different realms of the music world. The single is now available for a soulful, uplifting listening experience.

Over 4000 musicians

sign open letter calling for ceasefire in Gaza



More than 4000 musicians and performers have signed an open letter demanding a ceasefire in Gaza. Put together by the Musicians For Palestine movement and initially launched on Thursday, 16th November, support for the letter, which condemns the "unfolding human catastrophe" in Gaza, has spread significantly since. Electronic music artists and DJs including Ben UFO, Kode9, Jamz Supernova, Brian Eno, The Blessed Madonna, Loraine James, Deena Abdelwahed, ABADIR, CCL, di voices, Assyouti, I. JORDAN, OK Williams and Mykki Blanco have all added their names to the list of signatories. "Today, we demand an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian aid in Gaza, and an end to the siege," the letter reads. "The day after, our vision of a just and peaceful future for all must be our most urgent task. We urge everyone who shares that vision to join us." You can read the letter in full here, and browse the list of signatories here. A previous campaign set up by musicians to call for a ceasefire in Gaza garnered more than 1000 signatories, including Midland, Melé and The Human League's Martyn Ware.



This year's edition underscored the unwavering resilience and excellence of South African artists across various genres. Kabza De Small emerged as the night's biggest victor, securing four awards including Best Produced Album, Best Amapiano Album, Best Kwaito Album, and the Best Duo/Group alongside DJ Maphorisa. Gospel sensation Ntokozo Mbambo shone with three accolades, claiming the Female Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, and Best Contemporary Faith Album awards. In a poignant moment, the late AKA was posthumously honored as the Male Artist of The Year and received the Best Collaboration Award for 'Lemons (Lemonade)' featuring Nasty C. His album 'Mass Country' also clinched the Best Engineered Album Award. The SAMAs also paid homage to music legends through Lifetime Achievement Awards, recognizing the profound impact of Mandoza, Ihhashi Elimhlophe, Gloria Bosman (posthumous), and Pops Mohamed on the industry.

Here's a snapshot of some of the winners:

- Female Artist of the Year: Ntokozo Mbambo 'Lavish Worship'
- Male Artist of the Year: AKA 'Mass Country'
- Duo/Group of the Year: DJ Maphorisa and Kabza De Small – 'Scorpion Kings Live Sun Arena'
- Album of the Year: 'Lavish Worship' Ntokozo Mbambo
- Newcomer of the Year: Myztro '2.0 Nkwari'
- Best Amapiano Album: 'KOA II Part 1' Kabza De Small
- Best Collaboration: AKA featuring Nasty C 'Lemons (Lemonade)'
- Best Hip Hop Album: 'This Is Religion' MashBeatz
- The list of winners encompassed a wide spectrum of musical genres, recognizing excellence in Pop, Jazz, Traditional, R&B, Dance, Rock, Afropop, and various other categories.

HOME GROWN MUSIC

Your gateway to discovering the vibrant sounds of local South African artists. On this page, we provide you with direct access to music links, allowing you to dive into the rich tapestry of South African music. **CLICK ON THE LINKS**



Goldfish And Malou If Summer Was A Sound

While we were writing for this new album, we began with the question: 'If you were to describe GoldFish's music in one sentence, what would it be?' Cape Town, Ibiza And San Diego have been our homes around the globe; our whole career has been shaped making music somewhere warm and by the ocean.



Atjazz & **Jullian Gomes**

Defected Broadcasting House

Jullina Gomes said - 'If you haven't heard, my good friend Atjazz and I dropped a special B2B set for you at the Defected Basement in London.'



Jullian Gomes

Bruno & The Birds Album

With its dynamic soundscapes and diverse musical influences, "Bruno & The Birds" invites listeners to embark on their own introspective voyage. Jullian Gomes combines elements of electronic soul and jazz, and pushes the ideas of traditional house music, creating a rich and immersive sonic experience. The album features the likes of Jordan Arts, Sio, Kuniyuki Takahashi, Sabrina Chyld, Dwson, NLite, Robin Fassie & KJM Cornetist which all add their unique touch to this soul-stirring album.



WEEKENT SUN SETS

Peníxes by CHINA CHARMELEON, THAKZIN MÖRDA BRENDEN PRAISE, CHRONICAL DEEP

DJ KENT FT MO-T HORNS IN THE SUN

DJ Kent ft Mo-T, Mörda, Brenden Praise

Horns In The Sun (Thakzin Remix)

When DJ Kent released the song "Horns In The Sun," he received much attention. With the song, he left a lasting effect. He has now made a comeback with "Weekent Sun Sets (Horns In The Sun Remix EP)." Seven remixes of the original song by various DJs, including China Chameleon, Mo-T, Thakzin, and others, are included on the new EP.



De Mthuda, Da Muziqal Chef, Eemoh

Sgudi Snyc ft. Sipho Magudulela

De Mthuda & Da Muziqal Chef fine tunes yet another new amapiano song collaboration titled Sgudi Snyc. Also, this new jam got some amazing vocal assistance and production prowess from Eemoh & Sipho Magudulela. It's really a good time to feel the sound of good vibe and rhythms, thus get your heads up. We can assure you that this new song is very hot and you will like to have it for leisure time.



DJ Bongz Emotion ft Hessy

DJ Bongz got one of the best artists recruits this weekend on the debut tune termed Emotion. However, on this melodious recorded tune, the South African mega hit maker connects with Hessy. More so, this new recorded jam came through an opener to his forthcoming musical project.



PRECISION IN PERCUSSION

PowerWorks PDMK-7 Drum Microphone Set



When it comes to capturing the intricate beats and nuances of a drum kit, having the right set of microphones can make all the difference.

Enter the PowerWorks PDMK-7—a comprehensive ensemble of seven specialized microphones meticulously crafted for drums and percussion instruments.





Tailored
Microphones
for Precision
The PDMK-7

isn't just a generic set of mics; it's a

purpose-built arsenal

designed to accentuate every facet of your drum kit's sound.

This comprehensive set includes:

BASS DRUM MICROPHONE (PDMK-7):

Featuring a robust unidirectional dynamic capsule, this microphone is tailor-made for low-frequency instruments. Its meticulously tuned frequency response ensures that the powerful thumps and resonating tones of your bass drum are accurately captured and reproduced.

DYNAMIC TOM/SNARE MICROPHONES

(PTM-7, 4pcs): Four dynamic microphones in this set cater to the low-mid frequencies, ideal for capturing the distinctive tones of toms, snare drums, or even an electric guitar amp. With precision and clarity, these microphones amplify the punch and detail of your drumming performance.

CONDENSER MICROPHONES (PCM-70,

2pcs): These phantom-powered condenser microphones boast highly sensitive capsules, perfect for capturing the intricate details and ambient tones of cymbals, maracas, acoustic guitars, pianos, and more. Their exceptional sensitivity brings out the subtleties, ensuring a rich and immersive sonic experience.

VERSATILE AND PRACTICAL DESIGN

What sets the PowerWorks PDMK-7 apart isn't just its specialized microphones but also its versatility and adaptability. Each microphone in this set is engineered to fit onto standard stands with 3/8" or 5/8" threads, ensuring compatibility with various setups. Furthermore, the industry-standard XLR connectors guarantee seamless integration into your existing audio systems.



The package isn't just a collection of microphones; it's a complete solution.

ALONGSIDE THE MICROPHONES, YOU'LL FIND ESSENTIAL ACCESSORIES:

Drum Clamps (PDMC-7, 4pcs): These clamps ensure secure mounting for your drum microphones, keeping them in place for optimal positioning and performance.

CONDENSER MIC CLAMPS (PCM-7 CLAMP,

2pcs): Specifically designed for the condenser microphones, these clamps provide stable attachment while preserving the microphones' delicate sensitivity.

FOAM WINDSCREEN (PCM-7 FOAM, 2pcs):

The included foam covers for the condenser microphones offer protection against unwanted wind noise, maintaining the purity of your recordings.

PORTABILITY AND PROTECTION

All these components are packaged in a durable aluminum carrying case, ensuring easy portability and robust protection for your valuable microphones. This sturdy case isn't just a convenient transportation solution; it's a safeguard for your investment, keeping your microphones safe and organized between gigs or studio sessions.

The PowerWorks PDMK-7 isn't merely a drum microphone set; it's a gateway to unlocking the full potential of your drum kit's sonic palette.









Sir L Sign

Sir LSG Unveils His Journey Through Music and Industry Insights

In this exclusive interview, Sir LSG shares not just his musical journey but insights into kindness, industry dynamics, and exciting upcoming projects.

Proaudio: Sir LSG, your career in music has spanned since 2006, establishing you as a unique figure in South Africa's House Music Scene. What inspired your venture into the music world, and how has your journey evolved over the years?

Sir LSG: As a young boy in middle school, I was drawn into House Music through compilations by Vinny da Vinci, DJ Fresh, Oskido, and others. However, it wasn't until my first year at University that I developed an interest in DJ-ing. Since 2006, my journey has been a mix of uncertainty and incredible memories from playing amazing gigs. I consider myself blessed to be part of this scene.

Proaudio: Your debut album 'Moving Circles' garnered international recognition, holding the #1 spot in South Africa. Can you share the creative process behind this album and the collaborations with artists, both South African and international?

Sir LSG: 'Moving Circles' took five years to complete due to my involvement with musicians globally and being employed full-time. The process was done after work hours. Despite the extended production period, I'm immensely proud of the collective effort put into the album.

Proaudio: Winning Producer of The Year at the Dance Music South Africa Awards in 2018 is a notable achievement. How did this recognition impact your career, and what significance does it hold for you personally?

