

# Heirloom Audio Ltd

## FALL 2011 NEWS



## The H.A.L. 2011 RMAF Awards

- **Most memorable sounding speakers:** Schimmel Voxativ, YG Acoustics Kipod II
- **Most tantalizing phono stage for vinyl freaks:** Wavestream Kinetics
- **Most congenial room host:** Jon Stronczer of Bel Canto (*as always!*)
- **Coollest Server-based system:** Naim SuperUniti/UnitiServe/Ovator S400
- **Best recording find, CD:** JS Bach Orgelbuchlein by Ensemble Mare Nostrum, Andrea De Carlo (MA Recordings MO76A)
- **Best recording find, LP:** Vivaldi Concertos for Viola D'Amore & Strings by Liszt Ferenc Chamber Orchestra (Hungaroton SLPX 12162) – David Sckolnik @ A la Carte Productions

### Announcements



Heirloom Audio returns as sponsor for the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado 2011-2012 season. Check out their gorgeous new website at [www.bccolorado.org](http://www.bccolorado.org) for concert dates, programs, and lots more!

### Getting Heirplay at Heirloom Audio

LP-Red Garland: All Kinds of Weather (Prestige Mono 7148)  
LP-Elvis Costello: Spike (Warner Brothers Stereo 9 25848-1)  
LP-Eastman/Roller: Hovhanness: Symphony No.4 (Mercury Living Presence Stereo SR90366)  
LP-Vilmos Szabadi: The Virtuoso Violin, Ravel/Debussy (Hungaroton Stereo SLPX 12514)  
LP-Dezso Ranki: Schubert: Wanderer Fantasy in C Major (Hungaroton Stereo SLPX 11664)  
CD-Jeffrey Kahane: Romancing the Piano (Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, April 17, 2005)  
CD-Rolf Lislevand: Kapsberger: Libro IV (Astree/Aavidis E8515)  
CD-Ben Coelho: Dreaming in Colors, Music for Bassoon & Piano (MSRClassics MS1340)  
CD-John Rapson: Mystery and Manners: Improvisations of Vinicius and Nene (MoMu 001)  
CD-Lyle Lovett Live in Texas (Curb/MCA MCAD-11964)

image: [www.freeimages.co.uk](http://www.freeimages.co.uk)



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## Heirloom Audio Product Lines

### Aspara Acoustics

Tired of speakers that can't get going without drawing a kilowatt or more out of the wall? Want sensitivity without enormous size or weight? Wish for these things without high frequencies beaming at you like lasers? You must be wishing for **Aspara HL1** horn speakers. This is a natural, musical sounding horn speaker that can actually image! With a whopping 100dB sensitivity, these babies are plenty happy with just a few watts. Only 28 inches tall at the shoulder, 43 inches tall at the top of the head, and a very manageable 114 pounds, they are easy to live with as well. Make an appointment to hear them with our Quicksilver SET Mono amplifiers (8 watts).

### Bel Canto Design

Finally! The long-awaited **Virtual Battery Reference cable** for the **CD-2 Transport/Player** has arrived, and it was worth the wait. Knowing the vital role that every cable plays in today's high resolution systems, it probably comes as no surprise that this new cable makes it possible to look deeper into our CD collection than ever before. Still, some who use the **CD-2** as a transport only might be tempted to think this cable superfluous. Don't. It took only the intro to one song to hear the difference and subsequently get hooked into an extended listening session, a sudden impulse to buy more CDs, and so on. The LPs are getting jealous!

### Cambre'

If you subscribe to the "foundation" school as we do, you know the vital importance of a properly designed support structure to unlock the performance of your music system. Cambre' **Core** racks deliver an ideal combination of elegance and practicality, meeting this important need for audiophiles. A variety of finishes are available, including maple, cherry, rosewood, black ash, espresso, and walnut. You also have your choice of either black or silver anodized aluminum hardware that is machined from solid stock. Choose the number of shelves you need and the spacing between (7", 9", 11") to create your ideal system support. We now have an example of each size on the showroom floor so there is no need to guess. If space permits, the 48" doublewide video-style rack is also a nice way to go.

Hailing from Canada, Cambre' is now distributed in the U.S. by Discovery Marketing, our friends who also represent the Nordost line in our area. Every order is custom, so you get exactly what you need, and because its modular, you can add to it later as needed. We urge you to explore the benefits that a great foundation at a great price can do for your music enjoyment.

### Copland Digital Room Correction

Do you need new speakers or do you need a new room? Don't rule out the latter, because excellent room correction is utterly simple, elegant, and affordable with the Copland **DRC-205**. Again for 2009, the **DRC-205** has been selected for the The Absolute Sound Editor's Choice award for 2009. One demonstration and you will easily hear why it also received The Absolute Sound 2007 Golden Ear Award and 2007 Digital Signal Processing Product of the Year award. Used as a stand-alone unit, there is no learning curve to speak of, and as such many audiophiles will be in the express lane to musical bliss. For those with more technical desire and ability, the option to connect with a laptop and be able to see what the **DRC-205** sees and then further customize it will make this an indispensable tool as well.

