



THE **hi-fi** SHOW

The ultimate high-end hi-fi experience *Live*

Souvenir Show Guide 2016

oppo

Award-winning personal audio
& home cinema innovation

PLANAR MAGNETIC HEADPHONES

PM-1 PM-2 PM-3



HEADPHONE AMPLIFIERS & DACs

HA-1 HA-2SE

UNIVERSAL BLU-RAY PLAYERS

WHAT'S NEXT?



OPPO have been collecting awards and pushing Blu-ray forward since it began. What's next!?

Blu-ray



SONICA WI-FI SPEAKERS

NEW!



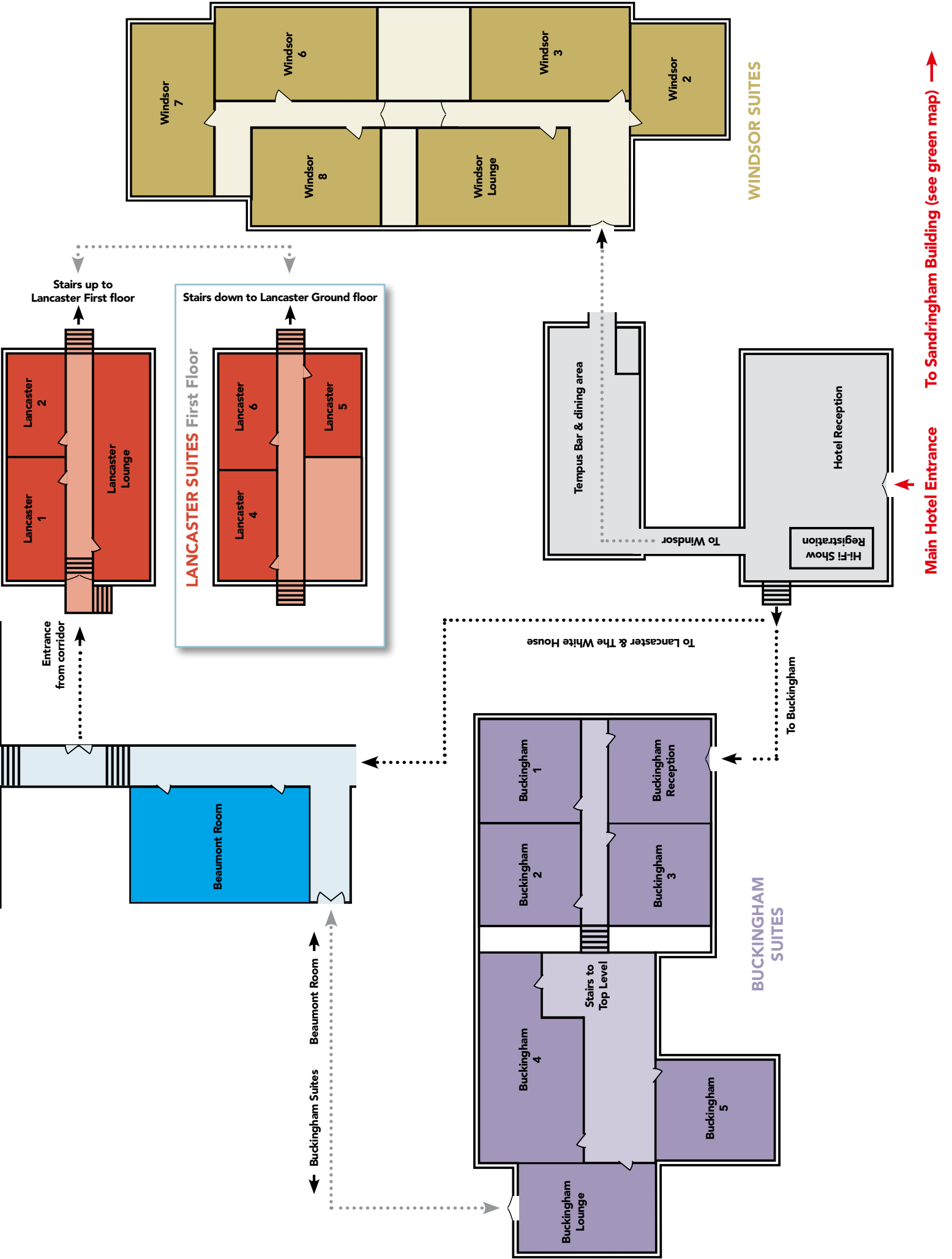
oppodigital.co.uk

THE hi-fi SHOW

The ultimate high-end hi-fi experience *Live*

FLOOR PLAN





EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors by Brand

(correct at time of press)