Sir LSG: Awards recognize work done, and winning against other talented producers was humbling. However, it doesn't make one "better." It's subjective, based on someone's preference at a particular time, so I don't dwell on it too much.

Proaudio: Your initiative, Bread4Soul CONVOS, focused on knowledge-sharing in the music industry. What motivated its inception, and what insights have you gained from these conversations?

Sir LSG: Interested in documentaries and drawing from my TV experience, I aimed to create a platform allowing artists to share their stories deeply. During the COVID period when everyone was at home, it felt like the perfect timing.

Proaudio: You've had a successful career in television alongside music. How has TV influenced your music career and vice versa? How do you balance both roles?

Sir LSG: My TV stint, spanning from 2010 to around 2020, provided industry exposure and connections. It complemented my music career by offering varied experiences in media.

Proaudio: Kindness in the DJ game has been a focus for you. How has practicing kindness influenced your career and relationships in the industry?

Sir LSG: Kindness should be a default, not a strategy. It fosters a better world and healthier relationships. The culture of winning at all costs does more harm than good.

Proaudio: Lastly, any sneak peeks into upcoming music projects or events you're excited about?

Sir LSG: We've launched 'Bread4Soul Music,' our record label. Expect music from exciting SA artists and myself in the coming months, following the success of 'Bread4Soul Sessions.'







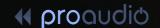
Sir LSG's musical odyssey, rooted in childhood inspiration and shaped by dedication, has been a testament to perseverance and passion. His debut album's success and accolades, while validating, are overshadowed by his humility and focus on collective effort.

His Bread4Soul initiative exemplifies his commitment to nurturing industry talent and sharing knowledge.

The symbiosis between TV and music in his career illustrates the enriching interplay of diverse experiences. Above all, his emphasis on kindness as intrinsic rather than strategic echoes a profound ethos in an industry often marked by competitiveness.

With the launch of 'Bread4Soul Music,' Sir LSG embarks on a new chapter, promising exciting musical endeavors that further exemplify his dedication to fostering South African talent.





Pioneer's Cutting-Ed









A NEW ERA OF DJING

Pioneer DJ, a trailblazer in the realm of DJ equipment, introduces an exciting lineup of computer-based controllers that redefine the art of DJing.

This innovative range, spanning from the DDJ-200 to the DDJ-FLX10, embodies the essence of innovation, user-friendliness, and unparalleled performance, designed to cater to both burgeoning enthusiasts and seasoned professionals alike.



ge DJ Controllers

DDJ-200:

A Gateway to DJing Mastery

The DDJ-200 serves as an entryway into the captivating world of DJing. This 2-channel smart DJ controller boasts a compact, lightweight design coupled with a layout that mirrors professional setups. Its pro-style configuration assists beginners in grasping the nuances of mixing and potentially transitioning DJing from a hobby to a career.

With compatibility across various software programs and apps—WeDJ for iPhone, WeDJ for Abaroid, djay, edjing Mix, and rekordbox—the DDJ-200 offers a seamless initiation into the DJing realm.

DDJ-FLX6-GT:

A Paradigm of Flexibility

Pioneer's DDJ-FLX6-GT brings forth a fresh design and enhanced tactile experience with its full-size jog wheels, sporting a captivating graphite hue, a refined metallic texture atop, and a rubberized outer ring for heightened playability. This 4-channel controller extends support to VirtualDJ (license available separately) while maintaining free compatibility with rekordbox and Serato DJ Pro.

Equipped with built-in sound cards, seamless integration with streaming services, and intuitive controls reminiscent of club-standard setups, this controller epitomizes flexibility and sophistication for DJs.

DDJ-FLX4:

Where Simplicity Meets Professionalism

Crafted with simplicity and professionalism in mind, the DDJ-FLX4 is a 2-channel controller that amalgamates user-friendly design with a touch of professional finesse. Its compatibility with rekordbox, Serato DJ Lite, and djay caters to a diverse range of DJ applications.

Smart mixing features like Smart Fader and Smart CFX enable smooth transitions and effortless application of effects, making it an ideal choice for both novices and intermediate DJs.

DDJ-FLX10:

A Pinnacle in Performance

The DDJ-FLX10 redefines performance through its groundbreaking Track Separation technology. DJs can now remix tracks on-the-fly by independently manipulating vocals, drums, and other instruments, offering new creative avenues.

Augmented features like On Jog Display, Mix Point Link, and DMX output for rekordbox Lighting function make this 4-channel controller a powerhouse in live performances, allowing DJs to craft seamless transitions and awe-inspiring lighting effects synchronized with their music.

Pioneer DJ's array of computer-based controllers takes DJing to unprecedented levels, offering a spectrum of options catering to diverse DJing styles and skill levels.



HERE'S A COMPARISON highlighting the distinctive features and capabilities of Pioneer's DDJ-200, DDJ-FLX4, DDJ-FLX6-GT, and DDJ-FLX10, showcasing their unique offerings in the realm of DJ controllers:

DDJ-200:

Entry-Level Prowess

Design: Lightweight, compact design

with a pro-style layout.

Compatibility: Works seamlessly with various software programs and apps like WeDJ for iPhone/Android, djay, edjing Mix, and rekordbox.

User-Friendly Features: Tutorial and Pop-Hint functions in WeDJ for iPhone app facilitate learning, Transition FX aids smooth track transitions, and compact size makes it portable.

Versatility: Offers easy connectivity to smartphones, tablets, or PCs/Macs for mixing.

DDJ-FLX6-GT:

Flexibility and Advanced Controls Fresh Design: Features graphitecolored jog wheels with enhanced playability.

Software Compatibility: Offers support for VirtualDJ (license available separately) and maintains compatibility with rekordbox and Serato DJ Pro.

Advanced Jog Wheel Features: Jog Cutter for professional scratch effects, large jog wheels similar to flagship CDJ-3000, and Jog Display for seamless track monitoring.

Customizable Effects: Merge FX for mixing different music styles effortlessly.

DDJ-FLX4:

Simplicity and Professionalism Combined

Professional Feel: User-friendly design inherited from Pioneer DJ products. Software Compatibility: Works with rekordbox, Serato DJ Lite, and djay for free.

Multi-Device Support: Versatile connectivity across PC, Mac, iOS, and Android devices.

Smart Mixing Features: Intuitive Smart Fader and Smart CFX facilitate smooth transitions and effortless application of effects.

DDJ-FLX10:

Performance-Driven Innovation
Advanced Performance Features: Track
Separation technology enables live
mash-ups on-the-fly.

Enhanced Jog Wheel Display: On Jog Display with 4 modes, showing waveforms and performance pad status.

Live Performance Integration: Mix Point Link for seamless transitions, DMX output for rekordbox Lighting function, and expanded On Jog Display for enhanced track control.

Performance Control: Evolved MAGVEI FADER 4-sensor system for precise volume adjustments.





← proaudio

Music is the lifeblood of any successful event. It sets the tone, elevates the atmosphere, and often becomes the heartbeat that connects guests. Amidst the diverse array of event services, the role of a mobile DJ stands out as a crucial element in curating unforgettable experiences.

These music maestros are not just about playing tunes; they are the architects of ambiance, the conductors of mood, and the guardians of an event's sonic landscape.



The Dynamic Role of Mobile DJs

Adaptable Artists:

TAILORING SOUNDSCAPES

One of the key assets of a mobile DJ is their adaptability. From corporate galas to weddings, from birthday celebrations to community gatherings, their skill lies in understanding the unique pulse of each occasion. They craft playlists and seamlessly transition between tracks, catering to the diverse tastes and preferences of the audience.

This adaptability ensures that the music resonates with guests, fostering an immersive experience irrespective of the event's nature.

Enhancing Atmosphere:

CREATING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Imagine walking into an event with generic background music versus being welcomed by a carefully curated playlist that resonates with the occasion. The latter sets the stage for an unforgettable experience. Mobile DJs understand the art of curating playlists that evoke emotions, encourage dancing, and create an engaging environment.

They read the room, gauge the energy, and adjust the playlist accordingly, ensuring that the event's energy remains vibrant.



As events continue to evolve and diversify, the role of mobile DJs remains steadfast as the guardians of sonic excellence.

Seamless Entertainment: PROFESSIONALISM AT ITS CORE

Professional mobile DJs bring more than just a playlist; they bring top-tier equipment, technical expertise, and a polished demeanor. Their equipment is state-of-the-art, guaranteeing impeccable sound quality. Moreover, their experience in managing sound systems, handling transitions, and troubleshooting technical glitches ensures a seamless flow of entertainment, sparing hosts and guests from any interruptions.

Personalization: TAIL ORED EXPERIENCES

A standout quality of mobile DJs is their ability to personalize the musical journey. They collaborate with hosts to understand their vision, preferences, and any special requests, integrating these elements seamlessly into the event's soundtrack. This personalized touch elevates the experience, making it unique and memorable for hosts and guests alike.



Personalization:

TAILORED EXPERIENCES

A standout quality of mobile DJs is their ability to personalize the musical journey. They collaborate with hosts to understand their vision, preferences, and any special requests, integrating these elements seamlessly into the event's soundtrack. This personalized touch elevates the experience, making it unique and memorable for hosts and guests alike.

Versatility and Adaptability:A BOON IN ANY SETTING

Mobile DJs thrive in diverse settings, adapting to the needs of any event. Their versatility allows them to seamlessly transition from a corporate setting, providing background music for networking events, to a lively wedding reception where they effortlessly switch between genres to keep the dance floor bustling.