### Furutech

Furutech makes a marvelous USB cable, the GT2, at a very affordable price of \$120/1.2M. It possesses a very balanced character and sounds complete and unified, with no glaring excesses. You can't beat this for the price! The wrapping is well damped and looks cool too!

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## Graham Slee

If you are a vinyl collector, you will appreciate the unique **Revelation** phono stage from Graham Slee. Why? Replaying vintage mono LPs (and even some early stereo LPs) can be a discouraging affair, given the lack of a universal standard for equalization that existed pre-RIAA. We've heard some of the world's most expensive turntables sound rancid without proper equalization. That's where this handy phono stage comes in, providing adjustable EQ for the most common equalization curves of the day. It has 42.5 dB gain, and can be paired with their **Elevator EXP** for MC mono cartridges such as the Lyras.

## Hannl

Hannl **Aragon** – 2009 The Absolute Sound Editor's Choice Award winner! If you are really into vinyl, you have probably seen other record cleaning machines in action. If so, you'll immediately appreciate the virtues of the Hannl **Aragon** LP cleaning machine. In our view, a cleaning machine should: 1) be a pleasure to use, 2) produce consistently excellent results, 3) do it reasonably fast, and 4) require minimal fuss and maintenance. To those need-to-have features we would add the following nice-to-have features: 5) be reasonably quiet, and 6) be reasonably low in what might be called "flaming nerd factor". The Hannl **Aragon** truly possesses all of these features. We have the kind of expertise that comes only from extensive use, and we would be very happy to show you the **Aragon's** capabilities.

We also carry **L'Art du Son** LP cleaning fluid which produces the best results of any fluid we have tried. Some cleaning fluids will leave a residue that peels off and forms a glob on the stylus after playing only half an LP side. Not so with L'Art du Son. Most of us don't live in a clean room. Regular cleaning goes with the territory, and L'Art du Son is both economical and VERY effective. Highly recommended!

## Lyra

The Lyra **Skala** reproduces great beauty with exceptional grace. At \$3555, we know it is a big investment, but this one is tough to beat at any price. Come have a listen to the compelling musicality of this latest generation Lyra. Sumptuous yet revealing reading of the amazing amount of information hidden in the grooves of your record collection is what you'll enjoy with this cutting edge moving coil cartridge design!

## Naim

Once again the **Ovator S-400** floorstanding loudspeaker made an impressive showing at RMAF this year. It possesses a wonderful combination of virtues, not least of which is its uncanny elegance that looks natural and non-intimidating, and makes most floorstanders in its class seem like you will need to make your life fit them rather than the other way around. And like every other Naim product, the closer you look, the more apparent it becomes that every detail of this speaker is thought through. At \$6245 in standard finishes, they also represent an incredible value. Bravo!

Looking for a new DAC? You simply must check out the **Naim DAC**. We had the opportunity to put this DAC up against some formidable competition in a couple of informal DAC challenges. Attendees were rather surprised at the stunning performance of the Naim DAC, a DAC that was not even on their list of contenders at the start! We are finding that this DAC is simply unbeatable as a direct source playing .WAV files from USB flash drives. This makes sense as it takes the whole computer/USB interface out of the path, leaving a breathtaking purity that is truly addictive. And if you sit in front of a computer all day every day like many of us, you'll appreciate the simple joy of inserting a USB flash drive into the front panel jack and having the purest digital music you ever heard simply pour forth. You don't even have to push play! USB-A (slave) input resolution reaches way up to 24/768 (should we ever be so lucky to have available such recordings). All in all, the **Naim DAC** is quite a package!

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## Nordost

The wait is over! The leader in high performance audio cables has finally brought their scientific and engineering skills to the new frontier of USB cables with the new **Blue Heaven USB 2.0 Data Cable**. Applying the unsurpassed achievement of their micro-monofilament technology (a mechanically stable way of separating conductor from insulator) to a USB cable and then bringing it to the masses at a **Blue Heaven** price point is a stroke of genius. If you missed the demonstrations at RMAF, we have this terrific cable in our showroom for you to audition.

Thanks to Hi-Fi+'s Chris Thomas for an informative and very positive review (issue 73) of Nordost's **Sort Kones** resonance control devices debuted at the 2010 CES. Here at Heirloom Audio we have heard impressive results with the **BC** (bronze+ceramic) **Sort Kones**. They exhibit an uncanny, potent quality. One might be tempted to think that they add positive energy to music, but in reality they simply drain unwanted negative energy away from the component under which they sit. Once again an audio system's foundation proves to be vitally important to that system's musical communication. Resonance control is coming of age, and **Sort Kones** are leading the way.