Abbyss abysheadphones.com	Sandringham Hall
Acoustic Signature acoustic-signature.com	Lancaster 6
AKG akg.com	Sandringham Hall
Albedo albedo-silver.com	Buckingham 3/Sandringham 6
Alpha Design Labs adl-av.com	Windsor 3
Analysis Plus analysis-plus.com	White House Hastings
Aqua Hi-Fi aquahifi.com	Lancaster 6
Artesania artesianiaaudio.com	Windsor 7/Lounge
Atacama Audio atacama-audio.co.uk	White House Morley
Atlas Cables atlas-cables.com	Lancaster Lounge
Audeze audeze.com	Sandringham Hall
Audio Alchemy audioalchemy.com	Windsor 6
Audio Analogue audioanalogue.com	Buckingham 1/Sandringham 2
Audio Detail mingda.co.uk	Buckingham 3
Audio Note audioteam.co.uk	Lancaster 5/Sandringham 5
AudioQuest audioquest.com	Sandringham Hall
Audio Research Corp audioresearch.com	Windsor 7
Aurorasound aurorasound.jp	Sandringham 4
Avantgarde Acoustic avantgarde-acoustic.de	White House Ashbrook
Ayre Acoustics ayre.com	Windsor 6
Bel Canto belcantodesign.com	White House Hastings
Blue Horizon bluehorizonideas.com	Windsor 3
Boenicke Audio boenicke-audio.ch	Lancaster 6
Boulder Amplifiers boulderamp.com	White House Hastings
Bowers & Wilkins bowers-wilkins.co.uk	Beaumont Room
Brinkmann brinkmann-audio.de	Windsor 6
Chasing The Dragon chasingthedragon.co.uk	Windsor 6
Chesky Records chesky.com	Sandringham 3
Chord Company chord.co.uk	White House Dining Room
Chord Electronics chordelectronics.co.uk	White House Dining Room
Classe Audio classeaudio.com	Beaumont Room
Clearaudio clearaudio.de	Windsor 3
Computer Audio Design computeraudiodesign.com	Lancaster 1
Constellation Audio constellationaudio.com	Windsor Lounge
Continuum Audio Labs continuumaudiolabs.com	Windsor 7
Convert Technologies entotem.com	White House Ashbrook
Copland copland.dk	Windsor 7
Crayon Audio crayon-audio.com	Lancaster 6
Criterion Audio criterionaudio.com	Sandringham Hall
Crystal Cable crystalcable.com	Windsor 7
D'Agostino Master Systems dagostinoinc.com	Windsor 7
DALI dali-uk.co.uk	Buckingham 5
darTZeel dartzeel.com	Windsor 7
dCS dcsLtd.co.uk	Windsor 8
Densen Audio Technologies densen.dk	Lancaster 6
Devialet devialet.com	White House Remenham
DS Audio ds-audio-w.biz	Windsor 3
EAT euroaudioteam.com	Windsor 7
ELAC elac.com	White House Remenham
Emerging UK emerginguk.com	Sandringham 8
EMME Speakers emmespeakers.com	Lancaster 6
Esoteric esoteric.jp	White House Morley
Etsuro Japan etsurojapan.com	Sandringham 4
Focal focal.com	Windsor 2
Furutech furutech.com	Windsor 3
GamuT Audio gamutaudio.com	Windsor 3/Lancaster 1
Gato Audio gato-audio.com	Lancaster 6
GigaWatt gigawatt.eu	Buckingham 3/Sandringham 6
GoldenEar Technologies goldenear.com	Buckingham 2
Grace Design gracedesign.com	Sandringham Hall
Harman/Kardon uk.harmankardon.com	Sandringham Hall
HECO heco-audio.de	Sandringham 4
Hidden Systems hiddensystems.co.uk	Sandringham 9
hORNS horns.pl	Buckingham 3/Sandringham 6
Icon Audio iconaudio.com	Lancaster 2
Inspire Hi-Fi inspirehifi.co.uk	Sandringham 1
IsoTek isoteksystems.com	Windsor 3
Jadis jadis-electronics.com	Windsor 7
JBL jbl.com	Buckingham 4/Sandringham Hall
J.Sikora jsikora.pl/en	Sandringham 6
KEF kef.com	White House Dining Room
KL Audio klaudio.com	Windsor 7
Kiseki kiseki-eu.com	Windsor 6
Koetsu absolutesounds.com	Windsor Lounge
Krell Industries krellonline.com	Windsor 7
Kronos Audio Products kronosaudio.com	Buckingham 1/Sandringham 2
Kubla-Sosna kubala-sosna.com	White House Hastings
Lampizator lampizator.eu	Buckingham 3/Sandringham 6
Larson Loudspeakers larsenhifi.com/en	Windsor 3
Lejonklou lejonklou.com	Sandringham 9
Lehmann Audio lehmannaudio.com	Sandringham 1
Luxman luxman.com	Buckingham 5
Lyra lyraaudio.com	Windsor 6
Magico magico.net	Windsor 7
Magnepan Inc magnepan.com	Sandringham 2/Windsor 6
Malvern Audio Research malvernaudioresearch.co.uk	Buckingham 3
Mark Levinson marklevinson.com	Buckingham 4
Martin Logan martinlogan.com	Windsor 7
Melco melco-audio.com	Buckingham Lounge
Merging Technologies mergingnadac.co.uk	Sandringham 8
Metronome Technologie metronome-technologie.com	Windsor 8
Ming Da mingda.co.uk	Buckingham 3
Missing Link missinglinkcables.co.uk/cables	Buckingham 3
Mola-Mola mola-mola.nl	Lancaster 4
Moon simaudio.com	Sandringham Hall
Music First Audio mfaudio.co.uk	Sandringham 5
Music On Vinyl musiconvinyl.com	Sandringham 3
Naim Audio naimaudio.com	Windsor 2
Nordost nordost.com	White House Morley
oBravo obravoaudio.com	Windsor 7
Opera Loudspeakers operaloudspeakers.com	Sandringham 1
Oppo oppodigital.co.uk	White House Griffith/Roxburghe
Perreux perreux.com	Lancaster 6
Planalogue planalogue.com	Buckingham Reception
Plato platoentertainment.com	White House Ashbrook
Plinius Audio pliniusaudio.com	White House Hastings
PrimaLuna primalluna.nl	Windsor 7
Primare primare.net	Buckingham 2
ProAc proac-loudspeakers.com	White House Morley
PS Audio psaudio.com	Sandringham 7
PSI Audio psiaudio.com	Sandringham 8
Pure Sound puresound.info	Sandringham 4
Puritan Audio Labs puritanaudiolabs.com	Sandringham 10
Quad quad-hifi.co.uk	Buckingham 5
Raidho raidho.dk	Buckingham 1
ReQuest Audio request.com	Windsor Lounge
Revel revelspeakers.com	Buckingham 2/Buckingham 4
Rogue Audio rogueaudio.com	Sandringham 5
Scansonic scansonic.dk	Buckingham 1
Sennheiser en-uk.sennheiser.com	Sandringham Hall
Siltech siltechcables.com	Windsor 7
Skogrand Cables skograndcables.com	Sandringham 6
SME sme-audio.com	White House Hastings
Sonus faber sonusfaber.com	Windsor 7/8
Soundkaos soundkaos.com	Lancaster 1
Soundsmith sound-smith.com	Lancaster 6
Stamford Audio stamfordaudio.co.uk	Sandringham 3
Stax stax.co.jp	Windsor 6
Straightwire Cables straightwire.com	Buckingham 2/Buckingham 4
STST stst-hifi.de	Sandringham 4
Sumiko sumikoaudio.net	Windsor 6
TechDAS techdas.jp	Windsor 7/Lounge
Theoretica theoretica.us	Windsor 7
Theta Digital thetadigital.com	Windsor 7
Theme One Records dawn@harris1949.fsnet.co.uk	Sandringham 3
Torus Power toruspower.com	Buckingham 2/Buckingham 4
Totem Acoustic totemacoustic.com	Sandringham 9
Transfiguration transfigurationcartridges.co.uk	Sandringham 2
Transparent Cable transparentcable.com	Windsor 8/Lounge
Triangle Loudspeakers triangle-fr.com	Lancaster 6
Trilogy Audio Systems trilogyaudio.com	Windsor 6
Van den Hul vanden Hul.com	Buckingham 1/Sandringham 2
Verictum verictum.pl	Sandringham 6
Vinyl Passion vinylpassion.com	Buckingham 3
Vivid Audio vividaudio.com	Lancaster 4
Vovox vovox.ch/en	Lancaster 6
Wadia wadia.com	Windsor 7
Weiss weiss.ch	White House Hastings
Wilson Audio wilsonaudio.com	Windsor 8
YG Acoustics yg-acoustics.com	White House Hastings
Yter laboratorium-yter.com	Windsor 7



Welcome

Listening to music is one of life's great pleasures and the very best hi-fi equipment aspires to make that experience as real and compelling as possible. The Hi-Fi Show *Live* 2016, the UK's largest speciality high-end audio event, is organised by the expert team behind *Hi-Fi News & Record Review* magazine and aims to combine as many of these experiences together under one roof. The world's finest separates are on demonstration at The Hi-Fi Show *Live* 2016, so whether you prefer your music streamed from a server or spun from a vinyl LP, we aim to tempt every enthusiast with the cream of all product genres.

In between the exclusive demonstrations and special events in our bigger suites, don't forget to walk across to the Sandringham building where the music plays all day and the party lasts even longer... We also have a bar and dining lounge so there'll be plenty of opportunities to take a break and compare notes with fellow enthusiasts, including some of your favourite *Hi-Fi News* contributors!

Paul Miller – Hi-Fi Show *Live* 2016 Organiser

International media supporters of The Hi-Fi Show *Live* 2016



EXHIBITORS Windsor Suites

Windsor 2

UK EXCLUSIVE

Focal Loudspeakers

In **Windsor 2**, Focal will be demonstrating all three loudspeakers from its premium **Sopra** range, which combines the company's superb in-house drive unit technology with cabinet construction as innovative as the striking design. Star of the room will undoubtedly be its **Sopra No.3** floorstander [*HFN* Sept '16], but the French company will also be showing the smaller **Sopra No.2** model, and the standmount **No.1**.

All three use a combination of Focal's own W-cone mid and bass units, with a sandwich construction combining layers of glass fibre either side of a foam core, and the beryllium-dome tweeter made in clean-room conditions at the Saint-Etienne factory. The mid and bass

drivers use the company's Tuned Mass Damper technology and a Neutral Inductance Circuit to reduce distortion, while the tweeter is mounted in an Infinite Horn Loading assembly in the 'collar' of the speakers, giving gradual absorption of unwanted rearward radiation for a more precise sound.

Finally, the striking lacquered cabinets, made in Focal's own plant in Burgundy, ensure the speakers make a strong visual statement – whether you choose them in Walnut veneer, or high-gloss Black Lacquer, Carrara White, Imperial Red or Electric Orange.

At the **Hi-Fi Show Live**, the **Sopra** speakers will be driven by a complete **Naim** system comprising the **NDS/555PS**, **NAC 252/SuperCap** and **NAP 300 DR** all on **Naim Fraim** supports with a full loom of **Super Lumina** interconnects and speaker cable.



Windsor 3

UK EXCLUSIVE

Sound Foundations

For 2016, the fabulous new **Zodiac** loudspeaker from Danish brand **GamuT** will make its very first European appearance. Described as a 'cost-no-object masterpiece', only 12 pairs of the **Zodiac** will be hand-built each year, using a cabinet made from no fewer than 27 layers of wood of varying thicknesses, and all-new drive units.

The new neodymium tweeter, made in Denmark, extends the frequency response all the way out to 60kHz, while the bass drivers take things down to 16Hz, and yet the speaker is designed to have the agility and speed of a standmount design, and comes complete with a massive spike plinth adjustable to suit



the listening distance. This massive system will also include the **GamuT D3i** preamplifier and **M250i** mono power

amplifiers, with **Genesis One** power conditioning from **IsoTek**, **DeMag-Alpha** and **SKFilter** accessories from **Furutech** and equipment support from **Blue Horizon's Pro Rack** and **Sanctum**.

Clearaudio's towering **Statement v2** turntable, with linear-tracking tonearm, will provide the sounds from vinyl with **DS Audio's** cutting edge **DS Master 1** optical cartridge, which uses an LED to detect stylus vibration, also on demonstration. You can discover more about this pick-up's radical technology at the **Hi-Fi Show Live** thanks to **DS Audio** CEO, Tetsuaki Aoyagi, who is joining us from Japan to answer your questions.

A second reference system also includes debuts from Swedish **Larsen Loudspeakers**, **Clearaudio's Master Innovation** and **Innovation Basic** decks. You can also hear first hand from **Clearaudio's** Robert and Veronika Suchy on their no-compromise approach to turntable design.