Stress Reduction: EVENT MANAGEMENT ALLIES

In the whirlwind of event planning, entrusting the sonic landscape to a professional mobile DJ is a boon. Their expertise in managing the music aspect allows hosts to focus on other crucial elements of the event. From setup to takedown, they handle the technicalities, leaving hosts free to immerse themselves in the celebration without worrying about audio hiccups.

Mobile DJs are not just music purveyors; they are event enhancers, collaborators, and creators of memorable experiences. Their expertise, professionalism, and ability to transform soundscapes elevate events, leaving an indelible mark on the memories of attendees. As events continue to evolve and diversify, the role of mobile DJs remains steadfast as the guardians of music excellence.





The AQM-15A

POWER WORKS

Your Ultimate Portable Audio Companion The AQM-15A redefines portable audio excellence by blending cutting-edge features with convenience and versatility. Offering Bluetooth streaming and stereo pairing, this speaker allows you to effortlessly create a wireless stereo pair with another AQM-15A unit, delivering a surround sound experience that amplifies your audio immersion.

Equipped with a built-in Media Player compatible with USB drives and SD cards, as well as an FM radio function, the AQM-15A becomes the ideal companion for various occasions, whether it's a lively tailgate or a relaxing day at the beach. Its comprehensive audio mixer provides an array of inputs and outputs, transforming any space into your personal concert venue.

Customize your auditory and visual experience with user-controllable lighting that syncs with the music's rhythm, pulsates in a single color, or turns off according to your preference. The speaker's sleek, modern design integrates large carrying handles for effortless portability, allowing you to take your music wherever you go.

Additionally, the AQM-15A boasts a 35mm speaker flange on its underside, facilitating placement on standard speaker stands for enhanced elevation and projection. This innovative feature ensures optimal positioning to optimize sound dispersion and coverage, adding another layer of adaptability to its already impressive repertoire.







DJ Mia Pretorius (Mia), a vibrant force in Cape Town's music cosmos, sits down with us to share insights into her dynamic journey, recent successes, and the beating heart behind her remixes.

THE INTERVIEW

Proaudio: DJ Mia, you've been making waves in Cape Town's music scene, and you recently released a remix titled 'Relax Eyes.' Can you tell us about the inspiration and creative process behind this track?

Mia: I had listened to a few remixes of it beforehand which I really enjoyed and thought I would challenge myself to make one that is 'better' and that leans more towards my techno/ deep tech style which I have been more drawn towards lately.

Proaudio: Congratulations on your recent gig at the H2O main stage in Mozambique! What was that experience like, and how did the crowd react to your set?

Mia: I had the most amazing time playing on such a large and creatively set up stage! The fact that it was outside of SA made it even better! I have become quite well known in Mozambique now as I DJ there quite often so it was quite the experience getting to perform in front of so many people and all of them chanting my name at the end. Starting out 6 years ago it's a setting I could have only dreamed to be a part of. I will be back to DJ in Mozambique a few more times before the end of this year.

Proaudio: You're relatively young and already playing at major events. Can you share how you got your start in the DJing world? Were you self-taught, or did you take any particular lessons to hone your skills?

Mia: Since the age of 15, I always dreamed of becoming a DJ. I started going to u18 parties and had a love for EDM and Melbourne Bounce at the time - haha. I even created my own mixes (although I totally had no idea what I was actually doing). When I turned 18 I started taking lessons from my friends who were DJs at a small local club. There I learnt all the basics that I needed to know at the time which set me up to start DJing at events. The rest was self taught through experience along the way. I am so happy that I never gave up on my dream because it's something that makes my heart so happy; it has allowed me to meet so many new people, experience new places and gain other amazing opportunities.



Proaudio: Looking ahead to 2024, what are your plans and aspirations in the music industry? Any upcoming projects or collaborations you can give us a sneak peek of?

Mia: I can't give any sneak peaks yet but I will be collabing with an international vocalist on a new track and it will hopefully be released before the holidays are over. Furthermore in 2024 I plan to travel abroad more and DJ in new countries. I already performed in Greece a couple of months ago and it was such an incredible experience being able to showcase in front of a totally different crowd to what I'm used to and them absolutely loving it!

Proaudio: Cape Town has a vibrant music scene. How has growing up and living in Cape Town influenced your style and approach to DJing and producing music?

Mia: I would definitely say I have taken inspiration from all the different venues and crowds I have performed for here in Cape Town over the years which has allowed me to curate different sets for people to enjoy. Cape Town is so diverse when it comes to crowds and DJs, I have found each experience to be different and unique.

Proaudio: Your mixes on YouTube and SoundCloud have garnered quite a following. How do you select your tracks and curate your sets to create an immersive listening experience for your audience?

Mia: I don't really release mixes anymore, I do create some for radio shows every now and again but I prefer for people to come hear me play live instead! My mixes definitely kick started my career back in the day when I did put them out though and they landed me a lot of my DJ gigs and radio features.

Proaudio: Pioneer DJ gear features prominently in your setup. What aspects of their equipment elevate your performances?

Mia: I'm a Pioneer enthusiast! I started on Pioneer decks, and the sound quality of their headphones is unmatched. Their CDJs keep improving, and their gear enhances my performances.

Proaudio: Are there any specific Pioneer DJ products or features that you can't live without when you're behind the decks?

Mia: I love all the features of the equipment and the Pioneer CDJs just keep getting better and better!

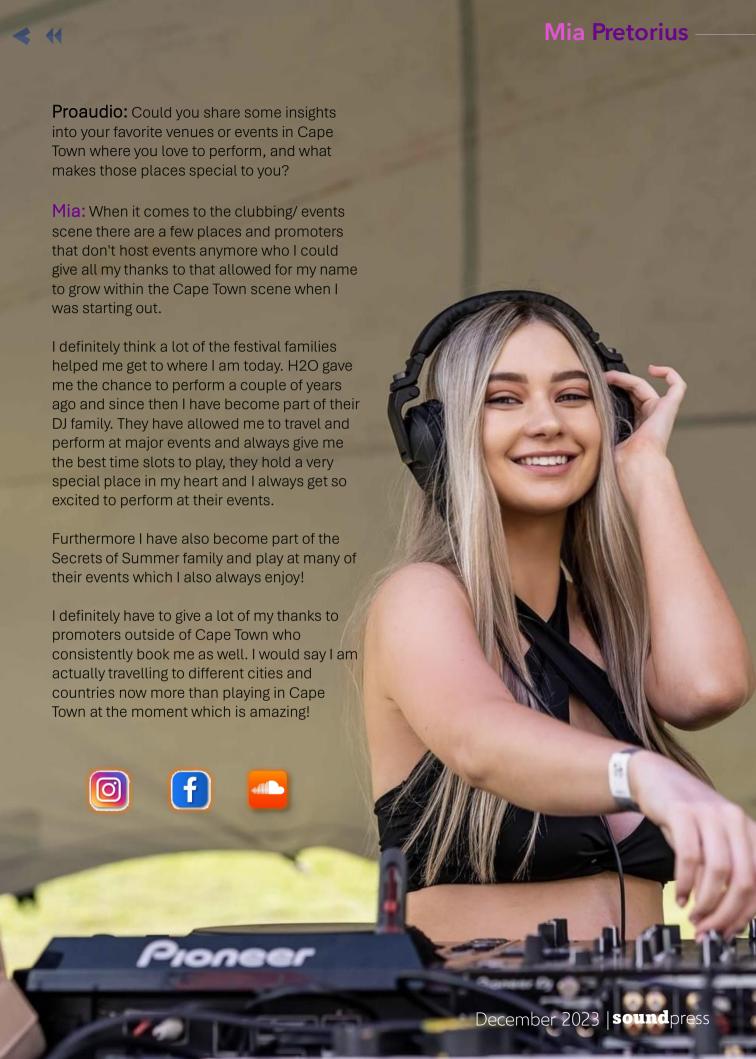
Proaudio: In the fast-paced world of electronic music, staying updated with the latest technology is crucial. How do you stay on top of the latest DJ trends and innovations?

Mia: I would say social media is a critical tool when it comes to this - keeping up with industry leader trending videos or content.

Proaudio: As a rising star in the industry, what advice would you give to young, aspiring DJs looking to follow in your footsteps and make a name for themselves?

Mia: I always think back on when I started out, watching other DJs with bigger names catch flights to perform in different cities or countries and perform on massive stages - that is all I wanted to do - get to that level where people all over would take such a liking to my sets that they wanted me to visit their city and share my music selection and songs with them. (Little did I know it is also one of the most exhausting lifestyles to live haha).

I look back now and can't believe that this is my reality. Never give up on your dreams, if you care about it enough then find a way to make it work, and when it does you will be so incredibly fulfilled and happy.



AUDIO-TECHNICA GAMING HEADPHONES

Redefining Gaming Audio Excellence

Audio-Technica, a pioneer in professional audio, seamlessly extends its expertise into crafting gaming headphones that redefine gaming auditory experiences. Known for their commitment to sonic excellence, Audio-Technica's lineup of gaming headphones, including the ATH-GL3, ATH-GDL3, ATH-G1, ATH-PDG1a, ATH-M50xBT2, and ATH-M50x, stand as a testament to their dedication to delivering immersive, high-fidelity audio experiences tailored for gamers.











ATH-GL3 and ATH-GDL3

Precision and Immersion

The ATH-GL3 and ATH-GDL3 exemplify Audio-Technica's dedication to precision and detail. These closed-back headphones feature proprietary 45mm drivers, offering an immersive soundstage that enhances gaming experiences. The ATH-GDL3 enhances the visual experience with customizable RGB lighting, creating a captivating setup that complements the audio immersion.

