

Show Guide

The Dublin Hi-Fi Show 2023

**at the Burlington Clayton Hotel,
Burlington Road, Dublin.**

Saturday & Sunday

21/22 October 10.00-18.00

The finest Hi-Fi from the best brands

Show Floor Plan

Room 3 Rega/Linn/ Kef	Lobby	Room 5 Rega/Linn Kef	Room 6 Naim / Focal
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Room 9 Absolute Sounds I
Room 12 Absolute Sounds II
Room 15 Cloneyaudio I
Room 17 Audioquest
Room 19 Fine Sounds

Room 7 Naim / Focal
Room 8 Gryphon
Room 10 System Audio
Room 11 Cadence Audio
Room 14 Chord Electronics
Room 16 NAD
Room 18 Cloney Audio II

NB Room Sizes Not To Scale

Absolute Sounds I

Absolute Sounds will be demonstrating highlights from their extensive roster of the finest high end audio.

Making its debut Ireland will be the Dohmann Helix Two turntable from renowned Australian designer and engineer Mark Dohmann. The Helix takes a radical approach to energy flows within a turntable to achieve new standards in dynamics and resolution.

Partnering the Helix is the highly regarded Reed tonearm from Lithuania which is engineered to deliver the best aspects of both pivoted and tangential tracking and supports the Koetsu Urushi cartridge to best effect.

Absolute Sounds' legendary principal Ricardo Franassovici will be making a personal appearance on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons playing selections from his personally curated vinyl collection - not to be missed. Ricardo will be using an ultra exotic Swiss phono stage by Robert Huber of HSE.

Digital fans will be equally well served with the presence of the full DCS Audio Vivaldi stack comprising Transport, Upscaler, Clock and DAC. Both sources will feed the powerhouse Dan D'Agostino Momentum integrated amp.

And competing the chain are the Wilson Audio Alexia V's which use all of the latest Wilson innovations including the Carbon Tweeter, Quadramag Midrange and new high tech composite V cabinet material.

A chain is only as good as its weakest link so top quality electronics deserve cables to match and Absolute Sounds will be using Transparent cables throughout the entire system. And not just any Transparent cable but the Magnum Opus.



Absolute Sounds II

In its second room at the Dublin Hi-Fi Show, Absolute Sounds will be demonstrating the magic of the legendary 300B triode tube, courtesy of the new Western Electric 91E amplifier.

Western Electric which was founded in 1869 were the original inventors of the 300B and the revived company has stopped at nothing to make the highest quality valve possible. Not content with that, the company has gone on to develop an amplifier to fully exploit it's musical veracity.

Single ended triode amplifiers such as this require a high sensitivity speaker and designer John DeVore's Orangutang 096 is just that. Finished in georgeous woods, the two way 096 produces a surprisingly big sound with all of the transparency and midrange magic that the amplifier deliver to it.

When it comes to sources, Reed make not just tonearms but also their own turntables. In this room you will hear the Reed 1c Turntable with matching tonearm.

Continuing with tube theme, digital playback will be via the Audio Research CD9 tubed CD player.



Audioquest

Audioquest's Bill Low is one of the people who founded the modern audio cable industry with products based on sound engineering principles rigorously applied over time. Audioquest's extensive range of cables will feature in several rooms at the show - including the state of the art Dragon cables in the Cloney Audio 1 room. Along with cables, Audioquest are also leaders in power conditioning - really important as our mains electricity is getting "dirtier" than ever - enter the Niagra 1200 fed with the Audioquest Blizzard power lead.

Audioquest will use the NRG Z 3 power cable to feed the CSA100 integrated amplifier from Copland and the active bass section of the Golden Ear T66. The speaker cable is Audioquest Rocket 88 Bi-wire.

The digital source will be a Mac computer running audirvana software feeding through an Audioquest Diamond USB cable.