EXHIBITORS Windsor Suites

Windsor 6

UK EXCLUSIVE
Symmetry

Representing a wealth of established high-end audio brands from across the globe, including **Audio Alchemy**, **Ayre**, **Brinkmann**, **Lyra**, **Stax**, **Stereolab**, **Sumiko**, **Tri-Planar** and **Trilogy**, **Symmetry's** space promises to have something to entice every audiophile. **Audio Alchemy**, the company long-famed for its 1980s **DDS CD transport** and **DAC-In-The-Box**, which have since passed into



audio legend as affordable high-quality upgrades for first-generation CD players, is back at the **Hi-Fi Show**

Live in its latest incarnation for a third year. Fronted by the irrepressible Peter Madnick (who will be present during the Show), it will have new products on display including the final version of its much-anticipated **Roon-ready DMP-1** music player, along with the full range of **Audio Alchemy** separates.

The **Symmetry** room will also see the first UK showing of **Ayre's QX-5** digital hub – a **Roon-ready** DAC able to connect to any digital source. And thanks to its network capability, it's also able to access **Tidal** and other streaming service, giving the audiophile a way of investigating streaming without needing a separate player or computer.



Vinyl lovers will be treated to the new **Trilogy 913** phono preamplifier and **Lyra ETNA SL** moving-coil pick-up with a **Brinkmann Spyder** turntable. **Brinkmann's Nyquist** DAC, which is compatible with **MQA** and also **Roon-ready** will be on show, featuring a fully modular construction that offers owners the flexibility of future upgrades. The **Nyquist** also offers seamless integration with **Tidal** and other music streaming services.

And the magic doesn't stop there as audiophile record company, **Chasing the Dragon** (the world's leading producer of Direct Cut Vinyl albums) joins **Symmetry** in **Windsor 6** [see p19 for full details].

Windsor 7

UK EXCLUSIVE
Absolute Sounds Ltd

Inside **Windsor 7**, **Absolute Sounds** will showcase many of the latest creations from some of high-end audio's most distinguished brands, including **Audio Research**, **Continuum Audio Labs**, **EAT**, **PrimaLuna**, **MartinLogan**, **Sonus faber** and **Wadia**. There will be various systems on rolling demonstration,



including one teaming **Sonus faber's** sumptuous Italian-built **Il Cremonese** loudspeakers with **Audio Research's** equally fabulous **GSi75** integrated valve amp, which comes complete with built-in DAC and phono stage.

Another system in this room is tailor-made for lovers of vinyl and valves, combining **EAT's** new **C-Major** turntable and **E-Glo** phono stage with **PrimaLuna's DiaLogue HP** integrated amplifier. On the end of the amplifier will be the latest hybrid electrostatic loudspeaker from **MartinLogan**, the **Expression ESL 13A**, which combines 112x33cm XStat CLS panels with twin 35cm bass drivers, each powered by its own 300W amplifier. Naturally, **Absolute Sounds'** crack squad of high-end audio experts will be on hand to answer your questions and provide advice.



Windsor 8

UK EXCLUSIVE

Absolute Sounds Ltd

Absolute Sounds' second room hosts the **Alexx** – the extraordinary new £105,000 loudspeaker from **Wilson Audio**. The **Alexx** draws on the design of the **Alexia** and the **Sabrina**, but with extensive development work based on laser micrometer measurement of cabinet resonances. It uses a new version of the company's MTM (Midrange/Tweeter/Midrange) geometry, and has been developed alongside the forthcoming **WAMM**, said to be Wilson's 'magnum opus'. An incredible performance is



guaranteed, especially as the Wilsons are driven by **Dan D'Agostino's** magnificent **Momentum M400** monoblocks, with a front end featuring the flagship **Vivaldi 2.0** digital playback system from **dCS**.

As if that weren't enough, this room is endowed with a second sensational system combining **Audio Research** electronics – the **Reference CD9** feeding a **Reference 6** preamp and

Reference 150 SE

power amp – driving **Wilson Audio's** latest loudspeaker, the **Yvette**. Renowned recording engineer and **Wilson Audio** ambassador Peter McGrath will conduct demonstrations, alongside Raveen Bawa from **dCS** and Antoine Furbur from **Audio Research**. With



systems on this scale you're promised a musical feast to satisfy the heartiest audiophile appetite. Obtain free tickets for the dems from the desk outside the entrance to **Windsor 7**.

Windsor Lounge

UK EXCLUSIVE

Absolute Sounds Ltd

Don't miss a very special opportunity to hear one of the finest CD playback systems money can buy – **Metronome Technologie's** **Kalista Reference** disc transport and new **Kalista DAC** – together with **Metronome's** long-awaited all-in-one system solution, the **Music Centre 1**. Like all of the company's products, the new all-in-one is both developed and built in-house



by the French company. Amplification is provided by another high-end dream team courtesy of Australia's **Constellation Audio**, with the **Virgo III** preamp and mighty **Centaur II** monoblock power amps, capable of delivering 800W into 2ohms.

The **Constellations** will be driving another feat of exemplary science and engineering from **Magico**, the awesome **S5 MkII** loudspeakers, with their combination of diamond-coated beryllium tweeter and mid and bass drivers using both carbon fibre and micrographene.

Transparent Audio

supplies the cables, with equipment supports from **Artesania Audio**.

Constellation's

Irv Gross and **Magico's** Peter Mackay are set to fly in from the US to conduct demonstrations and answer any questions you may have.

Tickets are available from the desk outside the room, free of charge, at the time of your choosing.



Cause & Effect

P R I M A R E

See us at
THE hi-fi SHOW
The ultimate high end hi-fi experience
29-30 OCTOBER 2016
Beaumont House Estate
Old Windsor, West Berkshire
hifinews.co.uk/show

Buckingham 2



REVEL
by HARMAN

CONCERTA²



karma
karma-av.co.uk

it's called karma

EXHIBITORS White House

Dining Room

UK EXCLUSIVE

KEF, Chord Electronics and The Chord Company

KEF is joining forces at the show with **Chord Electronics** and **The Chord Company** to present a state-of-the-art 'Best of British' system. It's based around the massive **KEF Muon** speakers. Standing 2m tall and with no fewer than eight drivers, the **Muon** uses the latest version of **KEF's** famous **Uni-Q** drive unit, with the tweeter at the heart of a 12.5cm midrange cone.



Covering the lower frequencies are seven 25cm mid/bass and bass units, allowing the speaker to reach all the way down to 25Hz.

Powering the **Muon** at the show will be the Reference system from **Chord Electronics**, in the form of the **Red Reference MkIII** CD player; the **DAVE** DAC with its next-generation WTA upsampling and Pulse Array DAC technology; the advanced **CPA 8000 Reference** preamp; and the colossal **SPM 14000 MkII Reference** mono



power amplifiers, featuring the latest-generation 12kW-capable **Chord** power supply.

Each amplifier contains 64 proprietary power output devices, giving massive reserves of energy and incredibly low distortion. **Chord** engineers will be on hand to answer your questions and give advice, and the company says there could also be another new Reference product launched at the **Hi-Fi Show Live**, too.

And connecting it all will be the brand-new cables from the **Chord Company**, the **ChordMusic** range. Based on the company's **SuperARRAY** technology, this is the most advanced design in the company's history, 'removing what sounds like the last layer of cloud obscuring the musical landscape.' So take your seat in the **White House Dining Room** to hear the 'Best of British'.

Remenham

UK EXCLUSIVE

ELAC, Devialet and AudioQuest

The stars of this room will be obvious as soon you walk in. After all, the new **ELAC** flagship speaker, the **Concentro**, has very obvious visual impact. The **Concentro**, **ELAC** says, was all about breaking free of its position as one of the hi-fi world's best-kept secrets, and showing just what it could do. The new speaker certainly fits that brief. It

stands almost 1.7m tall, weighs 140kg and sits on a 25kg stand milled from a single block of aluminium.

The cabinet is also a departure from **ELAC's** traditional cabinet shapes, the central front and rear panels, each containing the **JET-5** tweeter and midrange driver, being framed in a sculptural enclosure housing four side-mounted 25cm bass drivers. These woofers are arranged so that they operate in opposition, the aim being to give the loudspeaker 'unprecedented dynamic power'.

Both the bass and low/midrange drive units employ **ELAC's** patented crystal cones, which incorporate the company's tried-and-tested proprietary aluminium/sandwich technology, and it's possible to fine-tune the midband and treble, as well as alter the relationship between direct and diffuse sound. Driving the **Concentros**, the **Devialet 1000**

Pro combines the sophistication of analogue amplification (Class A) and the power and compactness of Digital amplification (Class D). For the first time in the UK, Devialet will showcase two **1000 Pro** amps running as one system – an exceptional performance.

All system connections will be from the latest **AudioQuest** range of loudspeaker cables and interconnects.