ATH-G1

Performance and Comfort in Unison

The ATH-G1 offers a comfortable design without compromising on performance. Equipped with large-diameter 45mm drivers and a detachable boom microphone featuring hypercardioid technology for crystal-clear voice capture, the ATH-G1 ensures superior audio quality for gaming and communication. Its lightweight construction and soft earpads enable extended gaming sessions without discomfort.

ATH-PDG1a

Precision and Comfort for Competitive Play

Tailored for competitive gaming, the ATH-PDG1a features open-air earcups for a natural sound experience. Its 40mm drivers provide exceptional clarity and accuracy, while the advanced 3D Wing Support system ensures a comfortable fit during intense gaming sessions. The high-quality detachable microphone enhances voice communication.





ATH-M50xBT2

Wireless Freedom, Audiophile Sound

The ATH-M50xBT2 offers wireless capabilities, providing gamers the freedom of movement without compromising audio quality. These Bluetooth-enabled headphones feature 45mm drivers with exceptional clarity and accurate bass reproduction. With up to 50 hours of battery life and touch controls, the ATH-M50xBT2 ensures uninterrupted gaming sessions.

ATH-M50x

Studio-Quality Sound for Gaming Enthusiasts

Renowned in the professional audio realm, the ATH-M50x is equally revered in the gaming community. Its critically acclaimed sound profile, thanks to the 45mm large-aperture drivers, delivers an immersive gaming experience. The circumaural design and swiveling earcups provide exceptional comfort for extended gaming sessions.

Unmatched Audio Excellence and Versatility

Across the range of Audio-Technica gaming headphones, the brand's commitment to unparalleled sound quality remains steadfast. Whether it's the closed-back design for immersive soundscapes or the open-air earcups for competitive precision, each model is meticulously crafted to cater to various gaming preferences.

Craftsmanship, Comfort, and Durability

Audio-Technica headphones stand out for their superior audio quality, durability, and craftsmanship. The build quality, comfortable designs, and robust construction ensure that these headphones endure the rigors of frequent use, offering reliability and consistent performance over time.

Audio-Technica's lineup of gaming headphones epitomizes the brand's legacy of delivering superior sound quality. From immersive soundscapes to precision audio cues, these headphones cater to diverse gaming preferences.

With precision, comfort, and versatility, Audio-Technica gaming headphones set a new standard for immersive gaming audio, providing gamers with an exceptional auditory journey that complements and enriches their gaming experiences.







In this captivating interview, Dean Fuel offers a mesmerizing glimpse into his electrifying journey within the electronic music realm.

From the magnetic allure of vinyl DJing to his celebrated status today, his passion for music is evident in every beat and melody.

Dean recounts pivotal moments that shaped his career, from humble beginnings at private gigs to orchestrating successful events that propelled him into the spotlight.

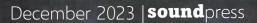
Proaudio: Dean, your journey in electronic music has been extraordinary. How did you first discover your passion for DJing and electronic music?

Dean Fuel: My love for music predates my existence, but electronic music felt like a natural fit. From my early club and rave experiences, I felt a connection, as if I had found my place. Observing DJs at these events sparked my curiosity, leading me to study and learn the craft. I saved up to buy turntables, and collecting vinyl records became an addiction.

Proaudio: From your beginnings as a vinyl DJ to your celebrated status today, could you walk us through your journey and the pivotal moments shaping your career?

Dean Fuel: There are countless pivotal moments, all fueled by my passion for music and the dancefloor. Starting with private gigs and house parties to running a mobile DJ business funding my vinyl collection, breaking into clubs was challenging.

I organized my own event, handling everything, which became a success, leading to more bookings. Promoting my own events allowed creative control and shaped my career significantly.





Proaudio: Your performances are known for igniting dancefloors. What's your secret to consistently delivering memorable sets?

Dean Fuel: I pour all my energy into every se preparing extensive playlists for flexibility. My focus remains on the dancefloor, adapting to keep the energy flowing. Remember, I'm there for them, not the other way around.

Proaudio: Share your experiences playing at top festivals and clubs. Any standout moments or venues close to your heart?

Dean Fuel: Opening for Swedish House Mafia to 15,000 in Cape Town stands out. ULTRA sets and H2O festivals for their massive stages and crowds are memorable. Opening for Armin Van Buuren on the Boombox tour was remarkable due to its groundbreaking technology. Darker, underground clubs in Cape Town, like Modular, hold a special place for their intense vibe.

Proaudio: How has living in Cape Town influenced your music and DJing style?

Dean Fuel: Cape Town's creativity, expressiv nature, and vibrant club culture heavily influenced my sound and direction. Its freedom in fashion, sexuality, and music has been liberating, shaping the flavor I proudly share globally.

Proaudio: Your radio mixes on Roger Goode's show are well-received. Thoughts on the role of radio in promoting electronic music and your approach to curating mixes?

Dean Fuel: Radio remains a vital platform to reach a broad audience. Presenters like Roger Goode lead the forefront of dance music culture. I use this time to showcase new music, tell stories, and give each mix a distinc identity.

Proaudio: Tell us about your label, Smaak Music, and its vision.

Dean Fuel: Smaak Music was born during lockdown to release my and like-minded artists' music, aiming for a global stage. Our releases have earned top spots on Beatport, showcasing diverse genres and unique sounds.

Proaudio: Performing at festivals like H2O and Ultra Music Festival, what sets them apart?

Dean Fuel: Their scale is monumental massive stages, colossal crowds, and exceptional production. Organizing these events requires precision but rewards attendees with a world-class party experience.

Proaudio: We've heard you're a dog lover. Introduce us to your furry friends and how they fit into your busy life.

Dean Fuel: I have two rescue Pekingese pups, Fibi and Zoe. They're family, offering unconditional support and excitement no matter the hour—coming home to them is the best feeling!

Proaudio: How do you see the future of electronic music, and what goals do you have for your journey ahead?

Dean Fuel: Electronic music is established and set to grow. My goals are simple—keep creating, playing, and loving music. Playing more internationally, growing my label, and discovering local talent are on the horizon.













Audio Technica Turntables

AT-LP120-USB vs. AT-LP120XBT-USB

Audio Technica has been a stalwart, consistently pushing boundaries to deliver exceptional sound quality and functionality. The evolution from the widely acclaimed AT-LP120-USB to the latest AT-LP120XBT-USB marks a significant advancement in the art of vinyl playback, offering distinct features tailored to varying user preferences.







The AT-LP120-USB:

A Timeless Standard

The AT-LP120-USB established itself as a paragon of quality turntable design, featuring a DC servo direct-drive motor that ensures precise playback at 33-1/3, 45, and 78 RPM. Its multifaceted capabilities extend beyond conventional analog output, offering a USB connection to seamlessly convert vinyl records into digital audio files via compatible software like Audacity.

Boasting an S-shaped tonearm, adjustable tracking force, and the esteemed AT-VM95E cartridge, Audio-Technica's 50-year legacy in phono cartridge design shines through. The AT-VM95E, furnished with an elliptical stylus and compatible with a range of replacement stylus options, caters to various preferences and budgets.

Additional professional-grade features like the die-cast aluminum platter, selectable pitch control, stroboscopic platter with speed indicator, and a removable dust cover contribute to its high-performance profile.

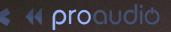
The AT-LP120XBT-USB:

Embracing Wireless Connectivity

Building upon the foundation laid by its predecessor, the AT-LP120XBT-USB retains the exceptional attributes while integrating contemporary wireless connectivity. Notably, Bluetooth® technology takes center stage, facilitating effortless pairing with wireless speakers or headphones supporting high-quality codecs like Oualcomm® aptX™.

Retaining the direct-drive motor, dynamic anti-skate control, and versatile RPM playback, this turntable offers seamless connections to home stereo systems or computers via USB. The addition of Bluetooth connectivity expands the horizons of a wireless listening experience while maintaining fidelity.

It also features a selectable pitch control with an expanded adjustment range, alongside professional-grade components such as the AT-VM95E cartridge and diecast aluminum platter, upholding the standards expected from Audio Technica.



TAILORING YOUR HIGH-FIDELITY EXPERIENCE

Both the AT-LP120-USB and the AT-LP120XBT-USB exemplify Audio Technica's commitment to delivering exceptional sound quality, precise playback, and a harmonious fusion of traditional analog excellence with modern connectivity options. The choice between the two hinges on your preference for wireless convenience or a more traditional, wired setup.

Whether you gravitate towards the classic allure of the AT-LP120-USB or embrace the wireless connectivity of the AT-LP120XBT-USB, Audio Technica's dedication to quality craftsmanship ensures an immersive, high-fidelity listening experience that remains true to the essence of vinyl.



(A) audio-technica

AT-LP120X





V. UNDERGROUND

V.underground shares experiences, insights, and upcoming projects, offering a glimpse into his journey and future endeavors.

Proaudio: Congratulations on the release of "Soulscape Philosophy" on Soul Candi Records. Could you share the inspiration behind this track?

V.underground: Initially planned for my 2022 Mzwakhe album, the track didn't capture the desired sound. In 2023, revisiting it with BeatSoul, we achieved the new age soulful sound I sought. Pixie Benette's addition infused it with a long-drive summer soulful feel.

Proaudio: Your latest album, "Mzwakhe (His House)," just dropped. Could you expand on the themes explored in this album and the message you hope listeners take away?

V.underground: The album aimed to explore a different sound while retaining my original essence, staying authentically African. Collaborating with African artists and incorporating our native languages was essential.

Proaudio: Your journey with Soul Candi Records has evolved. How did it begin, and how has your role transformed?