The Copland CSA 100 combines the advantages of tubes and transistor amplification using the synectic design concept that previously has made Copland hybrid amplifiers widely acclaimed. The CSA100 provides four digital inputs, five analogue inputs and a 100 Watt per channel power amplifier, One tube is responsible for the CSA100 line amplification and the efficiency of this single tube layout is astonishing. A MOS-FET circuitry delivers the brute force - combining the delicacy of tubes with solid state muscle.

The GoldenEar T66 is the first model in GoldenEar's new T Series. While it boasts several significant refinements of our time-tested design concepts, including the built-in DSP-controlled subwoofer amplification; Designed for performance and beauty, the T66's tall, slender cabinet contributes to the speaker's holographic imaging and is proportionately the strongest cabinet GoldenEar has ever made.

It contains a folded-ribbon AMT tweeter, two MVPP, cast-basket, passive midrange drivers, and two active long-throw, DSP-controlled oval subwoofers powered by 1200W class-D amplifiers. Passive quadratic planar radiators are located on each side of the speaker. It goes without saying that internal wiring is by AudioQuest.



Cadence



Cadence Audio may not be a familiar name in Ireland, but the name Spendor will be instantly recognisable to hi-fi fans. In addition to distributing Spendor, Cadence has also built up a roster of other hi-fi brands, several of which will feature in this room.

SME of Steyning, Sussex, is no doubt an equally familiar name, having led the world in tonearms since the introduction of its Series III back in the 50s. SME subsequently emerged with some of the finest turntables around and at this year's show we will have the Series 12 turntable which has recently received an upgraded powersupply which is being rolled out across SME's entire turntable range. The cartridge on this turntable will come from the Shelter range.

Weiss of Switzerland are leading players supplying both recording studios and domestic hi fi. At the show you will hear the Weiss 502 dac/streamer.

Another brand with professional and domestic audio heritage is Nagra, known for their spectacular sonics and jewel-like build quality including their famous modulomoter. This year's show will feature the Nagra Int 100 which as the name suggests is a 100 watt per channel integrated amplifier.

And last but not least, we will have the Spendor Classic 2/3 loudspeaker. These speakers represent the best of Spendor's decades-long tradition of compact monitor quality two way speakers completing a system which delivers high end performance with components that are fully at home in moderately sized i.e. real world, rooms.

Cable will be by Crystal cable of Holland.



Chord Electronics



Chord Electronics, are pioneers in digital audio design and the use of ultra high frequency power supplies in high end audio.

Chord will demonstrate its DAVE DAC. It features the very best conversion technology available, using proprietary techniques never seen before. DAVE stands for 'Digital to Analogue Veritas in Extremis', a moniker that best reflects the product's capability; a device so advanced and with so few compromises, that it is truthful in the extreme. DAVE, which is also a reference-level headphone amplifier and digital preamp, distils over twenty years of Chord Electronics' research, development and advanced engineering into one device.

Leaving no digital stone unturned, the DAVE will feed the Hugo M Scaler. This is Chord's a highly advanced standalone upscaler. It uses Rob Watts' unique filter technology, to upscale standard 44.1kHz digital audio up to 705.6kHz (16x CD's 44.1kHz native resolution), ready to be passed to a suitable DAC; Hugo M Scaler extends its upscaling performance to 768kHz (from 96kHz input data).

The DAVE/Hugo will feed Chord's new ULTIMA INTEGRATED amplifier. This is a class-leading 125-watt integrated amplifier benefitting from the latest dual-feed-forward error-correction topology, Chord Electronics' legendary proprietary ultra-high-frequency power supplies, plus an unmistakable industrial aesthetic. Designed by Chord Electronics' founder, owner and chief engineer, John Franks, the advanced ULTIMA circuit monitors and immediately corrects audio signals before the output stage, for astonishing signal accuracy from a one-box integrated device. As is the norm for Chord All metalwork is precision-machined from solid aircraft-grade aluminium, including Chord Electronics' iconic Integra Legs. The fascia sports a 28-mm-thick front panel with a perfectly symmetrical aesthetic, centered around a spherical power on/off control with polychromatic lighting, flanked by illuminated volume and balance controls.