EXHIBITORS White House

Roxburghe/ Griffith

UK EXCLUSIVE

Oppo

Showing at 2016's **Hi-Fi Show Live** for the first time are some new innovations from **Oppo**, adding wireless music to its existing strengths in high-quality audiophile Blu-ray players and superb planar magnetic headphones, all of which will also be on display. New for the show is an upgraded version of its **HA-2** portable headphone amplifier.



The **HA-2SE** retains the leather-clad pocket-sized dimensions of the original, and packs an **ESS Sabre 32 Reference ES9028-Q2M DAC** chip for ultimate sound quality on the go. It's compatible with Apple iOS and Android devices as well as Windows and Mac OSX computers, and can even act as a portable power bank to charge mobile devices.

Completely new, and getting their first public showing at the Hi-Fi Show, are the company's **Sonica** products, including two wireless speakers for multiroom audio and a network-capable DAC able to stream hi-res music all the way up to DSD either over a network connection or from USB storage. At its heart is the same **ESS Sabre** technology, and the player – like the wireless speakers – can be controlled via a free **Sonica** app compatible with iOS and Android. The two **Sonica** wireless speakers use



custom drivers, and have network, Bluetooth and AirPlay connectivity. Tuned by Igor Levitsky, the designer behind **Oppo's** PM-series headphones, the **Sonica** speakers can be used as standalone devices, as part of a multiroom system, or paired to give an even better stereo sound if required.



Morley

UK EXCLUSIVE

Esoteric, Nordost & Atacama

Esoteric, Nordost, and Atacama are joining forces in **The Morley Room** to demonstrate the latest products from each company, with speakers supplied by Northamptonshire-based **ProAc**.

At the heart of the system will be a set of the very latest models from **Esoteric**, the audiophile brand from the makers of **TEAC** and **Tascam**. These products, precision-made and handbuilt in Japan, are coveted by enthusiasts worldwide, and the Show line-up could win the brand even more



fans, comprising as it does the **N-05** network player, the **K-01X** SACD/CD player/DAC, the **C-02X** preamp and the **S-02** power amp.

The new network player can handle both locally-stored music libraries and streaming services including **Tidal**, and is compatible with file formats all the way up to DSD 11.2MHz and 384kHz/32-bit. It also has an asynchronous USB input for direct connection to a computer, and can be controlled using an app compatible with both tablets and phones.

Meanwhile, the **S-02** power amp delivers a hefty 290W into 4ohm, rising to a maximum of double that, and uses a custom transformer as part of a generous power supply provision, meaning it has plenty in reserve for even the most dynamic music.

It will be driving **ProAc** speakers, with



all cabling supplied by **Nordost** in the form of its award-winning **Valhalla V2** power cords, interconnects and speaker cable, all used with the support of the company's intriguing new **Sort Lift**. This raises cables off the floor, minimising the points of contact they make with the ground to 'reduce boundary effects'. Underpinning the electronics will be equipment supports from **Atacama's Evoque Bamboo Custom** range.

Ashbrook

UK EXCLUSIVE

Convert Technologies

Convert Technologies is the new name for **Entotem**, and the company is showcasing its range of **Plato** music player/streaming systems, which feature intuitive storage of everything from digital music files through to LPs. Its simple browser-based interface let's you access your entire music collection, plus streaming services, for instant playback.

Four **Plato** models are available: the original **Plato** is a one-box home



entertainment solution that combines hi-fi amplification with the ability to record from both analogue and digital sources, such as vinyl, tapes and CDs, to which you only have to add a pair of speakers, while there's also an upgraded version, the **Plato Class A**, which is the subject of a forthcoming **HFN** review.

The **Plato Pre** takes the same formula, but offers it in a preamp-output version, designed to be connected directly to power amplifiers or active loudspeakers, while the **Plato Lite** is designed to be used with existing preamps and integrated amps, and also lacks the phono stage built into the other models.

All the **Plato** models have USB inputs as well as analogue and digital audio connections, and a HDMI output to connect to a TV screen for use as a monitor for the



system, which can play video content as well as audio.

Alongside the **Plato** systems will be the German **AvantGarde** speaker range, for which **Convert Technologies** is now both strategic partner and UK distributor. Featured will be the **Uno XD** speaker, which combines **AvantGarde's** signature horn drivers with active internal amplification and DSP including a 10-band parametric equaliser, allowing the speaker to be optimised to the room it's used in.

The **Uno XD** is available in no fewer than 11 colours, ranging from Stealth Nocturne Grey and Smaragd Pearl Green to Shiny Citrine Orange and the Ruby Brilliant Red seen here.

Hastings

UK EXCLUSIVE

Padood

Cambridge-based high-end distributor **Padood** is bringing a wide range of its brands to the show, along with a chance to meet representatives of some of the top names it handles. As part of its 'meet the manufacturer' programme, it will be joined by **Bel Canto** president Michael McCormick, **YG Acoustics** head of European sales and marketing Kerry St James, as well as a design/engineering representative from turntable manufacturer **SME**.

Among the systems which will be on demonstration will be one built around the **YG Acoustics Sonja 1.2** loudspeaker, which demonstrates the modular design of this model from the Denver, Colorado, manufacturer. It comprises the **Sonja 1.1** with the addition of a dedicated bass module,



matching the sculptural design of the whole range, and will be powered by amplification from the same part of the world, in the form of the **Boulder 2110/2160** pre/power amps.

Boulder's 1008 phono stage will be used with the **SME 30/12** turntable and tonearm, while digital music will be delivered by the **Weiss MAN301** network player and **Medus** DAC. **Kubala Sosna Elation** cables will be used throughout. Also on demo will be a system using the **SME**

15 turntable and **Bel Canto Black Series** and **Plinius** electronics, driving **YG Acoustics Carmel 2** loudspeakers via **Analysis Plus Silver Oval** cables.

Visitors will also be able to see the full range of **Plinius** electronics, and the **Bel Canto e.One** range. The latter comprises source components, DACs and amplifiers, all built in a new more compact form made possible by switching technologies and new amplifier designs, and at more affordable prices.



Muon

THE BEST JUST GOT BETTER

The result of Ross Lovegrove's unique design and KEF's acoustic expertise, KEF Muon has now evolved.

Thanks to the learnings from the development of the iconic KEF Blade, KEF engineers have enhanced the sonic abilities of KEF Muon with new driver technology. Existing Muon owners can even take advantage of these new advancements with a worldwide upgrade service to be carried out in their own listening room by a senior KEF engineer.

Arguably the world's most extraordinary audio speaker is now even better.

'It is as much an extraordinary piece of sculpture as it is the ultimate sound provider - an exquisite example of British engineering and design at its very best.'

Joshua's Magazine, Issue 5



Thanks to the emergence of the iconic **KEF BLADE**, **KEF MUON's** technological prowess has been further enhanced, namely through the use of the latest iteration of KEF's landmark innovation, the unique Uni-Q 'point source' driver array.



BLADE & BLADE TWO



THE REFERENCE



LS50

EXHIBITORS Beaumont Suite

Beaumont

UK EXCLUSIVE

Bowers & Wilkins

In 2016 the **Beaumont Suite** hosts **Bowers & Wilkins**, which is celebrating 50 years of audio excellence by filling this substantial space with its range-topping **800 D3** floorstander. There's also a **Bowers & Wilkins History Zone** (see below), displaying renowned speakers from the company's archives, allowing you to see, side by side, the evolution of the company's **800 Series**.

The demonstration will be powered by new **Classé Delta** amplification and the 2016 **Hi-Fi Show Live** will be the first public demonstration of this amazing new range.

The **800 Series Diamond** didn't get better by chance. Rather, it got better by change – 868 changes to be precise. The exceptional **Diamond** dome tweeter, now housed in a new

design of Nautilus tube, may have been retained, but the rest of the loudspeaker has been re-imagined from the ground up.

Most striking is the transformation of the midrange drive units. A new Continuum cone featuring superior acoustic properties replaces the Kevlar cones that have long been a major factor of the **800 Series'** blisteringly realistic midrange. Bass has also been dramatically improved by the introduction of the Aerofoil cone, which reduces distortion thanks to a new cone geometry.



These innovations, when teamed with improved cabinets, a more robust Matrix bracing system and the vastly improved Turbine head design means that the latest **800 Series Diamond** sets a new benchmark when it comes to reference quality sound.

For this generation of **800 Series**, instead of a flat-fronted speaker with a curving back, **Bowers & Wilkins'** engineers developed a cabinet with front and sides formed from one continuous curve, held together with a spine of solid aluminium. Sound dispersion is therefore improved, and cabinet reflection is reduced, as you'll be able to experience for yourself when you listen to the **800 D3** demonstration.

History Zone

Bowers & Wilkins

This year marks 50 years since the beginning of **Bowers & Wilkins**, and at the **Hi-Fi Show Live** the company has set-up a History Zone, concentrating on the development of its core design – the **800 Series**.