V.underground: Starting at the Soul Candi Institute Of Music, I later became an interlecturer. Recognizing my talent, Sergio Botelho directed me to Soul Candi Studios. Returning after its reopening felt like a natural homecoming. **Proaudio:** Collaborating with RJ Benjamin and Shimza provided valuable experiences. What lessons did you gain from these collaborations?

V.underground: Lessons in discipline, the transformative effect of fame and money, and respecting one's music and talent were pivotal takeaways.

Proaudio: As a Mixing & Mastering Engineer, what's your approach to achieving desired sound quality?

V.underground: Meticulous attention to detail is key. Eliminating unwanted frequencies during production, taking breaks to refresh my ears, and starting with essential elements like kick and bass are crucial. Good mixing is fundamental; mastering won't salvage a poorly mixed track.

Proaudio: When remixing a track, how do you infuse your unique touch into the music?

V.underground: The emotional impact of the original track guides my remix selection. Starting with bass, chords, or drums sets the tone, ensuring it resonates with my artistic vision.



Proaudio: You collaborated at Red Bull Studios Cape Town on new singles. Could you share details about that experience?

V.underground: Collaborating with Earl W. Green was significant. Creating "Rollercoaster & Wings" over a weekend and connecting with industry professionals like Rampa and &ME was invaluable.

Proaudio: How did you adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue your music career?

V.underground: Diversifying income streams and having a backup plan helped navigate the challenges, enabling me to pursue music.

Proaudio: Any upcoming events or projects fans can anticipate?

V.underground: "Deep Dive Sundays" focuses on Deep & Soulful House. The third installment features Exte C's Album Launch. Also, "We Beyond The Groove" involves live recordings at a private location.

Proaudio: What are your goals for Ultra Tone Records, and how do you see it contributing to the music scene?

V.underground: Ultra Tone Records aims to consistently release quality music, nurturing new talent, and contributing to industry growth.

Proaudio: Looking ahead to 2024, what trends do you anticipate dominating the industry?

V.underground: Afro Tech and Deep House seem poised for a resurgence, exciting prospects explored in my recent album.

Proaudio: Your music often speaks to the soul. What's the essence behind this style for you?

V.underground: Music is a medium for conveying emotions. Infusing genuine emotions creates a deeper connection with the audience.

Proaudio: Any memorable experiences shaping your career perspective?

V.underground: The industry's challenges lead to rewarding experiences, teaching that success demands discipline, perseverance, and respect for talent.

Proaudio: Advice for emerging professionals in the industry?

V.underground: Discipline, patience, courage, perseverance, and respect for talent are crucial for success.

Proaudio: What's next for V.underground?

V.underground: New singles, remix projects, and an upcoming EP are in the pipeline, along with a new album for 2024 on Soul Candi Records.

V.Underground's Interview Unveils

a passionate journey steeped in dedication and authenticity. His latest tracks and album showcase a soulful evolution, capturing the essence of African sounds while embracing new-age influences. From lessons learned collaborating with industry greats to his meticulous approach as a Mixing & Mastering Engineer, his commitment to quality resonates deeply. The adaptation during the pandemic underscores resilience and foresight in navigating challenges.



proaudio

sound press | December 2023



Unveiling **POLAR**

Your Complete Sound Solution for Musicians, DJs, and Events

Experience sound at its finest with the POLAR column system, tailored to meet the needs of discerning musicians, DJs, entertainers, and event venues such as schools and churches.



Setting a new standard in its class, POLAR stands out with its exceptional sound quality, from deep bass to high frequencies.

Boasting an extensive range of features including an integrated mixer and Bluetooth 5, POLAR offers unparalleled versatility.

The POLAR 10 and 12 models feature a robust DSP, introducing user-friendly professional features:

- Tailor sound with ease using three sound modes (Music, Speech, DJ) and a semi-parametric Master EQ, allowing simple adjustments for optimal system sound. Save up to five presets for quick recall.
- Effortlessly transform POLAR into a delay speaker for large venues or outdoor events by adjusting distance settings via the integrated display, thanks to the DSP's automatic delay calculation.
- Conveniently access volume controls for channels, master volume, and subwoofer in any situation. Less frequent adjustments, like the semi-parametric master EQ, are easily managed via a rotary push-button control and clear display.
- A newly developed plug system ensures secure and cable-free connections between units, ensuring stability during use.

For those seeking simplicity without compromising on audio performance, the compact POLAR 8 provides exceptional sound quality perfect for smaller stages, rehearsal rooms, seminars, or garden parties. Connect two POLAR 8s via Bluetooth TWS for stereo streaming.

POLAR 10 surpasses expectations, outperforming many 12" systems in its price range, making it an ideal choice for solo performers, presenters, schools, and churches.

Meet the demands of DJ applications with the powerful bass of the POLAR 12, delivering superior performance even in high-demand scenarios like live drumming. The larger cabinet volume and 12" woofer offer exceptional bass and increased sound pressure, ideal for DJs and bands craving high dynamics.

Each system includes a padded transport bag for the column elements and a protective cover for the subwoofer, ensuring easy and safe transportation.













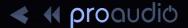
Pierre Pienaar's

journey through the electronic music scene showcases the power of persistence, individuality, and a relentless passion for music.

Proaudio: You've had a remarkable career in the electronic music scene with over 100 releases and remixes. What inspired you to pursue a career in music production and DJing?

Pierre Pienaar: I grew up surrounded by music, particularly the tracks from the late '90s to early 2000s, which initially sparked my interest in DJing. As I delved deeper into music, I started to envision how I'd modify tracks, teaching myself production in the early days of Fruity Loops.

Back then, resources were limited; it was all about trial and error and exchanging tips on message boards among amateur producers.



Proaudio: Your various production aliases—P.H.A.TT., Melodia, ReBirth—display diverse styles. Can you detail their differences in style and approach?

Pierre Pienaar: ReBirth was my introduction to Hard House, embracing the aggressive sounds I admired. P.H.A.TT. was born from my love for Hard Trance, propelling my international career and touring across the UK, New Zealand, and Australia. Melodia explores deeper, melodic trance and house. Pierre Pressure dabbles in more commercial, radiofriendly music, while my releases under my own name embody pure trance and secured a UK Top 40 Dance hit.

Proaudio: Your music's been featured on major labels like Universal, Sony/BMG, and Warner. How do you maintain creative independence while working with these labels?

Pierre Pienaar: With remix requests for these labels, creative freedom is often granted, as they seek your signature sound. However, labels have distinct sounds, sometimes guiding adjustments to fit their brand. To retain independence, I opt for one-off deals per track rather than exclusive contracts, allowing me to explore and release elsewhere if needed.

Proaudio: Heading Nukleuz Green must have impacted your music production and career. How did it influence you?

Pierre Pienaar: Leading Nukleuz Green provided opportunities to work with big names in the scene, offering insight into the music industry's inner workings and what A&R managers seek in demos. It significantly boosted my career by allowing official remixes for prominent artists.

Proaudio: Could you share insights into your journey from Namibia to becoming a prominent figure in EDM? Any significant milestones or challenges?

Pierre Pienaar: The journey remains challenging, especially lacking a local following for my genre. I sought opportunities abroad, mailing CDs to the UK and Germany initially, which was financially taxing. However, persistence paid off—I landed my first UK label signing in 2003, followed by airplay on Ministry of Sound and BBC Radio 1. Gradual progress and consistency have been my guiding principles.

Proaudio: How do the endorsements and support from influential DJs impact your creative process and motivation?

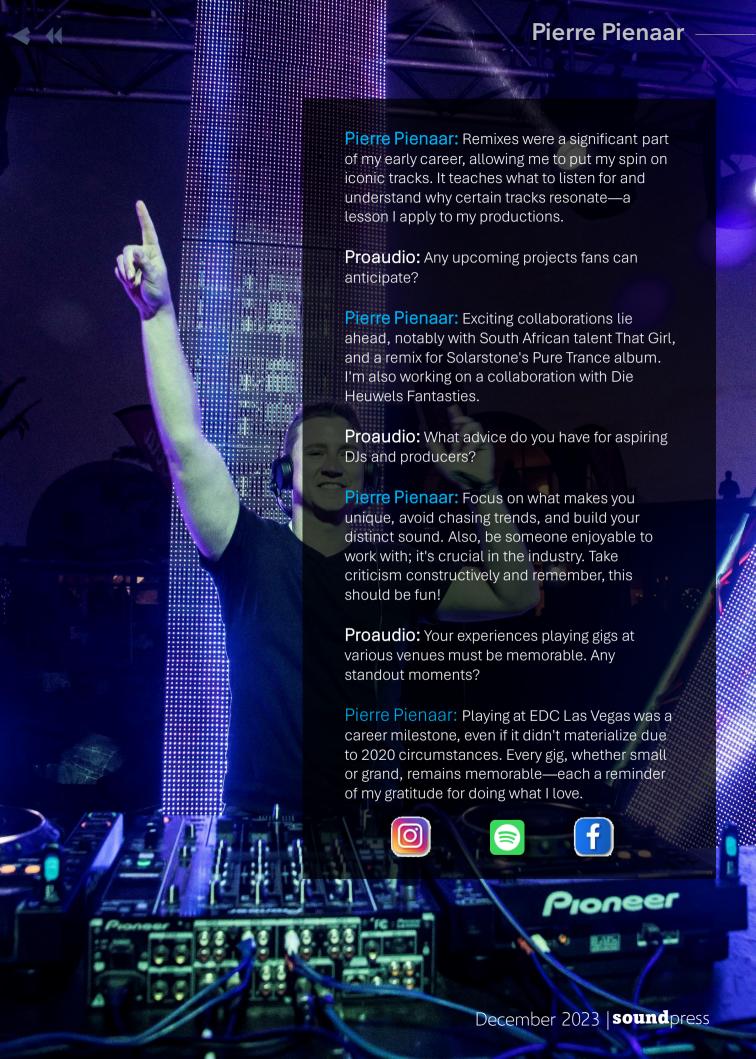
Pierre Pienaar: Influential DJs' support doesn't shape my creative process; I produce based on my inspiration, not aiming for specific label or DJ endorsements.

