



sensus
FEEL THE SOUND
ULTRA HI-FI SPECIALISTS

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Equipment feature *

continuum

What can you say about Continuum Audio Labs. That has not been said by Hi-Fi show visitors worldwide, never mind the glorious comments from some of the most highly regarded Hi-Fi reviewers in the world. Scooping not only the Analogue component of the year award from Stereophile but also Product of the year. You may surmise that its quite good then!

Of course its designed and built here in Australia to a world class standard. You have to love it when a local company is able to raise the bar to a new level. In my opinion we can now extract more music from a vinyl record than was possible before and that is a worthwhile achievement regardless of cost.

So did the guys at Continuum pop the champagne and sit back and chill out? Nope they went right back to design and took every scrap of knowledge that they had learned from producing the Calburn and Cobra and went on to design a more accessible solution.

Enter the Criterion and Copperhead, naturally there will be many questions such as:
Is it comparable to the Calburn system?
Is it the second best Analogue turntable in the world?
How much cheaper is it?

You may call us to find out for yourself. I will say this, you will never be unhappy with a Continuum Turntable, but as in life some people buy a Ferrari and are happy others lust after an Enzo...



critterion



"Any good high-performance analog front-end can produce some degree of 3D soundfield, but in my listening experience the Calburn-Cobra produced the most convincing, believable, solid, and alive sound picture I've heard. It forced me to pay attention to the music.." - Michael Fremer, Stereophile

"The most immediate impression is a double edged attack; inky-black background silences, allied to a dynamic span that borders on the impossible. It is as wideband a source as I have heard this side of 15ips tape, LP pressing and cartridge allowing. I rate the session only slightly below driving a Ferrari at Monza. Well a lot below driving a Ferrari at Monza but still worthy of inclusion in the same paragraph nonetheless. The Calburn may just be the most complex, radical and advanced turntable ever made, some might find it too overwhelming. But sonically? I understand clearly why Mikey (Michael Fremer) went into debt for one. It is that outstanding. The arm's name is also the same as that of a celebrated nut-job sportscar of the 1960's an icon that has never been knocked of its perch. How utterly appropriate" - HiFi news october issue 2006, Ken Kessler

Equipment reviews

Piano review - John Potis, 6moons.com
<http://www.6moons.com/audioreviews/tidal/piano.html>

These are finished as no other speaker I've ever seen. What they produce is every bit as lovely as their appearance. If you can afford them -- or even if you can't -- see if you can arrange an audition. I haven't heard every great speaker in the world but I'm convinced that the Piano deserves its place among the very best. There's something very different about these Pianos, something very special.

If I had to list my favorite aspects of the Tidal Piano's performance in order of preference, I'd have a difficult time deciding between its smooth well-balanced and fatigue-free character -- to which you really can listen to all day -- and its way with rhythm, timing and pace as it imbues music with a degree of life and conviction that few other speakers do. The Pianos make old recordings new and fun again and they really do have me discovering my music collection. The Piano's combination of midrange articulation and fine flowing dynamic expression is captivating. So smooth, so revealing; so sophisticated and expressive of nuance - so utterly satisfying.



Newsletter



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Equipment Feature

Is there anyone not familiar with Lyra?

There are still deluded people out there who believe that despite all evidence to the contrary, vinyl still sounds superior to the latest and greatest digital formats. I tend to sit in this camp but I still play digital music!

The technology brigade believe that digital is almost perfect and tend to ignore their own ears and won't even entertain listening to a top vinyl system. Lyra feel that there are still major technical problems with phono cartridge design, which prevent the LP from realizing its full potential as a high-quality reproduction medium. We are therefore concentrating on designing MC phono cartridges that address those issues, and bring the sound of the LP one step closer to the master tape.

Each Lyra model is designed by Jonathan Carr in collaboration with Yoshinori Mishima, the artisan who also hand-crafts each piece. The ultimate goal of all Lyra cartridge designs is to accurately reproduce the exact contents of the record grooves without adding any signature of the cartridge itself.

With almost every cartridge in the range winning several awards, what's the recommendation?

Well if you have a more modest turntable it's a no brainer the Dorian is streets ahead of the competition at AUS \$1,100 with Stereophile Class B recommendation and an excellent TAS review it will track well, not break up and retrieve huge amounts of detail with an excellent balance to the sound.