The original **801** was launched back in 1979, the company announcing it as 'the first commercial effort to develop and produce a loudspeaker that would reflect the highest standards attainable without regard to any of the so called "practical considerations" that inevitably compromise conventional designs.'

The 'stacked boxes' design still informs the **800** range, albeit in a somewhat

sleeker version these days, but the uncompromising design of the original didn't stop it being adopted by recording studios and broadcasters as a reference monitor, the speaker

growing in its second generation and adding a bass reflex port for more powerful low-end reproduction.

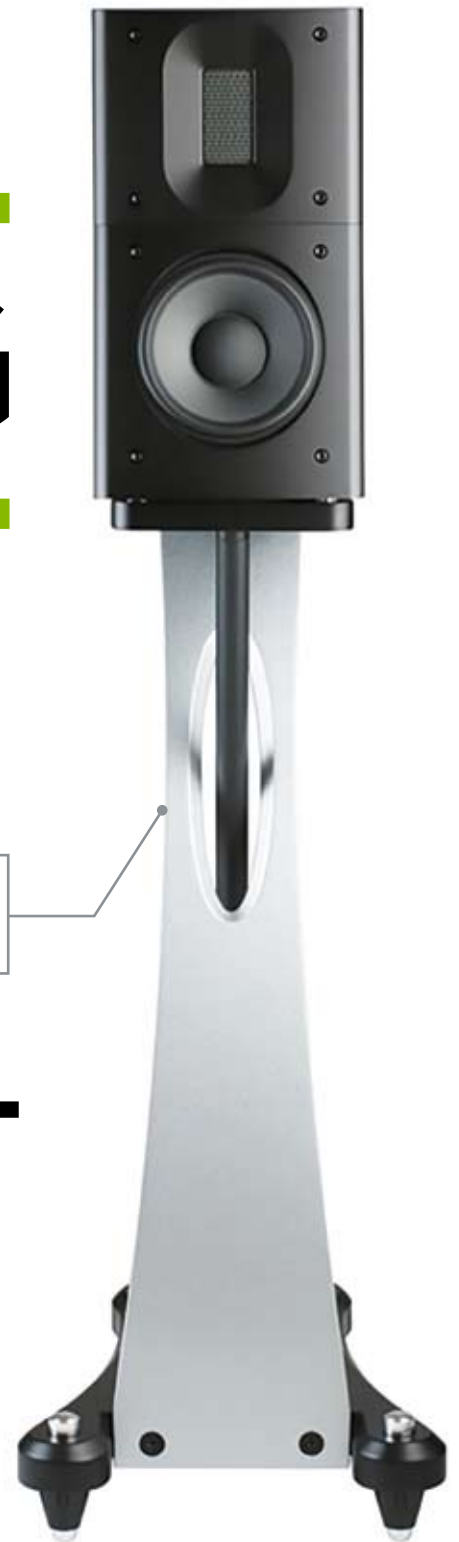
That association has continued through successive generations, the seeds of the current design first being seen in 1998's **Nautilus 800** series. And these flagship speakers have incorporated technologies now widely used across the company's range, including the Nautilus tube behind the Diamond Dome tweeter, the golf-ball-inspired Flowport reflex port and the Matrix internal bracing inside the cabinets.

Examples of early **800** series models will be displayed at the show, so you can appreciate just how much the design has evolved – before listening to the latest version! Join us and see how **Bowers & Wilkins'** innovative engineering has redefined those 'highest standards'.



Raidho acoustics

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EXHIBITORS Buckingham Suites

Buckingham 1

UK EXCLUSIVE
Decent Audio

Decent Audio is delighted to reveal that it has acquired exclusive UK distribution rights for renowned Danish loudspeaker brand, **Raidho**. Visitors will be able to delight in two stunning models completely new to the UK market: the **D1.1** and **XT-2**.

If the sweet sound of **Raidho** is beyond your present budget, don't despair, since sister brand **Scansonic's** fabulously affordable **Raidho**-inspired 'HD' range is another of **Decent Audio's** covetable yet highly accessible brands. Designed by Michael Børresen, creator of the state-of-the-art **Raidho** range, **Scansonic** speakers offer much of



the **Raidho** family DNA and pedigree but at a fraction of the cost.

And that's not all, for two more enticing UK 'firsts' are on offer in

Buckingham 1. Last year, visitors to the **Hi-Fi Show Live** were treated to the first unveiling of the **Kronos Sparta .5** turntable. Now, the **Kronos Pro** makes its UK debut. Considered by those in-the-know to be among the finest turntables money can buy, the **Kronos** is a revelation for both eyes and ears – and the price tag may well come as a very pleasant surprise, given this turntable's calibre.

Meanwhile, Italian minimalist amp specialist **Audio Analogue** continues its 20-year anniversary



celebrations with a second re-visioning of an earlier classic. Last year saw the launch of the **Puccini Anniversary** amplifier, a newly updated edition of the brand's first ever product, and designed to celebrate the company's 20th anniversary. This year heralds the arrival of the new **Maestro Anniversary** amp, again bringing new life to a memorable favourite.

Dutch cartridge and cable specialists **van den Hul** will complete this highly desirable line-up with a range of expertly-crafted wares.

Buckingham 2

UK EXCLUSIVE
Karma Audio Visual

Buckingham 2 is the perfect venue for demonstrating the truly dynamic qualities of **Karma's** favourite system combinations. These will comprise classy **Primare** electronics driving the bargain audiophile **GoldenEar Triton** speakers, the top three models of which contain built-in subwoofers and the new **Revel Concerta 2** floorstanders, which are designed for a wide frequency range, uncompressed dynamic range and low distortion across the entire audible spectrum.



Sure to feature are **Primare's** gorgeous media-friendly **60 Series** pre and power amplifiers, together with the Norwegian company's **EISA** award-winning **I30/MM30** integrated amplifier. This will be controlled by its newly enriched **AIR** app, which enables playback of high-resolution streaming services through any of **Primare's** network-enabled digital devices.

The **AIR** streaming app is compatible with both iOS and Android devices and completes the company's suite of high-quality digital playback offerings, which make it easy to enjoy to the fullest today's digital listening options, including **Tidal's** premium **Hi-Fi** streaming service. To celebrate this, **Primare** is offering showgoers complimentary three-month introductory **Tidal HiFi** subscriptions, saving some £60. Visit **Buckingham 2** for details.



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EXHIBITORS Buckingham Suites

Buckingham 3

UK EXCLUSIVE

Malvern Audio Research

Established in 2011 to support and distribute the acclaimed **Ming Da** range of valve audio equipment (which is manufactured in China by the Mei-Xing Electronics Company), **Malvern Audio Research** is moving beyond its original brief and returning to the **Hi-Fi Show Live** to introduce visitors to an even greater range of exotic brands. For its first **Hi-Fi Show Live** exclusive,



Malvern Audio Research will be showing the **Dynasty Cadenza** integrated amplifier, recently reviewed in **Hi-Fi News** and developed from the **MC386-SE** as a smaller stablemate for the **Cadenza-Grandé**. Delivering 70W per channel in ultra-linear mode, or 40W in triode mode, the amp will be used with the **Lampizator** transport for streaming digital music.

Visitors will also get to hear the new **Chela-04 DAC** along with the new **NV-06 mk2** Nuvistor phono stage, all handbuilt in the UK in **Great Malvern** with point-to-point wiring throughout. As the name suggests, the **NV-06** uses the tiny Nuvistors, first designed



in the 1950s for military applications, where they could offer valve technology to challenge the then-new transistors. Accessories will include the **EVO-3** mains conditioner from **Gigawatt** together with cables from **Albedo** and **Missing Link**.

Completing the system is a pair of **FP10** standmount loudspeakers that are just as eye-catching and also hail from Poland.

hORNS by **Auto-Tech** is a speaker manufacturer better known for offering a range of flamboyant designs which break away from more traditional box-shaped loudspeakers, but its

compact **FP10** uses a 25cm mid/bass unit and a 25mm tweeter in a very substantial cabinet – it may stand just 56cm tall, but it weighs 30kg!

Buckingham 4

UK EXCLUSIVE

Karma Audio Visual

The powerhouse of US Audiophile design Harman Luxury Audio is delighted to present the most exciting multiple launch of **Mark Levinson** products in many years. The show audience will be the first in UK to appreciate the new **Mark Levinson No.519 Source Player**, **No.526** and **No.523 Preamps** and **No.534 Dual Mono Power Amplifiers**.

The **No.519** is a complete digital playback solution, capable of handling formats up to 192kHz/32-bit and DSD128, and with six hi-res digital inputs covering all the common inputs including



asynchronous USB. In addition it has full network streaming capability, including playback from computers and NAS drives, plus Internet radio,

Spotify, **Tidal**, Qobuz, Deezer and more, and even has Bluetooth aptX for instant playback from portable devices. For all this the **No.519** sticks to core **Mark Levinson** principles: its volume control is purely analogue, and the player can be used straight into power amplifiers or even active speakers. Demonstrations featuring the **No.519** will also star **JBL's** fabled **Project** speakers,



early example of which are both highly sought-after by collectors and audiophiles alike (and thus very expensive!). At the show, the focus will be on the **HFN** 'Outstanding' **K2** or **Everest** designs, with support from more modest **Revel Performa F208** and new **Concerta F36** floorstanders, also from the **Harman** stable.