Unexpectedly, the tracks I least expect to gain support often do. Their encouragement significantly motivates me, rapidly growing my audience.

Proaudio: With your involvement in various music genres, how do you balance creativity among different projects?

Pierre Pienaar: My wide-ranging musical tastes provide inspiration from various genres. When creating, I don't consciously assign a project to a specific alias—I build around the initial idea that springs to mind, regardless of genre.

Proaudio: Remixing tracks for artists like Bob Marley and Mauro Picotto—how does this process broaden your musical horizons?





DM12 and DM16





Exceptional Studio Powerhouses





Midas stands tall for delivering top-notch quality and unparalleled sound performance. The DM12 and DM16 are the latest additions to Midas' lineup, combining exceptional audio finesse, versatility, and affordability in compact, studiograde mixers.

DM12:

COMPACT BRILLIANCE

The DM12 is a compact marvel designed to seamlessly integrate into any stage or studio setup while maintaining sonic prowess. It boasts 8 Midas microphone preamplifiers known for their transparent, low-noise, and high-headroom design. These preamps, coupled with true +48 V Phantom Power, enhance its versatility for a wide range of recording needs.

Featuring 12 channels, including 8 mono and 2 stereo, the DM12 comes equipped with TRS Line Inputs, mono channel Inserts, and a 3-band EQ with a mid-frequency sweep. With 2 switchable pre/post-fader aux sends, 2 monitor outs, and 2-track RCA I/O, the DM12 emerges as a fully-fledged analogue powerhouse, suitable for studio recordings or live performances.

DM16:

ELEVATING AUDIO EXPERIENCE

Expanding on the DM12's foundation, the DM16 brings a remarkable 12 award-winning Midas microphone preamplifiers. Maintaining the studio-quality sound Midas is acclaimed for, the DM16 offers even greater versatility with 16 channels - 12 mono and 2 stereo.

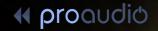
Building upon its predecessor, the DM16 features TRS Line Inputs on all channels, mono channel Inserts, and a signature 3-band EQ with a midfrequency sweep. Additionally, it comes equipped with 2 pre/post-fader aux sends, ensuring a more comprehensive and tailored mixing experience.

Both the DM12 and DM16 boast rugged construction, ensuring durability for portable applications without compromising quality. Precision long-life faders and an auto-ranging universal switch-mode power supply further accentuate their reliability and adaptability in any audio setup.

A TESTAMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The Midas DM12 and DM16 exemplify the pinnacle of studio and live performance mixing consoles. Their combination of award-winning preamplifiers, comprehensive EQ controls, and versatile input/output configurations make them indispensable tools for audio engineers, musicians, and enthusiasts alike.

With these compact marvels, Midas reaffirms its position as an industry leader in delivering uncompromised sound quality and functionality.



RM-414T-EVO 11

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT BASS CABINET





Power, Precision, and Portability Redefined

Don't be deceived by its lightweight build; the Ashdown Rootmaster EVO 414T packs a commanding punch with its 600-watt output, delivering the signature Ashdown sound characterized by unparalleled precision and depth. At its core lies four custom-designed 10" speakers, ensuring not just audibility but an immersive bass experience that resonates through every note.

What truly distinguishes this cabinet is its adaptability. With a built-in high-frequency tweeter, you wield complete authority over your high-end frequencies through a convenient three-way switch—seamlessly toggle between hi, low, or opt to switch it off entirely, tailoring your sonic landscape precisely to your preferences.

Crafted from lightweight plywood and loaded with Ashdown's White Line speakers, this cabinet unleashes exceptional attack, crystalline clarity, and a seismic low-end that's bound to enrapture your audience. Its distinct high-quality finish isn't just an aesthetic touch; it's a testament to the cabinet's exceptional sonic performance and visual appeal.

KEY SPECIFICATIONS:

Power Handling: 600 Watts

• Speaker Configuration: 4 x 10 + HF Unit

Frequency Response: 60Hz - 20kHz

Impedance: 4 Ohms

Dimensions (H x W x D mm): 615 x 603 x 336

Weight (kg): 25.7

Crafted with meticulous engineering, this cabinet embodies a breakthrough in compact design, tipping the scales at a mere 21kg (46lbs), ensuring it stands as the ideal companion for the gigging musician on the move.

In the realm of bass cabinets, the Ashdown Rootmaster EVO 414T emerges not just as a tool for musicians but as a testament to innovation, where power meets precision in a portable package that redefines performance standards.



Gibson vs. Epiphone

The Les Paul Special Showdown

Delving into the guitar world, the comparison between Gibson and Epiphone's Les Paul Special models becomes a crucial exploration of craftsmanship, quality, and worth.

The examination of these iconic guitars sheds light on their distinctive characteristics and potential value.





Evaluating Craftsmanship:

Gibson vs. Epiphone

Body, Construction, and Finish

Initial assessments revealed middling resonance in both guitars, indicating an average tonal quality. While both boasted mahogany bodies and necks, their finishes varied. The Gibson showcased a TV Yellow finish with gloss nitro cellulose lacquer, offering glimpses of the mahogany grain.

In contrast, the Epiphone featured an opaque yellow hue under gloss polyurethane. While Gibson excelled in finish quality, both instruments displayed solid construction, albeit requiring fret polishing and fretboard cleaning.

Verdict:

Gibson for Finish, No Clear Winner for Construction

WEIGHT

A slight weight difference emerged, with the Gibson marginally lighter than the Epiphone. However, once strapped on, this variation seemed negligible, making the weight distinction inconsequential.

Verdict: Gibson

TUNERS

Both guitars featured Kluson-style tuners, neither exhibiting outstanding performance. The Gibson's tuners operated smoother compared to the stiffer, less refined feel of the Epiphone's. Nevertheless, both fell short of meeting modern tuning standards.

Verdict:

No Clear Winner

Necks

Examinations revealed straight necks in both models, with marginally better action on the Gibson. Fret materials remained consistent with nickel frets, requiring similar sanding and polishing for optimal playability. While the Epiphone neck felt slightly chunkier, neither neck caused discomfort during play.

Verdict:

No Clear Winner

Pots, Hardware, and Pickups

The Epiphone boasted smoother volume and tone pots, potentially utilizing higher-grade CTS pots, while the Gibson's felt less refined. Both suffered from tone pots dramatically cutting volume and treble when rolled off. Similarities were apparent in hardware, but the Epiphone's compensated tailpiece surpassed the standard one on the Gibson.

Regarding pickups, subjective evaluations indicated brighter P90s on the Gibson and warmer, bass-rich ones on the Epiphone.

However, the absence of specific technical data regarding resistance, impedance, and output current hindered a conclusive assessment.

Verdict:

Epiphone for Hardware, No Clear Winner for Pickups

Strings and Overall Conclusion

Initial strings on both guitars were subpar, necessitating immediate replacement. Yet, despite the Gibson's surprising quality, it struggled to justify its significantly higher price compared to the Epiphone.

Verdict:

Epiphone

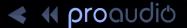
THE FINAL VERDICT

In the quest for a Les Paul Special, the Epiphone emerges as the preferred choice. Its overall superior performance and exceptional value overshadow the Gibson. While the Gibson showcased unexpected quality, it failed to justify its substantial price difference.

Consideration for potential upgrades to the Epiphone's pickups and tuners could significantly enhance its performance. Seeking expert advice, such as consulting professional pickup craftsmen, could elevate the instrument's sound and playability.

Special stands out as the wiser investment, offering a superior playing experience without compromising quality and substantially reducing the financial burden for prospective buyers.





The HT Club 40 MK III

Your Gateway to Music Mastery

When it comes to finding that perfect blend of power, versatility, and tone, the HT Club 40 MK III stands as a beacon of innovation in the realm of valve amps. It's not just an amplifier; it's a symphony of sonic craftsmanship designed to cater to the needs of musicians across all settings – from intimate studios to roaring club-sized venues.

A MASTERPIECE OF ENGINEERING

At its core, the HT Club 40 MK III boasts a robust 40W EL34-driven power amplifier that exudes groundbreaking clean punch and dynamics. But it's not just about sheer power; it's about control. With two channels and four footswitchable voices, this amp grants guitarists unprecedented command over their sound.

VERSATILITY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The boutique clean channel is a testament to precision, featuring expanded tone controls that effortlessly cut through the mix, ensuring your guitar tone shines brightly in a full band scenario. Switch to the overdrive channel, and you're greeted with an array of options – from the classic crunch to the super saturated lead – all

INFINITE SHAPE FEATURE (ISF) AND BEYOND

The HT Club 40 MK III isn't just about presets; it's about shaping your sonic identity. The patented Infinite Shape Feature (ISF) adds another dimension to your sound, allowing you to tailor your tone to suit any style or mood.

ADAPTABILITY REDEFINED

Flexibility is key, and this amp understands that. The Power Reduction feature empowers guitarists to attenuate the power down to a mere 10 percent of its 40 watts, making it equally suitable for home practice sessions and studio recordings without compromising on its



essence





THE MODERN MUSICIAN'S ARSENAL

Packed with features like a digital reverb with Dark/Light switch, speaker-emulated output, effects loop, and USB connectivity for seamless recording, the HT Club 40 MK III transcends traditional expectations. It doesn't just keep up; it sets the bar higher.