If you have a higher quality turntable and arm then go for the new Skala, we have been raving about it as it's the first 5th generation cartridge from Lyra. You will instantly hear a tremendous sense of dynamics with incredible amounts of fine, low-level musical detail. The Skala combines this incredible detail retrieval with a tremendous sense of warmth and musicality. What's even more astounding is the noise level of this cartridge; it's almost undetectable! This is the most natural sounding, quietest phono cartridge ever to come from Lyra.



Lyra Love

DORIAN

"Stereophile Recommended Components Class B" - Vol 28, number 3
"The most immediate impression is a double edged attack;

Lyra Dorian is a US\$750 medium output mc with a very nicely balanced and easy to like sound. The Dorian is also a fantastic tracker, able to navigate the grooves without breaking up. The depth, quickness, rhythmic precision, overall neutrality, and far better than average detail I heard throughout my sessions are a tribute to both the Dorian and the funk. Wayne Garcia, TAS, issue 166

HELIKON

"Stereophile Recommended Components Class A" - Stereophile Vol 23, Number 8, pg 41-47

Audiogone Review of Lyra Helikon
The best recordings sound LIVE. There is an immediacy, a palpable presence with this cartridge, that snaps me to attention and makes me catch my breath.

HELIKON MONO

Stereophile Awards
2005 Analog Source Component
Lyra Helikon Mono phono cartridge

ARGO I

"Last year's winner remains a favourite, an 'affordable' Lyra with stunning weight and drive yet delicacy and finesse."

Reviewed in Hi-fi plus issue 28

Hi Fi World's annual awards
Best Cartridge The Lyra Argo
Hi Fi World had this to say about the Argo:

"By this, I mean the Lyras are extremely balanced, subtle and incisive in a way that few similarly priced rivals can be. Wonderfully open and expansive, its soundstage is extremely wide and deep yet precisely articulated. Vocals are uncommonly direct."

"There's an effortless to the midband, which is wonderfully expressive."

"A beautifully engineered and built, yet thoroughly modern, machine."

TITAN I

"Stereophile Recommended Components Class A" Hi-Fi News Awards 2005
In the category of cartridges over £1000 the Lyra Titan i took the award for best cartridge.

Hi Fi News said:
"Flagship model from Lyra replaces the flagship Parnassus DC1 and comprises a one-piece titanium body and diamond-coated boron cantilever, tipped with the original Lyra line-contact stylus. A world reference pick-up cartridge."



Equipment reviews

Triplanar Precision Tonearm MKVII

"By comparison, the VII made both the Graham and VPI unipivoted designs sound slow and slightly out of focus, in the way the desert, say, can cause images to float and shimmer. The Tri-Planar grounded every image firmly in place [and] opened up the back corners of the soundstage...."

- Harry Pearson, "HP's Workshop: HP's Super Components List Part II," The Absolute Sound Issue 143, August/September 2003: page 101.
"[The Tri-Planar Ultimate Mk. VII] removes colorations... but leaves the 'lushness' and 'sweetness' of the music in a field of the highest resolve and definition."

- Harry Pearson, "Recommended Products," The Absolute Sound Issue 144, October/November 2003: page 63.

"Warmer and richer...the TriPlanar is highly stable and capable of extracting a ton of information from the micro-grooves."

- "Golden Ear Awards," The Absolute Sound Issue 151, December 2004 / January 2004: page 38.

"Its ability to extract the optimum performance from the cartridge so readily constitutes a real head start in this particular arms race...."

So unobtrusive is the signature of the Tri-Planar that it seems almost disingenuous to discuss its sound. It makes more sense to discuss the absence of sound: the way it allows musical dynamics, energy, and colour to expand unimpeded into a wonderfully transparent soundstage....

The Tri-Planar allows the music to happen in such dynamic and rhythmic freedom that the structure is never in doubt, the music never less than dramatic. In this respect it easily matches the overall coherence of the best parallel trackers....

With all these shiny new toys vying for your attention, why should you buy a design that's knocking on 30 years old? Because this is categorically the best pivoted tone-arm that I've ever used."