## Nottingham

We buy quite a bit of vinyl. Whether its vinyl retailers, thrift shops or online sellers, there are tons of screaming good deals on LPs. Vinyl offers an addictive combination: Vast musical offerings both classic and new, and compelling art work of sufficient size to be fully appreciated. You can't help but sense the tremendous heritage that vinyl was and *is*. If you haven't caught the vinyl bug yet (or again!), you don't know what you're missing.

If you have caught the vinyl bug, we just have one question: Is your turntable living up to that heritage? If not, consider looking into a Nottingham. Nottinghams are masterpieces of the art of turntable engineering and true heirloom objects, not shamed by any recording no matter how dear. The utter lack of pretense aesthetically and sonically lets each recording speak for itself, rewarding you with the musical communication so many vinyl records have to offer. When you are ready to step up from a lightweight budget spinner to something able to create lasting joy, the time has come for a Nottingham.

## Quantum Resonant Technology

We love our Quantum **Qbase QB8**! Designed to work in tandem with Quantum **QX4** or **QX2** power purifiers, the Quantum **Qbase** power distribution blocks separate the connectivity from the purification to enable flexibility in setup. This allows the field based purifiers to be located for optimum effectiveness, while leaving the option of locating the distribution block on or near the floor. Eight outlets comes in pretty handy, too. With monoblocks, Computers, DACs, transports, turntables, preamp, phono stages, etc, it all adds up pretty fast, and the **Qbase QB8** will have you covered!

Key to optimal utilization of Quantum **Qbase** capabilities is having a clean, dedicated ground for your system. Each model features a WBT binding post to facilitate this option. While it will work fine without this, you will maximize the potential of your system by employing this feature. (See Chris Thomas' excellent review in issue 73 of Hi-Fi+). Installing a dedicated ground is not a very complex task, but it will require some effort and outlay for supplies. If you live in the Denver area and do not wish to mess with installing this yourself, we can recommend an electrician who has had the experience of doing this for us (and who surpassed our expectations with the work done).

## Quicksilver Audio

Our newest arrival is a **Full Preamp**, Mike Sander's flagship product. Among its many sonic virtues, it creates truly amazing vocal presentations (or rather it allows those amazing vocal presentations to be heard for what they are), and that is the mark of an exceptional preamp. A dynamite MM phono stage is

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included, and there are two sets of RCA outputs for added flexibility. Having an output impedance so low it can drive virtually anything, pairing it with amplifiers presents limitless opportunities.

All of that is accomplishment beyond most preamplifiers. But the Full Preamp goes one big step further: It may be the best headphone amplifier under \$5000! Consider, with a **Full Preamp**, your favorite turntable/arm/cartidge, and a great pair of headphones, a seriously stupendous listening station for vinyl is as easy as 1-2-3!

### Reference 3A

The **Dulcets**, the “baby” of the Reference 3A line, have found their voice with the best of breed class D amplifiers, the **Bel Canto REF500M** monoblocks. The same crossover-less, direct-coupled mid-bass driver design is in play in the **Dulcets** as with the larger Ref3A models. With somewhat lower sensitivity (86dB) than the rest of the line but an easily-driven nominal impedance of 8 Ohms, you’ll want to drive the **Dulcets** with power on the generous side, and with grace and delicacy that will enable you to appreciate their superb musicality, a Reference 3A trademark. The Bel Cantos are the perfect match. If you are looking for a speaker of diminutive proportions, amplifiers that run nice and cool drawing only a few watts, and above all a sonic transparency that will recreate a live acoustic 2<sup>nd</sup> to none, this combo is your answer.

Delivering greater slam but retaining the same grace and delicacy is just a step up to the slightly larger, 92-dB efficient **MM de Capo-i**. Either way, you get fabulous soundstaging you have to hear to believe!

Refinements are a natural part of the evolution of a great speaker line like Reference 3A. The entire line benefitted from such refinements in 2009. Several pre-update demo models are still available in our showroom, and represent a phenomenal value. Take advantage of an excellent opportunity to pick up these very musical speakers at reduced prices. If you are in the area, please give us a call to find out what is available.

## How to Reach Us

The economic realities being what they are, we must make ends meet, and for us that means working a “day job”. We would like to answer every call that comes in, but this is just not possible (and telemarketing is alive and well and preying upon small business for lack of a better audience). We therefore ask that you please leave a message and we promise to call you back. Or send us an email if that is easier. Appointment hours can usually be accommodated between 3pm and 7pm on weekdays and during daytime hours on weekends, and we enjoy meeting new people and representing our fine product lines.

**Don't forget to check the *Great Buys* link found on the *Product Lines* page at [www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com](http://www.HeirloomAudioLtd.com) for spectacular deals on demos and discontinued items!**

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