PORTABILITY MEETS STYLE

Compact in size yet colossal in performance, the HT Club 40 MK III is engineered for portability without sacrificing its cool boutique styling. It's not just an amplifier; it's an embodiment of sophistication and convenience rolled into one.

For the discerning guitarist in search of an amplifier that doesn't just amplify sound but elevates it to new heights, the HT Club 40 MK III stands tall.

Whether you're an aspiring artist experimenting in your bedroom or a seasoned performer commanding a stage, this amp is your gateway to unlocking the true potential of your musical expression.





NTSIKI NTSELE MISIMI MISETE

Hailing from the vibrant landscapes of Empangeni in North East Kwa-Zulu, Ntsiki Ntsele embodies the essence of musical virtuosity. His love affair with the piano ignited in the halls of his father's church, where his nimble fingers first danced across the keys, orchestrating harmonies that hinted at his prodigious talent.

After matriculation, Ntsiki's unwavering passion steered him toward the pursuit of musical education. His journey led him to Central Johannesburg College, where he delved deep into the realm of Popular Music, later graduating with an accolade in Music.

A maestro known for blending Gospel, Soul, Jazz, and Pop influences into a symphony of his own creation, Ntsiki stands as a sought-after artist in the industry. His repertoire bears the indelible mark of musical luminaries like George Duke, Robert Glasper, and Kiefer, infusing his performances with a rare, multifaceted brilliance.

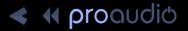
Ntsiki's collaborative spirit has seen him grace stages and studios alongside South African luminaries. His repertoire boasts collaborations with luminaries such as Unathi Msengane, the enchanting songbird Kelly Khumalo, the soulful Kabomo, Afrotraction, and the mellifluous saxophonist Ayo Solanke.

A seasoned traveler of musical landscapes, Ntsiki has woven his melodies into the tapestry of festivals such as Ugu Jazz Fest, Joy of Jazz, Durban Music Fest, and a plethora of corporate events. His recorded works echo his versatile talent, having lent his mastery to projects with Kabomo, Unathi Msengane, and the emerging talent, Katlego Lebogo.

Beyond the borders of South Africa, Ntsiki continues to traverse musical terrains, sharing his passion and expertise with diverse artists and bands. His magnetic presence and unparalleled skillset make him a beacon for aspiring pianists, inspiring the next generation of musical prodigies.

Currently, Ntsiki continues his musical odyssey, gracing stages both local and international. His services as an entertainer at corporate events not only captivate audiences but also ignite a passion for music in the hearts of emerging talents.

In his melodic journey, Ntsiki Ntsele stands as a testament to the transformative power of music, weaving a symphony that resonates with the soul and transcends boundaries.



MUSICAL EXPRESSION

Pianos stand as an iconic centerpiece, channeling the artist's emotions into beautifully crafted notes. Among the myriad choices available, the Nord range of pianos emerges as a beacon, offering musicians an unparalleled blend of innovation, versatility, and exceptional performance.







Unmatched Artistry and Innovation
Nord pianos have earned their place at
the pinnacle of musical instruments
through a fusion of cutting-edge
technology and a profound understanding
of musicians' needs. Crafted by the
esteemed Swedish manufacturer Clavia,
these instruments exemplify a
commitment to sonic excellence and
technological innovation.

An Astonishing Array of Sounds

What sets the Nord pianos apart is their diverse range of sounds, meticulously sampled from some of the most iconic and sought-after instruments in the world.

From the warm, resonant tones of grand pianos to the vintage allure of electric pianos, organs, and synthesizers, the Nord series encapsulates an entire orchestra within a single instrument. Musicians have at their fingertips an astonishing palette of sounds to explore and weave into their compositions.

Unrivalled Performance Capabilities
The Nord pianos aren't just about sonic diversity; they're designed for unparalleled performance capabilities. With features like intuitive interfaces, customizable settings, and seamless integration into studio setups or live performances, these instruments empower musicians to unleash their creativity effortlessly.

Portability and Playability

Portability is a key feature of the Nord range, offering musicians the freedom to carry their musical prowess wherever they go. Whether it's a studio recording session, a live gig, or a practice session at home, these pianos are designed to be lightweight without compromising on playability or sound quality.

Innovation in Action

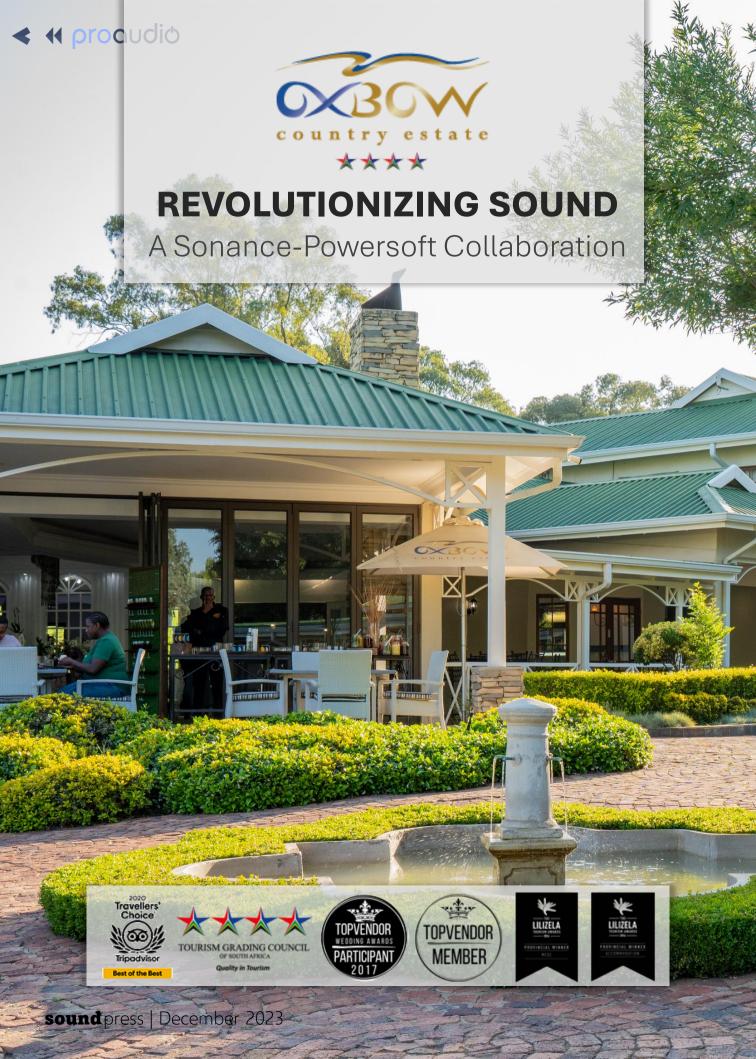
The Nord range continually pushes boundaries, introducing new technologies and updates that resonate with musicians worldwide. Their commitment to staying at the forefront of innovation ensures that musicians have access to the latest advancements in sound engineering and performance.

THE NORD EXPERIENCE: A Testimony from Artists

Across the music industry, artists hail the Nord range for its exceptional quality and versatility. Renowned musicians from various genres embrace Nord pianos for their reliability, authenticity, and the ability to effortlessly adapt to diverse musical styles and preferences.

Choosing a piano is a deeply personal decision for musicians, resonating with their artistic aspirations and musical journeys. The Nord range stands tall as not just a piano, but a gateway to unlimited possibilities—a companion for musicians seeking to explore, create, and transcend boundaries.

Whether you're a professional pianist, a touring artist, a studio musician, or an aspiring talent, the Nord range of pianos beckons—a catalyst for innovation, a vessel for expression, and a testament to the pursuit of musical perfection.



Nestled amidst the picturesque scenery, OXBOW COUNTRY ESTATE, established in 2006, stands as a revered venue catering to a discerning clientele seeking exquisite weddings and top-notch conference facilities.

However, despite its grandeur, the estate faced a recurring dilemma in the realm of sound production.

The challenges were apparent:

late arrivals of sound suppliers, disorderly setups, overpowering sound levels disturbing both guests and neighboring areas, painstakingly slow pack-up processes, and a setup image that failed to harmonize with the estate's sophisticated ambiance. The quest for a solution led to a visionary approach – a fixed installed sound system, seamlessly integrated into the estate's infrastructure.

Fame Productions, renowned for their exceptional event expertise through Fame Weddings since 2001, took the reins to transform the auditory experience at Oxbow Country Estate. Their solution was a strategic installation of a Sonance sound system complemented by a Powersoft amplifier, meticulously tailored to meet the estate's needs.

The Sonance speakers included four PS-S83T 8-inch white surface mount speakers and six PS-S63T 6-inch white surface mount speakers, discreetly positioned to remain inconspicuous yet deliver an unparalleled auditory experience. Paired with the Powersoft Duecanali 804 DSP amplifier, renowned for its cutting-edge technology and superior performance, the setup promised an impeccable sound landscape.

The installation was a testament to precision and efficiency, completed within a mere two days. The outcome was nothing short of a sonic revolution – an evenly distributed, high-quality sound that enveloped indoor spaces, catering seamlessly to gatherings of up to 200 attendees.

The impact was transformative. The estate's management exuded excitement, envisioning a future adorned with flawless events facilitated by an in-house sound solution. The guests were captivated by the newfound audio finesse, the seamless integration, and the absence of visual clutter, as cables disappeared into obscurity.

Oxbow Country Estate now stands at the brink of a new era, where the symphony of sound seamlessly harmonizes with its upscale ambiance, setting the stage for unforgettable events. With the strategic collaboration between Sonance, Powersoft, and the proficiency of Fame Productions, Oxbow Country Estate has found its auditory prowess, promising a melodic journey for all who grace its halls.