Chord Electronics Ltd.



Cloney Audio I



At Cloney Audio, we aim to deliver the finest sound regardless of budget. And in these days of rampant inflation, it's good to know that real hi fi sound is accessible without breaking the bank.

Back in the seventies and eighties, we were on a mission to show that turntables really did make a difference in sound quality. So we are needless to say delighted to see resurgence of vinyl, not least because it shows a new generation of listeners that there is more to music than MP3s.

At the show we will have the Dual 618 which is an all in one high quality, but affordable, vinyl player including turntable, arm and quality cartridge from Ortofon of Denmark.

We will also have the NAD 538 CD player on hand for the very many listeners who still have a collection of silver discs.

Also harking back to heyday of vinyl is the Creek 4040a amplifier. Like the Porsche 911, the name may be the same, but the new 4040 is bang up to date while continuing the Creek tradition of offering sound which belies its modest price, offering 55 watts per channel, but doubling that into four ohms - always a sign of proper power supply design. The 4040a is also up to date in offering a full suite of digital inputs and bluetooth.

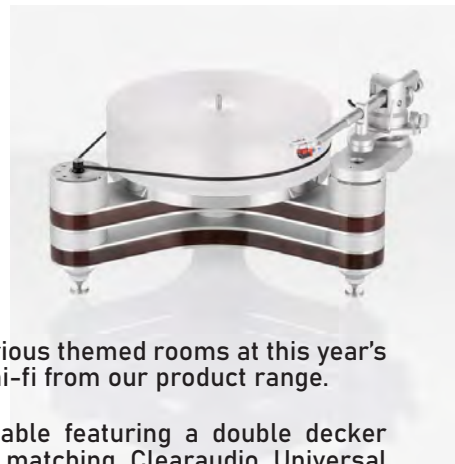
Our speakers are the Quadral Signum 20s - again mixing affordability with excellent sound quality.

Our cables for this system come from Van den Hul - one of our longest running cable suppliers and makers of fine phono cartridges too.

Hi-Fi Racks. A word on hi fi racks. All hi-fi benefits from being placed on a dedicated surface designed for hi fi and not just general furniture. In several rooms at the show we are featuring racks from Italy's solidsteel. These racks look great and really deliver, at a modest price.



Cloney Audio II



Cloney Audio's products are, of course, extensively featured in the various themed rooms at this year's show. In this room, you'll find an further eclectic selection of quality hi-fi from our product range.

Beginning with vinyl, we will play the Clearaudio Innovation turntable featuring a double decker chassis of aluminum and "panzerohlz" composite, complete with matching Clearaudio Universal aluminium/carbonfiber tonearm and Professional power supply. On the cartridge front, one of our great recent finds is Hana from the Excel Corporation of Japan and here you will get to listen to the new Hana Umami Blue moving coil cartridge.

For digital we will have the DCS Rossini player/streamer, complete with matching digital clock - this is the second model in the DCS range, surpassed only by the four box Vivaldi system on demonstration in the Absolute Sounds room.

Both sources will feed the three box XP32 pre-amplifier from Pass Labs, which is complemented by Pass's two box XP27 phono stage. These are state of the art components where great attention has been paid to lowering the noise floor and increasing dynamic range and musicality. Like all Passlabs gear, they are beautifully constructed. And while not inexpensive, they actually offer excellent value for money when their sound quality, construction and finishing is taken into account.

There will be no shortage of power for driving our speakers as we will have the Passlabs XA160 monoblocks to complete our electronics. These are true Class A amplifiers where the transistors are biased to eliminate crossover distortion and deliver a truly natural sound with great spaciousness, imaging and dynamics.

We are featuring a selection of speakers in our room - the Wilson Audio Sabrina X and the Sonus Faber Amati will be on rotation over the two days of the show.

A system of this quality deserves quality cables and we are delighted to present the state of the art peak of the Audioquest Mythical Creatures Range - the Dragon - the reference cables for the Absolute Sound's magazine's top writer, Robert Harley.



