

The Brothers of Asterix

written by Wolfgang Vogel

Some years ago the amplifiers of New Zealand, with its extravagant frontal design, caused sensation for a while; besides those things sounded very well. For my aesthetic personal, taste those models did nothing for me – but surely perfect and finally a center of attention in departments where chromium, glass and steel dominates. Nevertheless, the name of the manufacturer remained engraved in me by its design.

Today it amazes me enough, in fact I was astonished when their distributor Exponential, of Berlin, mentioned to me this mark as “successor” of Plinius (some years ago they separated from this brand – it seems that that manufacturer of the other side of the world tried to reach too high profit margins in our country). Up to now Jörg Henning-Reinelt had not considered me as a lover of the design. “Also they manufacture totally normal things” he told me to calm me down, “I have something very pretty for you and I am going to send them to you: a pre passive and two corresponding mono amplifiers.

Furthermore, these are absolutely payable...” – no sooner said than done. Some days later, there just arrived only one single parcel for me. One package for three pieces? Exactly! And even if these three peewees seem as a baby version of the adult amplifiers, they are sly old dogs. (And although these three “tiny”, they seem to me as a mini dwarfish, version of amplifiers “adult” in front of me this trio really did not be born yesterday). In fact, already the weight of the mono-amp is considerable – to lift them, the 2.4kg of each mono amplifier, they are heavier than what looking at them leads you to believe.

The SXP2 preamplifier has three inputs, a selective switch and a volume control (nameless), this is: Purism in its true essence. The technical specifications? Impeccable, but not gaudy. The sound? Mmmmh, here I have to go into more detail... Although the SX60m power amplifiers like loudspeakers with a good degree of efficiency and not very high impedance (of course, what amplifier does not prefer this?), but nevertheless they are capable of dominating loudspeakers of low



efficiency as for example, the different models of the legendary BBC BS3/5^a. In the session of audio they were combined mostly with a pair of loudspeakers Spondor "15/1" and with a pair of Absolut Audio "Compact". The loudspeakers of Absolut Audio are efficient due to their 91db/2.83 volts, while with the Spondors I have had many years experience. We used "Sommer Cable" to connect them. And now... To the music.

Firstly the very powerful 2003 album "Eisenwinter" (NAPALM Records NPR 121) by Siegfried, whose history is without doubt recognized. The first song begins with a lot of force, initiating a storm of sounds, while the male vocal fragments and coarse alternate with the lyrical tones of the female voice (Sandra Schleret). Surprisingly the combination of Perreaux showed me a musical setting as if it were live music, the truth is that I remained absolutely amazed. Above all, tracks like "Hagen von Tronje" and "Du und Ich" became a true musicalevent.

As always, I like to use the work of Subway to Sally "Nord Nord Ost" published by Nuclear Blast in 2005. The songs on fire and ice, on the miracle of the human being in itself and the shouts of help not listened pleased me due to its variations. So much the song as its interpretation fit perfectly and the intensity of the voice of Eric Fishs impresses. Thus you really enjoy simply to listen to it and to be submerged in the creator's cosmos of thoughts who wrote this musical event. From "Sarabande de Noir" to "Seemannslied" I listened attentively with sharpness, and I have the impression that absolutely no detail got lost thanks to the Perreaux equipment. The Perreaux trio follows the frequencies of every tone of each instrument in a clean and impeccable manner; perhaps a very small and almost imperceptible loss of precision in complex passages in combination with a light distortion in the extreme frequencies can be detected. But we should be realists: for its price-point the trio of Perreaux is incredibly strong in its segment and without comparison (there exists nothing equal!). This greatness is also verified with a pile of

other disks of diverse different styles – so much that I have come to the conclusion.

In conclusion: That infernal trio has as much impact as the legendary one Asterix after having taken the magical drink. Vivid and as fresh as a daisy, the mono amplifiers produced unexpectedly powerful music. The SXP2 preamplifier is a perfect match, but could possibly be a little more elegant with the reproduction of the music.

The preamplifier gives the impression of a good but not magisterial composer that directs an excellent orchestra albeit with a slightly dark timbre in the general sound.

Also among the directors is the certain finesse to single out the virtuous, who does not only know how to convince his public, but also to enthuse it. But anyway, considering the price, I can happily live with this really small limitation. Regarding SX60m I do not have anything that to object – "I recommend them with eyes closed", the pressure and precision, as well as the power, far exceeded my prior expectations initially seeing the "small package". These are as much of a giant killer that I can imagine, for example the amplifiers in combination with the legendary BBC 3/5^a mini monitors – many Goliaths will fall against these Davids...

All in all: congratulations to New Zealand.

WV

Distributor:

*Expolinear Elektroakustik
Paulsborner Straße 93
10709 Berlin
Germany
T: +49 (0) 30 873 9464
F: +49 (0) 30 873 8038
E: info@expolinear.de
W: www.expolinear.de*