-Roy Gregory, "The Tri-Planar Ultimate Mk. VI Precision Tone-arm," Hi-Fi+ Issue 19, Sep/Oct 2002: pages 56-57.

"Powerful and dynamic, solid yet expressive, delicate and tactile. The combination of virtues will make the most of virtually any cartridge and extend virtually any system."

-Roy Gregory, ed., "Product of the Year Awards, Editor's Choice," Hi-Fi+ Issue 22: page 33.

Newsletter

Classical Vinyl

Alan Hovhaness	Fra Angelico/Requiem & Resurrection	Poseidon Society
Albaniz -NPO/De Burgos	Suite Espanola	Decca/Sp Corner
Albeniz -Ernest Ansermet	Iberia / Turina	Decca/Sp Corner
Atrium Musicae de Madrid	Villancancicos	Harmonia Mundi
Bach	6 Solo Cello Suites	Mercury Liv Pres
Balalaika Favourites	(Gnutov OSRFO) 200g	Classic Records
Beethoven	Violin Concerto In D Heifetz 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Beethoven	Symphony No 4 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Beethoven	Symphony No 5 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Beethoven -BPO/Eugen Jochum	Concerto & Violin & Orchestra	Deutsch Gram
Beethoven -CSO/Georg Solti	Symphony No 9	Decca/Sp Corner
Beethoven -Oborin/Oistrach	Violin Sonatas Nos 5 & 9	Phillips
Beethoven -VPO/Curzon	Concerto No 5 (Emperor)	Decca/Sp Corner
Beethoven -VPO/George Szell	Egmont	Decca/Sp Corner
Beethoven -VSO/Giulini	Concerto for Piano & Orch No 1	Deutsch Gram
Beethoven -VSOO/Scherchen	Symphony No 3	Westminster
Berlioz	Symphonie Fantastique 200g	Classic Records
Berlioz -PCO/Argenta	Symphonie Fantastique	Decca/Sp Corner
Bizet -LSO	Carmen Fantasie Sarasate	Decca/Sp Corner
Borodin	Symphony No 2 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Borodin -OSR/Ansermet	Symphonies Nos 2 & 3	London
Borodin / Shostakovich	String Quartet No 2/ No 8	Decca/Sp Corner
Brahms	Hom Trio Sonata No 2	Mercury Liv Pres
Brahms - LSO/Curzon/Szell	Concerto For Piano No 1	Decca/Sp Corner
Brahms -LPO/Rodzinski	Violin Concerto	Westminster
Brahms / Wagner	Clarinet Quintet / Adagio	Decca/Sp Corner
Brahms/Dvorak(VPO/Fritz Reiner)	Hungarian Dances/Slavonic Dances	Decca/Sp Corner
Britten - LSO/Britten/Pears	Nocturne / Four Sea Interludes	Decca/Sp Corner
Britten/Debussy - Britten	Sonata in C for Cello and Piano	Decca/Sp Corner
Bruch / Mozart	Violin Cto No 1/Miolin Cto No 4 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Bruch/Hindesmith-LSO/Distrakh	Scottish Fantasy	Decca/Sp Corner
Bruckner	Symphony No 8	Westminster
Carl Orff -German Opera Berlin	Carmina Burina -Eugen Jochum	Deutsch Gram
Chabrier	Espana 200g	Classic Records
Clemencic Consort/Dr. René Clemencic	Danses Anciennes De Hongrie	Harmonia Mundi
Corelli/Pachebel-SCO/Munchinger	Concerto Grosso No 8	Decca/Sp Corner
De Falla - OSR/Ansermet	The Three Cornered Hat	Decca/Sp Corner
Debussy -OSR/Ataulfo Argenta	Images Pour Orchestre	London
Debussy/Ravel - LSO/Montoux	Prelude a L'apres /Pavane	Decca/Sp Corner
Debussy/Ravel-DSO/Paul Paray	Prelude a L'apres /Valse Nobles	Mercury Liv Pres
Die Rohre	The Tube/SCO	Tacet
Dvorak	Cello Concerto 200g	RCA Living Stereo
Dvorak - J. Starker/LSO/Dorati	Concerto for Violoncello/Orchestra	Mercury Liv Pres
Dvorak -BPO/Georg Solti	Concerto for Violoncello & Orch	Deutsch Gram
Dvorak-VPO/Istvan Kertesz	Symphony No 5 (from the New World)	Decca/Sp Corner
Elgar/Baker/du Pré/Barbirolli	Sea Pictures Op.37/Cello Conc. E Minor Op.85	Testament
Enesco / Liszt -LSO/Dorati	Roumanian Rhap/Hungarian Rhap	Mercury Liv Pres
