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HARDWARE: Ego for Bentley Laptop



GUITARS: Fly Select Koa by Parker



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Larger than Life

Meridian's DSP8000 loudspeakers replicate the sounds of a live performance.

BY AYESHA KAHN

ANY TRUE MUSICIAN WILL agree that there is nothing quite like the versatility of a concert grand piano. Soft and delicate staccatos give way to resounding fortissimos, all perfectly audible from every angle of its handsome form. Re-creating this inherent quality was the ultimate challenge for the engineers and designers of Meridian's DSP8000 loudspeakers (\$65,000 per pair).

Founded by audio engineer Bob Stuart and industrial designer Allen Boothroyd, Meridian Audio is known among elite circles of cognoscenti as a house of fine handcrafted sound equipment. It is Boothroyd and Stuart's undying passion for music that drives Meridian's spirit of invention. "We discovered the whole picture, the full performance, pure and without distortion," says Stuart. "When that happens, you get very, very close to the

original intention and feeling behind the music. This is what matters to us at Meridian, whether we're revealing the nuances of a piano concerto or the energy of a rock concert," he explains.

With an orchestra of outstanding players, the 53-inch speaker delivers impeccable sound from hi-definition audio sources up to 24-bits. A set of six hi-efficiency, long throw custom bass drive units are mounted in pairs within the body of the speaker—completely independent of its mid-range and treble counterparts. A separate sealed head assembly houses the mid-range and treble drivers, minimizing interference and vibrations from the bass units. A semi-horn-loaded composite dome design treble unit features a silver voice coil, while the mid-range unit incorporates a cone drawn from a uniquely light and

stiff combination of polymers providing unparalleled transparency. Five high-power, low-feedback amplifiers back the eight custom drive units, offering high detail, low noise, and incredibly fast bass. While these technical specifications are remarkable, DSP8000's digital upsampling filter system is sure to impress the most astute audiophile. In fact, this digital processing is so advanced that it will even audibly correct flaws in original recordings.

The speakers are housed in a sleek, curved cabinet crafted with pressure-laminated panels finished in a piano lacquer. Although black and silver are the standard color options, custom hues—such as the ever-popular Ferrari-red Rosso Corsa—are also available. But what truly sets the DSP8000 apart is its versatility. Like the concert grand piano it was inspired by, it is just as comfortable with Handel as it is with Hendrix.

Meridian Audio, www.meridian-audio.com