Fine Sounds



Fine Sounds are distributors of legendary brands including McIntosh Audio from Binghamton New York, USA and Sonus Faber from Vicenza Italy.

McIntosh are known and loved for their unique design aesthetic and high end sound. For analogue, at the show Fine Sounds will have the McIntosh MCD85 disc player which uses its transport and 8-channel, 32-bit PCM/DSD Quad Balanced DAC to play back commercial and burned CDs and DVD Data Discs Fixed. Not just a disc player, the MCD85's USB Audio input supports up to DSD256 Coax and Optical digital inputs.

Vinyl will be catered for by the McIntosh MT5 Turntable. The McIntosh MT5 Precision Turntable is a complete turntable package that is more than the sum of its parts. Engineered to exacting McIntosh standards, each piece contributes to deliver a superb performance. The illuminated, magnetically suspended platter produces an inviting glow that's sure to be a conversation starter among friends and guests alike.

For amplification, we will have the McIntosh MAC 352 integrated. This powerhouse includes McIntosh's Hybrid Drive™ technology which combines the best of vacuum tubes and solid state to 200 Watts per channel of musical punch and refinement.

Another company with a distinctive design aesthetic is Sonus Faber. And what better way to express that than by drawing from the Sonus Faber Heritage Collection. The Minima Amator II encapsulates the features that put Sonus Faber on the map, with its real walnut cabinet and leather covered front baffle, and now with fine solid brass accents. The Minima Amator II uses Sonus Faber's latest drive units and crossovers to combine the best of heritage and innovation.

Cables for this system are from the Tellurium Q Ultra Black range which Tellurium Q characterise as smooth, fine detailed and great resolution while actually reducing apparent harshness. Music is presented as a coherent, organic whole, with a jaw-dropping sense of realism and naturalness - the perfect complement for the rest of this Fine Sounds and fine sounding system.



Gryphon

Denmark's Gryphon are firm believers in a systems approach where the source, amplification and speakers all come from the same company.

You'll find that expressed in the Gryphon room where we have Ethos CD Player / Essence and Diablo Amplifiers and the Eos 2 loudspeakers.

Ethos CD Player - Gryphon designed the Ethos integrated CD player to keep pace with the rapid evolution of digital audio. In addition to handling standard 16-bit/44.1 kHz "Redbook" CD, the Ethos offers convenient playback and can be connected to external sources up to 32-bit/384 kHz PCM and up to DSD512.

Essence Pre Power - The Essence Preamp is a strictly dual mono configuration achieves the shortest possible signal path with minimal internal wiring thereby reducing interchannel crosstalk and signal path coloration to an absolute minimum. The Essence power has an ultra-wide frequency bandwidth (0.5 Hz - 350 kHz, +0 dB, -3 dB), and is conservatively rated at 50W (8Ω), 100W (4Ω), 200W (2Ω) in stereo, Class A in stereo. With massive power supplies, the Essence will drive any loudspeaker.

Gryphon's Vanta (TBC) cable loom will round out this fabulous system.

Gryphon will also be showing the Diabolo 333 integrated - Over the past eight years, however, new component technologies and intensive engineering research have suggested areas for improvement. Circuit highlights from the new Apex and Commander, Gryphon's flagship Amplifier and Preamp, have "Trickled-Down" to the Diablo 333, which boasts ten percent more output power than its legendary predecessor. New ultra fast, low-capacitance pre-driver transistors deliver both enhanced musicality and superior measured performance.

EOS 2 - Although EOS 2 is Gryphon's most accessible loudspeaker, it offers uncompromising parts and build quality. Our proprietary woofer features a Thin-ply Carbon Fiber cone manufactured to our specifications by the world's leading fabricator of Formula 1 components. EOS' tweeter—also proprietary—uses a large (34mm) Beryllium dome and resonance-free rear enclosure for enhanced dynamics and low-end response. Hand-assembled from the finest components, our PCS (Progressive Curved Slope) crossover maximizes power handling and ensures a seamless transition between drivers. Featuring 91 dB efficiency and 4 Ohm minimum impedance, EOS 2 presents an easy load for virtually all high-quality power amplifiers.