Espana	LSO/Ataulfo Argenta	Decca/Sp Corner
Falla	Three Cornered Hat- 200gm	Classic Records
Faure / Debussy -OSR/Ansermet	Pelleas et Melisande/Petite Suite	Decca/Sp Corner
Fröhe Weihnacht	Prey/Hallstein/Köth/Rothenberger	Mediaphon
Grainger,Rogers.Milhaud & Strauss	Winds In HI FI-EWE/Fennell	Mercury Liv Pres
Granados	Today Playing His 1913 Interpretations	Tacet
Grieg -LSO/Olvin Fjeldstad	Peer Gynt	Decca/Sp Corner
Grieg/Franck-LSO/LPO-Curzon/Boutt	Piano Concerto / Variations	Decca/Sp Corner
Guy Bovet	L'orgue De Valere (1390) Vol 2	Gallo
Handel -LSO/George Szell	Water Music and Fireworks Music	Decca/Sp Corner
Heinz Freudenthal	Ernste Und Heitere Bläsermusik aus Schwaden	Colosseum
Hindemith / Mozart	Violin Concertos 200g	Classic Records
Hindesmith/Leclerc/Gregson etc	Brass Ring/Fragments from a Show	Crystal
Holst -LAPO/Zubin Mehta	The Planets	Decca/Sp Corner
Jan Boerman	Komposite 1972/1979 etc	Composers Voice
Joseph Haydn - Strachqualette	Buchberger Quartett	Colosseum
Khachaturian	Gayne Ballet Suite 200g	Classic Records
Khachaturian-VPO/Aram Khach	Spartacus Gavaneh	Decca/Sp Corner
Lalo/Ravel-OSR/Ansermet	Symphonie Espagnole/Tzigane	Decca/Sp Corner
Liszt	Hungarian Rhapsodies Nos 1,4 & 5	Westminster
Liszt -Sir Clifford Curzon	Recital	Decca/Sp Corner
Louis Andriessen	Golven - Music from the Film	Attaca
Machet Die Tore Welt	Weihnachtliche Musik für Choir und Blaser	Colosseum
Mahler	Symphony No 2 (2LP set)	Vanguard LP Series
Mahler	Eighth	Vanguard LP Series
Mahler-LSO/Solti	Symphony No 1	Decca/Sp Corner
Mahler-LSO/Solti	Symphony No 2	Decca/Sp Corner
Mahler-LSO/Solti	Symphony No 3	Decca/Sp Corner

Upcoming Concerts

-  **Brahms German Requiem - Season Opening Gala**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Thursday, 15 February 2007
-  **Antarctic Symphony**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Friday, 2 March 2007
-  **Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Friday, 30 March 2007
-  **Chick Corea Jazz and Orchestra**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Thursday, 10 May 2007
-  **Beethoven Symphonies 4 and 7**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 30 May 2007
-  **Beethoven Symphony 2 and Piano Concerto 4**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Friday, 1 June 2007
-  **Beethoven Emperor Concerto and Symphony 5**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Saturday, 2 June 2007
-  **Beethoven Symphonies 6 and 3**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Friday, 8 June 2007
-  **Beethoven Symphonies 1 and 9**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 11 July 2007
-  **Beethoven Symphonies 1 and 9**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 11 July 2007
-  **Mahler 6**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 4 July 2007
-  **Morrison Plays Schifrin**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Thursday, 19 July 2007
-  **Near to Heaven Elgars First**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 1 August 2007
-  **Charlie Chaplins Gold Rush**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Thursday, 30 August 2007
-  **Mozarts Great C Minor Mass**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Wednesday, 24 October 2007
-  **Rachmaninov Piano Concerto 2**
Venue: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
Location: Sydney
From: Friday, 2 November 2007