In the installation at Oxbow Country Estate by Fame Productions, the heart of the sound system was powered by Sonance speakers and a Powersoft amplifier, meticulously selected to transform the auditory experience at the venue.



PS-S63T 6-inch Surface Mount Speakers (6 units):

Featuring a slightly smaller 6-inch size, these surface mount speakers, also in a white finish, provide additional coverage across the estate. Their seamless integration ensures an immersive sound without compromising the venue's sophisticated ambiance.



PS-S83T 8-inch Surface Mount Speakers (4 units):

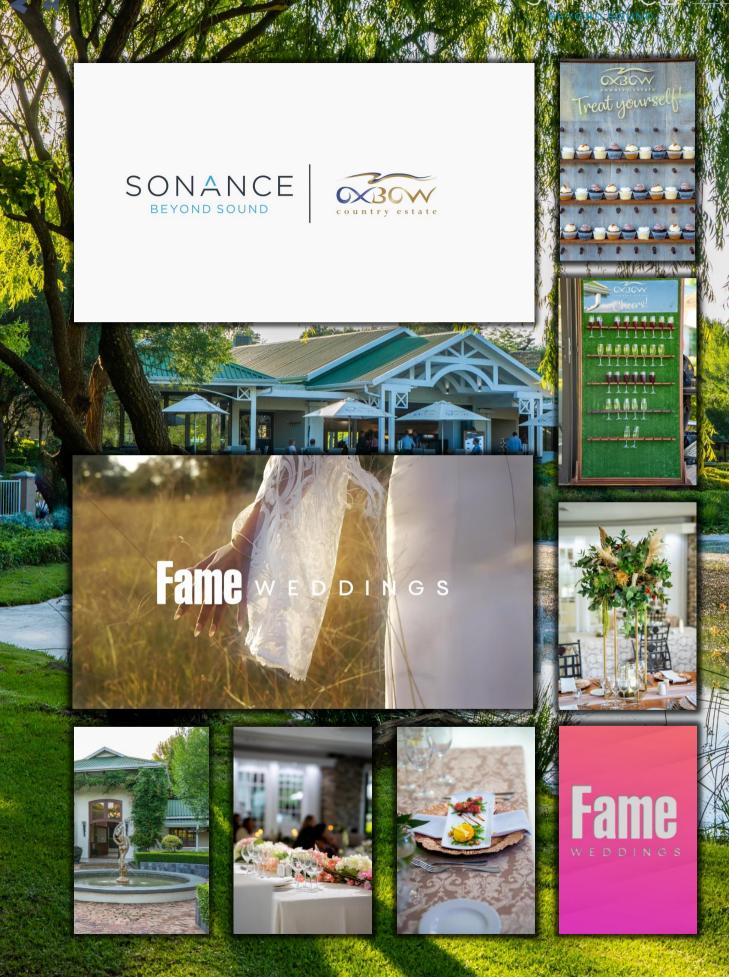
These speakers boast an 8-inch size and a surface mount design in an elegant white finish. Positioned strategically, they offer a discreet yet powerful audio delivery, ensuring a high-quality sound experience throughout the venue.



Duecanali 804 DSP:

The Powersoft Duecanali 804 DSP amplifier is the powerhouse behind the setup. Known for its technological prowess and superior performance, this amplifier delivers the necessary precision and power distribution essential for driving the Sonance speakers. Equipped with advanced DSP capabilities, it ensures optimal sound management, contributing to an even, high-quality audio distribution for gatherings of up to 200 individuals indoors.

This carefully curated combination of Sonance speakers and the Powersoft amplifier not only resolved the estate's sound-related challenges but also elevated the auditory landscape to match the upscale nature of the venue. The installation's success lies in the seamless integration, meticulous positioning, and superior technological capabilities of these audio components, promising a transformative experience for events hosted at Oxbow Country Estate.





THE RISE OF SPHERE: RESPECTACLE IN ENTERTA



In the heart of Paradise,
Nevada, the landscape of
entertainment has
undergone a seismic shift
with the emergence of
Sphere, an

ARCHITECTURAL

MARVEL that transcends the conventional boundaries of music venues.

Conceptualized and brought to life by the MADISON SQUARE GARDEN Company, this spherical spectacle has reshaped the realm of live entertainment, setting unprecedented standards in immersive experiences.



Initially christened the MSG Sphere and designed by the renowned architectural firm Populous, this visionary project took flight in February 2018. An ambitious partnership between the Madison Square Garden Company and Las Vegas Sands Corporation birthed the concept, set against the backdrop of the pulsating Las Vegas Strip.

Sphere's architectural grandeur and technological prowess instantly set it apart. Boasting an 18,600-seat capacity, this 366-foot-high and 516-foot-wide structure stands as a testament to cutting-edge innovation. The venue's interior showcases the world's largest LED screen, a colossal 16K resolution wraparound display spanning 160,000 square feet—an immersive canvas that elevates the audience experience to unparalleled heights.

However, the journey to bring Sphere to life wasn't without its challenges. Construction, which commenced in 2019, faced setbacks during the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic, causing interruptions due to supply chain disruptions. These obstacles, coupled with the project's evolving design enhancements, escalated the estimated cost from \$1.2 billion to a staggering \$2.3 billion, solidifying Sphere's status as the most expensive entertainment venue in Las Vegas history.

From groundbreaking ceremonies attended by industry luminaries like Sheldon Adelson to the meticulous assembly of the venue's structure—every stage of Sphere's construction was a testament to human ingenuity and technical excellence. The installation of the mammoth LED screen, the steel framing, and the external exosphere adorned with 580,000 square feet of LED displays were pivotal milestones in this architectural odyssey.



The grand unveiling of Sphere on September 29, 2023, marked a pivotal moment in entertainment history. The inauguration, graced by the iconic Irish rock band U2 in a 36-show residency titled U2:UV Achtung Baby Live at Sphere, set the stage for a new era of live performances. The debut resonated with grandeur and innovation, setting the standard for the venue's future endeavors.

Beyond music, Sphere has embraced diverse entertainment forms, hosting the premiere of Darren Aronofsky's docu-film "Postcard from Earth" on October 6, 2023, showcasing its versatility as a multifaceted cultural hub.

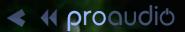
The allure of Sphere lies not only in its structural magnificence but also in its revolutionary technology. The spatial audio system, comprising 1,600 Holoplot X1 speakers, and 167,000 speaker drivers behind the LED panels, creates an acoustic wonderland that envelops audiences in a symphony of sound.

Its 4D capabilities, including scent and wind effects, further amplify the sensory experience, blurring the lines between reality and entertainment.

Sphere's colossal LED displays extend far beyond mere aesthetics, serving as canvases for dynamic storytelling and visual extravaganzas. From vividly depicting images of Mars to transforming into Halloween jack-o'-lanterns or Christmas snow globes, these displays encapsulate the essence of innovation and creativity.

While primarily envisioned for concerts and award shows, Sphere's versatility extends to hosting ring sports events, esports tournaments, and a myriad of entertainment spectacles. With plans for a pedestrian bridge and potential Monorail station connections, the venue embodies accessibility and convenience for its visitors.

As the curtain rises on Sphere, its impact on the landscape of live entertainment transcends conventional boundaries, heralding a new chapter in the convergence of technology, artistry, and audience engagement. Sphere is not merely a venue; it's a testament to the boundless possibilities of imagination, innovation, and the relentless pursuit of redefining the live entertainment experience.



Thank You and

from **Proaudio Sou**

As we wrap up another incredible year filled with melodies, beats, and the rhythmic pulse of innovation, we take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you—our readers, our artists, and our industry partners—for being part of this resonant journey with Proaudio **Sound Press** Magazine.

The past year has been nothing short of spectacular, thanks to the vibrant array of artists who graced our pages, filling them with their exceptional talent and passion. To Sir LSG, DJ MIA, Dean Fuel, V. Underground, Pierre Pienaar, Ntisiki Ntsele, and countless others who shared their musical stories with us, we express our sincerest appreciation for enriching our magazine with your brilliance.

Moreover, our journey wouldn't have been as melodious without the insightful reviews, compelling articles, and in-depth explorations of the newest, groundbreaking products that continue to redefine the soundscape. From the revolutionary Pioneer DJ controllers to the immersive portable audio speakers, gaming headphones that transport us into realms of sound, power concert-grade mixers that elevate performances, and the exploration of turntables, column array speakers, guitar amplifiers, drum microphones, and so much more we've been privileged to showcase these cutting-edge innovations.

easons Greetings

nd Press Magazine

As the festive season descends upon us, adorned with lights, laughter, and the unmistakable jingle of holiday cheer, we take this opportunity to wish you all a Christmas filled with warmth, harmony, and the joyous resonance of music. May the melodies of the season bring serenity to your hearts and harmony to your homes.

So, here's to the incredible artists, illuminating reviews, and astounding products that have graced our journey together this year. Your support, passion, and unwavering enthusiasm for music have made every note in our magazine resonate louder and brighter.

From all of us at
Proaudio Sound Press
Magazine, thank you for
being part of our
melodious expedition.
Here's to a joyous
Christmas season and
a harmonious year
ahead, filled with music
that touches our souls
and ignites our spirits.

Wishing you a resounding and FANTASTIC Christmas!







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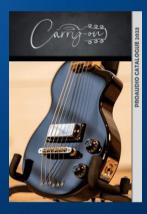








































Without Great QUALITY

it does NOT matter what something COSTS...