Both **Karma AV** demos will be ably supported by **Straightwire** cables and we'll be ensuring the systems will be fed with clean power by using a new range of AC mains conditioners developed by Canadian company **Torus Power**, which provide isolation between mains noise and the equipment being supplied.

EXHIBITORS Buckingham Suites

Buckingham 5

UK EXCLUSIVE
Luxman (IAG)/DALI

The **Hi-Fi Show Live** gives you the opportunity to experience a veritable feast of international audio delicacies in the spacious **Buckingham 5 Suite**. **Luxman**, the venerable Japanese high-end audio brand which is now in its 92nd year, joins forces with revered Danish loudspeaker manufacturer **DALI** to form a system representing the very best that Asian and European design and engineering have to offer. A fabulous mix of CD and vinyl is supplied via **Luxman's D-06u SACD/CD player/DAC** and **PD-171A** turntable, the latter coupled to the new **EQ-500**



valve-based phono stage. And as well as being a superlative disc player, the **D-06u** also offers an asynchronous USB input to accept a feed from a

computer, at up to 384kHz/32-bit and DSD128, using the supplied **Luxman Audio Player** software for both PC and Mac.

These feed **Luxman's** new flagship pre/power amp system, comprising the **C-900u** preamp and **M-900u** stereo/mono power amp – a mighty combination that delivers power and poise in equal measure, thanks to **Luxman's** legendary zero compromise engineering.

If **Luxman** is the emperor of Japanese high-end audio, **DALI** is



surely the high king of Danish loudspeakers. Its flagship **Epicon** range combines luscious looks with sensational sound, representing the ultimate insight into **DALI's** values.

Visitors will be able to see at least three superb **Epicon** models – the standmount **Epicon 2**, and the floorstanding **Epicon 6** and **Epicon 8** – the latter on continuous demonstration with the **Luxman** components described above.

The end result? Magical-sounding hi-fi brought together to deliver an unforgettable musical performance, and one we hope you'll remember for years to come.

Buckingham Lounge

UK EXCLUSIVE
Melco

With a hi-fi legacy stretching back over 40 years, Japanese IT giant **Melco** has the desire and scale to deliver truly bespoke audiophile storage and server solutions. The enthusiast's quest for a dedicated digital front-end, able to serve-up those high-res downloads or CD rips in splendid isolation via USB or Ethernet, takes many forms.

You might feel capable of building a dedicated PC, albeit with an off-the-shelf motherboard, drives, PSU and OS or perhaps opt for a high-end NAS drive on a discretely-



wired network. Or you can have a giant computer company do it for you, directed by its audiophile CEO to throw all its resources behind a

bespoke server motherboard running entirely audio-orientated software.

That, in a nutshell, is what **Melco** is offering with its unique range of digital music storage/players – each model archiving your music and delivering digital playback only (there's no onboard DAC) to a USB-connected DAC or network-connected streaming player. Usefully, the stored content is navigated and 'pushed out' via any number of free-to-use apps.

Melco's flagship player, the **N1-ZS10**, is distinguished by its solid-state 'Buffalo Audio Grade' hard drives which are designed for music server applications, and with data

management optimised to suit read-only media files. The slimline **HA-N1ZS10**, the **HA-N1ZH60** and **HA-N1AH40** are all on demo at the **Hi-Fi Show Live**.



Buckingham Reception

UK EXCLUSIVE Planologue

Peter Laitt, founder of **Planologue**, will be demonstrating the company's first turntable, dubbed the **Prelude**. The product of many years in design, the **Prelude** employs a sensitively-matched range of materials in its construction. The plinth is an acrylic/birch-ply sandwich structure, bonded and constrained to reduce resonances, while the platter is machined from

acrylic and is supported on a stainless/brass/Delrin bearing assembly.

The platter is belt-driven via an AC motor that's housed in a separate, heavyweight 'pod' located in series of detents in the turntable's base that ensure correct belt tension is maintained. An off-board motor controller ensures smooth, stable speed with electronic switching for 33.3 and 45 rpm.

A record stabiliser made from aluminium and Delrin improves the interface between vinyl and platter. Many arm types and lengths can be accommodated on the separate



mounting platform and, indeed, a range of deck/arm/cartridge combinations can be ordered directly from **Planologue**.

hi-finews THE HOME OF REAL HI-FI Special Events

Visitors to the **Hi-Fi Show Live** will have the very rare opportunity to meet some of high-end audio's most experienced industry insiders and personalities. At the time of going to press, confirmed presenters include our very own **Ken Kessler** with Irv Gross [**Constellation Audio**], Peter Madnick [**Audio Alchemy**], Gunter Kürten [**ELAC**], Peter Mackay [**Magico**], Bjørn Hegelstad [**IsoTek**], Peter McGrath [**Wilson Audio**], Todd Eichenbaum [**Mark Levinson**], Robert Suchy [**Clearaudio**], Tetsuaki Aoyagi [**DS Audio**], Michael McCormick [**Bel Canto**], Kerry St James [**YG Acoustics**], Antoine Furbur [**Audio Research**] and Bruno Putzeys [**Mola-Mola**]. Inbetween some never-to-be-forgotten listening sessions, let these experts talk you through the design and engineering of the world's most iconic equipment.

And the magic doesn't stop there as audiophile record company, **Chasing The Dragon** (the world's leading producer of direct-cut vinyl albums) joins **Symmetry** in **Windsor 6**. **Chasing The Dragon** creator **Mike Valentine**



will be talking about the recording techniques he uses at **Air Studios** in London. The talk will include the opportunity to audition some choice tracks, allowing visitors to compare the sound of a standard 33.3rpm LP with a 45rpm album. Differences between conventional and direct-cut recording will also be illustrated by excerpts from Mike's latest production, the **Big Band Jazz** double album – a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, performed by Clare Teal and the Syd Lawrence Orchestra.

Keen to hear the 'real thing'? Then **Hi-Fi Show** goes are invited to a uniquely 'Live' event

in **Lancaster 5** as acclaimed cellist **Vincent Bélanger** accompanies his own recordings played through a very high-end **Audio Note** system!

Finally, in a blast from the past, you love our vintage gear reviews so look out for **Tim Jarman**'s seminars to enjoy some choice examples assembled into a complete system [see Show Reception for times and locations].



EXHIBITORS Lancaster Suites

Lancaster 1

UK EXCLUSIVE Computer Audio Design

Prepare to reset your expectations of how good – how real – computer-based audio can sound, thanks to a suite of digital source components from **Computer Audio Design (CAD)**. The UK company's **1543 MkII DAC** is a no-compromise USB DAC, optimised for computer audio and boasting independent power supplies and extensive mains conditioning. This will be paired with **CAD's CAT (CAD Audio**



Transport), a single chassis device that also serves as a combined CD-ripper, music storage device, streamer and NAS drive. Hand-built to order, it offers bespoke data storage solutions tailored to your needs.

CAD will also showcase its new **Ground Control** units, **CG1** and **CG3**. **Ground Control** tackles noise reduction on a whole different level – that of the signal ground plane – with remarkable results. Discover too **CAD's** hand-made USB cable, designed as a high-end link between a computer and external DAC.

Partnering with **CAD** at the **Hi-Fi Show Live** this year is Danish **GamuT** (also featuring in **Windsor Suite 3**). A passion for superlative timing and



phase coherence led **GamuT** to take a radically different approach to amplifier design, resulting in an award-winning balance of phenomenal power and refined delicacy. Here, the wonderfully articulate **D3i** dual mono preamp will be paired with erudite punch-packer, the **D200i** stereo power amp.

A pair of **GamuT's** **RSi** loudspeakers will further reveal that same obsession with epic timing, delivering vivid dynamics, spectacular resolution and the kind of room-filling freedom your music dreams of.

Lancaster 2

UK EXCLUSIVE Icon Audio

Icon Audio UK is now in its 17th year and strives hard to maintain its four cornerstones of 'Value, Performance, Reliability and Service'. With arguably the most comprehensive range of award-winning valve amplifiers in the UK, **Icon Audio** has models to suit all budgets and tastes.

So if you are new to valves or curious about what they can do for you, **Icon Audio** is a very good place to start, having several wallet-friendly models alongside innovative amplifiers of



all types up to 250W for the serious enthusiast. Push-pull, single-ended, triode and Ultralinear. If you don't know what these terms mean then come to

Lancaster Suite 2 and find out!