Linn



Linn will demonstrate the Klimax Hub and the Klimax 360 loudspeakers.

Klimax DSM System Hub. Klimax DSM has been engineered to preserve every last musical detail, the Klimax DSM: System Hub player gives you access to networked music in the highest quality possible, from Studio Master downloads to streaming services and internet radio. Designed from the ground up, the Klimax DSM: System Hub is housed in an exquisite precision-machined new enclosure, providing vital acoustic isolation along with visual and tactile luxury.

Featuring Linn's industry-leading DS technology, and with up to 24bit/384kHz and DSD256 streaming capability, every iota of musical detail is transferred to the speakers using our proprietary, lossless Exakt Link connection.

And what better way to hear the Klimax DSM system hub than via Linn's flagship 360 Loudspeaker. The 360 turns has Linn's lowest ever levels of audible distortion – producing a performance with unprecedented clarity and realism that's entirely absent of sonic colouration. It boasts an ingenious cabinet design devoted to delivering the cleanest possible dispersion characteristics. All that is experienced with 360 is sound-stage; with vocals suspended in space, and true-to-life scale and depth leaving you utterly devoid of the sense you are listening to a pair of stereo speakers. 360 is audibly invisible. Its calculatedly curvaceous cabinet, exposed drive units, intricately machined trim, and dynamic finish combine to present an overall aesthetic that is familiar, yet with ultra-modern flair and contemporary class. 360 is visibly remarkable.

Linn Sondek – and of course no Linn room would be complete without the legendary Linn Sondek LP12 – find out which one at the show.



NAD



The heart of the NAD Room is the C 3050 Stereophonic Amplifier in which NAD's 50-year history of innovation meets the future of hi-fi. With its dual VU meters, push-button input selectors, walnut-finished vinyl-clad cabinet, and 1970s cursive-style branding, the C 3050 recalls the components that helped a generation of music-lovers discover the joys of great audio.

But the 100-watt-per-channel HybridDigital UcD power of the 3050 amplifier and Texas Instruments high-resolution differential DAC is bang up to date and delivers sound that will thrill today's discerning listeners. And thanks to NAD's MDC2 future-proofing technology, C 3050 owners can add leading-edge capabilities like BluOS high-resolution multi-room streaming and Dirac Live room correction.

And what better way to celebrate the history of audio than with the Rega RP8 turntable complete with Haha EH high output moving coil cartridge, which will provide the vinyl source in the NAD room.

Digital source material will also feature sourced from the streaming capability of the Bluesound Node X feeding its digital out in the C3050's own built in high resolution DAC.

Aesthetically and sonically, the Sonus Faber Sonetto II compact stand-mounted two way speaker is the perfect complement to the C3050 amplifier. The gorgeous real wood veneered, made in Italy Sonetto uses a high definition damped acoustic dome tweeter and a 165mm bass mid unit with custom diaphragm made with cellulose pulp and other natural fibers.

Cabling for the system is provided Tellurium - in this case from the Ultra Two range.



Naim Audio / Focal

Naim Audio's big news for the Dublin Hi Fi Show 2023 is the Irish premier of the new Classic 300 series, rated "outstanding product" by Hi Fi News magazine.

The 300 Series line includes NSS 333, a high-resolution streaming solution, the NAC 332 preamplifier, the NAP 350 power amplifier and the NPX Power Supply. Also on hand to deliver the music will be the Uniti Core.

This system will feature the Focal Sopra 2 Speakers. Sopra N°2 is the new epitome of today's premium loudspeakers. It perfectly combines dynamics, space optimisation and harmonic richness. Sopra n°2 clearly inaugurates a new era for the "Premium High End" by taking into account new performance criteria. Compact, modern, a pure design, character... all these are essential factors to ensure perfect integration into your interior. Equipped with best midrange drivers ever developed by Focal, with the NIC and TMD technologies, Sopra n°2 pushes back the limits of sound reproduction in terms of transparency in a very compact enclosure. Indeed, unlike Utopia, which is extravagant by essence and where size is by no means a constraint, Sopra aims for maximal compactness to ensure easy integration into reasonably sized rooms. Sopra n°2 is perfectly at ease in rooms measuring up to 320ft² (30m²), and is even ideal for larger rooms measuring up to 750ft² (70m²).