Alongside its highly regarded **Stereo 40** integrated amplifier, **Icon Audio** will also be showing its new **Stereo 30SE** single-ended integrated amplifier offering a winning formula of good power, silky smooth presentation and affordability. There's also its new 95W single-ended triode design using the big



Russian **GU81** transmitter valve – with its deliciously silky sound delivered with tsunami force if required, and at a very down-to-earth price, it's a 'must see' for any valve fan.

Also new for this year, **Icon Audio** has upgraded the performance of its **MFV3** loudspeakers even further with a re-designed driver (manufactured in-house), improved crossover and better cabinet damping. Other award-winning models will be on show – best sellers that have stood the test of time!

Lancaster Lounge

UK EXCLUSIVE
Atlas Cables

Based in Kilmarnock, Scotland, **Atlas Cables** creates and engineers its range of specialist audio cable solutions for performance, based on



extensive research and testing. At this year's **Hi-Fi Show Live**, **Atlas** will be demonstrating the effectiveness of its **Eos** mains cable range. The presentation will feature a high-end headphone listening station (featuring the **Atlas Zeno** replacement headphone cable), which **Atlas** will upgrade with its **Eos** power cables, demonstrating the effectiveness of the company's fully-screened philosophy. This affordable upgrade dramatically reduces the effects of electrical, RF and electromagnetic noise pollution that floods our homes due to the increase in wireless devices.

Atlas will also use the **Hi-Fi Show Live** to launch its new range of turntable replacement cables. Based on its analogue interconnects, the new turntable range means customers can now feature **Atlas Cables** throughout their systems. **Atlas** will also have a working build station, demonstrating



the attention to detail that goes into the assembly of its products.

The company will also be showing its entire range of analogue and digital interconnects, speaker cables and power cables. On hand will be **Atlas** representatives, who are looking forward to discussing your system connections, answer any questions and educate visitors about **Atlas Cables'** approach to cable design in its quest for better audio fidelity.

Lancaster 4

UK EXCLUSIVE
Sound Design Distribution

In a UK premiere event, **Sound Design Distribution** is uniting the talents of **Mola-Mola's** much vaunted **Makua** pre and **Kaluga** power amplifiers with **Vivid Audio's** loudspeakers. Celebrating the UK launch of **Mola-Mola**, the combination of **Bruno Putzeys'** truly esoteric separates with **Vivid's** extraordinary **Giya G4** and **B1D** speaker designs is sure to be a feast for all the senses. **Mola-Mola** is the brainchild of **Bruno Putzeys**, the wunderkind of Class D technology, originator of



Universal Class D (**UcD**) in 2001 while at **Philips** and as chief tech guru at **Hypex**, responsible for the development of its game-changing **NCORE** Class D amplifier technology.

Presented in strikingly distinctive rippled all-aluminium enclosures (imagine the swelling ocean) the **Makua** preamplifier, complete with modular DAC and phono options, and **Kaluga** monoblock power amplifiers achieve high dynamic drive with astonishingly low levels of distortion and as such present the perfect platform for **Vivid's** fabled musical transparency.

The reference **Vivid Giya G4** is a 4-way/5-driver system housed in a glass-



reinforced and balsa-cored sandwich composite cabinet finished in a high gloss lacquer. All five alloy drivers are taper tube loaded. The **Limited Edition B1 Decade** is a 3.5-way/4 driver vented system housed in a balsa-cored 'quadaxial' glass composite sandwich cabinet.

As visitors will experience, **Vivid's** distinctive cabinet shape minimises diffraction and reduces internal standing waves for a clearer sound while the composite enclosures help eliminate structural resonances.

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EXHIBITORS Lancaster Suites

Lancaster 5

UK EXCLUSIVE
Audio Note

Audio Note UK is marking its debut at the **Hi-Fi Show Live** with a silver-wired system valued at £60k! Pride of place goes to its **TT2 Deluxe** turntable, a suspended, low-mass, two motor



design with an acrylic platter that promises a clean and fast sound with minimal blur or coloration.

The partnering **Arm 3** features a three-point bearing and hard-anodised armtube machined from a single piece and wired with **Audio Note ANVx 31** silver cabling. The accompanying **IO I** MC cartridge, boasting a stiff titanium cantilever, uses **AN** silver coils that are wound in-house together with heat-treated poles for optimum signal transfer. **Audio Note's S9** step-up transformer is also fully silver wound while the **M3** phono stage utilises the latest **Audio Note** Kasai capacitors, non-magnetic tantalum resistors and **AN** copper foil capacitors.

This analogue front-end is joined by **Audio Note's CD 4** CD player and the **Tomei** integrated amplifier – a 211 tube-based amplifier with a circuit



inspired by the legendary **Ongaku**. Its output transformers are half copper/half silver wired with a nickel-enriched core that ensures its performance is uniquely beguiling.

Delivering sweet music will be the **HE** (High Efficiency) versions of **Audio Note's E Spe** loudspeaker, rated at a full 97dB sensitivity and equipped with 19-strand **Silver Spe** internal cabling plus silver wire voice coils on both the woofer and tweeter. The drive units in every pair of **AN E Spe HE** loudspeakers are matched back to a reference pair and the crossover adjusted on test.

Lancaster 6

UK EXCLUSIVE
Elite Audio Distribution

Elite Audio is excited to announce a series of UK premieres. Included among the exclusives is the new **Gato PWR-222** monoblock amplifier – the culmination of development work that began with the **AMP-150** integrated back in 2008. Rated at a staggering 250W/8ohm it offers sufficient current reserve to drive even the most power-hungry loudspeakers. It features a 'super low noise' 700W torodial power transformer, a pair of 500A MOSFETs

in its 'TwinFET' output stage and **WBT NextGen** 4mm speaker cable terminals.

Also premiered will be the incredible **Aqua Formula Optologic** DAC. In common with earlier outboard DACs from **Aqua**, including both the **La Voce** and **La Scala**, the **Formula** DAC eschews any form of over/upsampling or digital filtering. However, this **Optologic** NOS DAC is the first from **Aqua** to feature a proprietary, discrete R2R ladder-style converter rather than an off-the-shelf part like the Burr-Brown PCM1704.

Equally exciting is the UK premier of the Swiss **Boenicke W8** and **W11** loudspeakers – never before been or heard



at a UK audio show. **Elite Audio** will also be demonstrating new products from **Triangle** (loudspeakers), **Acoustic Signature** (turntables), **Densen** (amplifiers), **SoundSmith** (including the new **MIMC Star** pick-up), **Perreaux** (digital and amps), **Emme Speakers** (including the new **Beta**) and the amazing Swiss **Vovox Cables**.

Then there's the unveiling of the **Crayon Audio CFA-1.2** integrated amplifier, which will no doubt raise a few eyebrows! Please come and say hello to Connie, Mark, Steve and Gordon in **Lancaster Suite 6**.



EXHIBITORS Sandringham Suites

Sandringham 1

Inspire Hi-Fi

Get a comprehensive introduction to **Inspire Hi-Fi's** accomplished range of vinyl spinners, starting with the award-winning **Elevation** [pictured] and **Monarch Direct Drive 2.1** with its new audiophile clock. **Inspire**



will also be showing the **Quest Force 10** turntable and **Vivid DC Carbon** upgrades for **Linn's LP12** turntables. The innovative **Plato** all-in-one system's flexible vinyl recording facility will be used (see **Convert Technologies** in the **White House Ashbrook Suite**), alongside **Opera Callas** speakers and the **Lehmann Audio Black Cube SE2** phonostage.

Sandringham 2

Decent Audio

In its second **Hi-Fi Show Live** demo room (see also **Buckingham Suite 1**), **Decent Audio** will showcase a no-compromise high-end system which is perfect for the small to medium-sized room. Visitors to last year's show may remember the unveiling

of **Kronos'** 'baby' turntable, the **Sparta .5**, which makes a welcome return here.

The **Kronos** deck will be paired with one of Japanese **Transfiguration's** award-winning MC cartridges whose revolutionary designs completely restructure the conventional moving-coil concept. Amplification will be courtesy of Italy's **Audio Analogue**



(the **Puccini Anniversary**), with cables from the ever-impressive **van den Hul**. Loudspeakers will be the **Magneplanar 1.7i**, hailed by the US press as 'the affordable loudspeaker of the decade'.



Sandringham 3

Theme One Records

The very best of new and used vinyl is here courtesy of **Theme One Records** including the company's speciality – **Music On Vinyl** titles alongside **Gearbox** and **Plane Groovy**.

Music On Vinyl is a vinyl-only music label that releases high quality 180g LP

and 7in vinyl pressings of titles licensed from a wide range of record companies and artists who control their own musical repertoire.

These are both reissues of classic titles, or a simultaneous vinyl release to complement a CD/DVD offering, all of which are marketed under the **Music On Vinyl** brand. Also on special offer at this year's event are the Grammy Award-winning **Chesky** compact discs.

Sandringham 4

UK EXCLUSIVE Pure Sound

Alongside its own high-end separates, for 2016 **Pure Sound** is also firing up a tantalising selection of audio products from other brands, including **STST** and its **Motus II** direct-drive deck with suspended subchassis. This innovative

deck will be equipped with the **STST Vertex** tonearm and **Etsuro Urushi** MC pick-up – another **Hi-Fi Show Live** exclusive.

The **Etsuro Urushi** features a super fine line (80µm) diamond mounted in a sapphire cantilever while



its Duralumin body is handcoated in Urushi lacquer, lending the cartridge a gorgeous jewel like appearance.

Other products will include the **Aurorasound PREDA** line stage and **HEAD** balanced headphone amplifier from Japan and loudspeakers from **HECO** of Germany.



Sandringham 5

UK EXCLUSIVE
Music First Audio

Music First Audio products are hand made at its workshop based in Hastings, East Sussex. At the Show you'll get the chance to hear **Audio Note's TT** and arm (see also **Lancaster Suite 5**) plus **Benz Micro ACE MC**

feeding a **Music First Audio Classic Step Up Transformer V2**. An exclusive for the **Hi-Fi Show Live**, the **V2 Step Up** uses a new winding structure plus new shielding can and mounting.

Also used will be a **Nagra 4S-J** tape machine with **Music First Audio Classic MM Phono Amp 632** and **QSE** preamplifier alongside (power) amplification by **Quad** and **LS5/9** loudspeakers by **Graham Audio**.

Sandringham 6

UK EXCLUSIVE
G-Point Audio

This year **G-Point Audio** will feature analogue *and* digital sources, including the **J.Sikora Initial** and **Reference** turntables and **LampizatOr TranspOrt/Golden Gate** transport/DAC combo, accompanied by **LampizatOr GM**

70 monoblock amplifiers and with audio cabling from both **Skogrand** and **Albedo**. Loudspeakers will be the outstanding **hORNS Universum MKIII**.

G-Point Audio will also showcase the latest edition of the diminutive but stunning **My Sound Cubes** – small EL84 monoblocks that perform even better than they look! Come hear the latest addition to the portfolio – the **Golden Amorphous Premium** version.



Sandringham Hall

UK EXCLUSIVE
Headphone Haven

Once again at the **Hi-Fi Show Live**, **Harman Consumer UK** will be displaying selected headphone models from its award-winning brands of **AKG**, **JBL** and **Harman Kardon**.

These include **AKG's** 2016/17 **EISA** award-winning **N90Q** reference-class auto-calibrating headphones, inspired by the Grammy Award-winning producer Quincy Jones. Utilising **AKG's** TruNote auto-calibration and active noise cancelling technologies, along with dual foam cushions and ear cup mounted controls, the **N90Q** allows users to enjoy true high-end sound reproduction at home or on the move.

Criterion Audio will also be giving visitors the opportunity to experience the outstanding **Bel Canto DAC 2.7** USB DAC/preamplifier running



the award winning **Grado PS1000e** headphones. This very flexible DAC offers a taste of ultra-high-end performance at a very reasonable price, especially running what are arguably the best open-backed headphones created by **Grado Labs**.

Also on demonstration will be one of the world's finest headphones at any price: the no-compromise planar-

magnetic **Abyss AB1266**, paired up with the reference **Moon Neo 430 HA** headphone amplifier.

Ears for more? Then you will have the chance to compare many other superb combinations, including the stunning **Audeze LCD3** headphones running off the powerhouse **Grace m920**, or the **Sennheiser HD800** powered by the **Chord Hugo**.

AudioQuest will also be gracing the Headphone Haven with its eagerly-anticipated **NightOwl** 'cans while demo'ing its latest **DragonFly Black** and **Red** USB headphone amplifiers.



EXHIBITORS Sandringham Suites



Sandringham 7

UK EXCLUSIVE
Signature Audio Systems

Hi-Fi Show Live premieres include **PS Audio's DirectStream Memory Player** – a new transport that plays SACD, DVD-A, and CD and is equipped with three I²S outputs to service multichannel SACD media.

Signal conditioning is provided by the **LanRover** USB transporter which cleans, isolates and regenerates all USB audio for playback through a **DirectStream Junior DAC**.

There's a new Bascom H King (**BHK**)-designed vacuum tube **Signature** preamp driving 300W **BHK Signature** monoblock power amps and the entire system will be run off the world's best mains regenerator – the **P10**.

Sandringham 8

UK EXCLUSIVE
Emerging UK

Emerging will be debuting two high-end Swiss brands at the **Hi-Fi Show Live**. The **MERGING NADAC** network-attached DAC benefits from a 25-year heritage of high-resolution professional recording products developed by

Merging Technologies. This bespoke network audio solution is capable of handling 44.1kHz to quad DSD media in two and multichannel mode – it's the DAC used by people who make the music!

The **MERGING NADAC** will be demonstrated through active **PSI Audio** loudspeakers, all-analogue designs that boast the ultimate in linearity, phase accuracy and natural



dynamic transients. Several models, including the **PSI A25/225**, the **A215** and **A17** will be on audition.

Sandringham 9

UK EXCLUSIVE
Hidden Systems

Visitors heading upstairs to the **Sandringham Suite's** first floor are invited to **Hidden Systems** with partners **Linn Products**, **Lejonklou** and **Totem Acoustics**. Here the **Linn Klimax DS** and **DSM** servers will



be demo'd alongside its **LP12 SE** turntable. **Lejonklou Hi-Fi** will present its **Boazu** integrated amplifier, which

combines the power amp circuit of its acclaimed **Tundra** model with a slimmed down version of the **Sagatun** preamp, at well under half the price of the pre/power combo! Company founder, **Fredrik Lejonklou** will be present to answer your questions.

Hidden Systems' demonstration will be realised via a pair of new high-end bookshelf loudspeakers, called **Sky**, from **Totem Acoustic**.

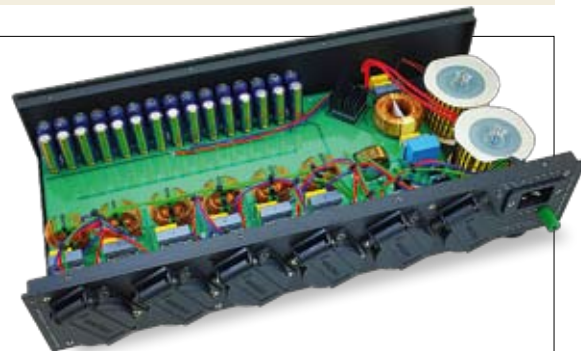
Sandringham 10

UK EXCLUSIVE
Puritan Audio Labs

If the weak link in many an enthusiast's system is so often the quality of the incoming AC mains then **Puritan Audio Laboratories** will tempt you with a series of cost-effective solutions. Visitors have a treat in store as **Puritan**

Audio Laboratories unveils its proprietary range of mains-purifying conditioners and dissipative 'Interference Eating' 13A power cables.

The **PSM136 Purifier** features six independently conditioned 8 Amp outlets with optimised power routing, cleansed star earthing and DC filtering to enhance clarity, detail and definition



and expand dynamics. A trip to the first floor will seriously elevate your system.



Buckingham 4



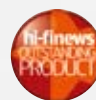
The Future of Integrated Amplifiers

INTRODUCING THE MARK LEVINSON® N° 585



Unsurpassed analogue performance combines with proprietary advanced digital capabilities and a flexible system configuration to give the N° 585 the power, performance and capability to accurately reproduce source material to new levels of realism. With patented Clari-Fi™ technology and a dedicated subwoofer output, the N° 585 proves that the future of integrated amplifiers has already arrived.

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Visit AudioQuest in the Sandringham Suite for exclusive show offers

Visit AudioQuest in The Remenham Suite to get a UK exclusive of the NEW Niagara 7000 Power Conditioner

New DragonFlies!

**£89 Black &
£169 Red**



Powerful, Immersive Sound from Computers and Mobile Devices!

Four years ago, AudioQuest shook the hi-fi world with our first DragonFly DAC–Preamp–Headphone Amp—the rare audio product that brought more compelling sound to *all* music lovers, playing high-res files to MP3s on perfectionist systems and modest laptops.

Now, the new DragonFly Black and DragonFly Red exceed their predecessor in every way, delivering more beautiful music, boasting software upgradability, and providing compatibility with **Android** and **Apple iOS** mobile devices.

While **Black** offers more clarity, depth and category-defining value than ever before, the take-no-prisoners **Red** provides even more finesse, resolution, torque and more than enough power to drive even the most demanding headphones.

The word is out: DigitalAudioReview.net's John Darko calls DragonFly Red and Black "the finest examples of everyman hifi to ever grace these pages. Their value quotients explode the dial."

Let the joyful experience begin!



audioquest