In its second room, Naim will also be demonstrating the 200 Series including the NSC 222 Streaming Pre amp and the new very significantly redesigned NAP 250 Power Amp, playing into the Focal Kanta 1 speakers. This bookshelf loudspeaker from the Kanta N°1 line will discreetly blend into any unit or stand: it is the perfect solution for rooms under 270 ft² (25 m²). Entirely dedicated to acoustic performance and with a resolutely personal aesthetic: that, in a nutshell, is the Kanta DNA! After three years of research, Focal offers a new combination of exclusive technologies: the marriage of Beryllium, in the next generation IAL3 tweeter, and Flax, for the midrange and bass speaker drivers. The result? A precise, detailed sound, brimming with warmth and musicality. It is the start of a new era for those who love sound... There's a surprise in store right from the start of your listening experience, in the form of the extent of the bass frequency response for its dimensions. When positioned in an enclosed space such as this, or near to a wall, a piece of foam can be slid into the space to optimise the bass even further.



Rega/Kef



Rega will have the new Naia turntable with Aura phono stage, Aethos amplifier and Kef Blade 2 Meta speakers.

The Rega Naia turntable is the result of years of painstaking development which was used to create the now famous Naiad test bed turntable. The Naia takes the best of this development and technology and transfers it into a production ready version without compromise. The Naia is packed with ground-breaking features, materials and technology developed by Rega over many years to reach new levels of vinyl replay. The Naia takes our pioneering low mass, high rigidity plinth technology to the next level by using a Graphene impregnated, carbon fibre skeletal plinth with Tancast 8 foam core. This ultra rigid structure is then strengthened further using two ceramic aluminium oxide braces, the same material used to create the redesigned, resonance controlled ceramic platter with improved flywheel effect and complex profile.

The Aethos stereo amplifier is housed in a brand new, custom designed case. Employing four 160 W 16 Amp output transistors per channel, this delivers 156 W per channel into 6 Ω . The Aethos is a dual mono design using a custom wound toroidal transformer and regulated supplies for the sensitive amplification and driver stages. The pre-amplifier stage uses class-A discrete circuitry throughout. The Aethos is a no compromise product with one goal, to deliver your music as faithfully as possible.

The reference Aura MC stage is the culmination of decades of electronic design development. We have created the ultimate, fully adjustable, three-stage, all symmetrical pre-amplifier designed purely to extract the very best performance from your moving coil cartridge and vinyl playback system.



The featured speaker here is the Blade Two Meta which offers all the acoustic prowess and iconic design on a slightly smaller scale. Blade Two Meta features Single Apparent Source technology with four 165mm (6.5 in.) force-cancelling bass drivers and 12th generation Uni-Q® driver array with MAT™.



System Audio



We are delighted to welcome the return to Dublin of one of our favourite Scandinavian brands, System Audio. System Audio Principal Ole Withott and colleagues will be presenting the Irish launch of their EISA winning Silverback speakers.

The range includes the compact on-wall EISA winner SA Silverback 1; The bookshelf (and formerly EISA winner) SA legend 5.2 silverback; the floor standing (and formerly EISA winner) SA legend 40.2 silverback. And the wireless active subwoofer SA Silverback Sub Solo

Ole will present just how simple the Silverback system is and how good it sounds. He will explain system audio's Cockpit room correction system. And he will demonstrate the expansion possibilities of the system with the with SA Silverback Sub Solo and the Sub Duo.

System Audio will also show the various multi-room options with SA Silverbar and how all Silverback speakers are prepared for being a part of a wireless Home Theater with Dolby Atmos with Surround Hub.

