

# Music in Emotion and Precision



The CYGNUS Setup in Living Room ambient

When two physicians decide to start a project of developing a new loudspeaker concept, it is most possible evident that it results in a system with an outstanding music reproduction capabilities, like happened in this case. The presentation of the new CYGNUS semi active 2.1 system take place in the business environment of the company Audiophile Gateway, a German manufactory of hand made OTL tube amplifiers. The owner of the company, which is partner of CYGNUS -

audio is the well known EternalArts founder Dr. Burckhard Schwäbe. Thus it became an extremely amazing pairing to drive the semi active CYGNUS - system with the big OTL mono blocks. Said tube technology, as well as the loudspeaker system spoken here is following completely the tradition "hand made in Germany ". The capability of absolutely naturalism sound reproduction of both the CYGNUS speaker system and the EternalArts tube components was convincing the author immediately, but later more

## Technical aspects:

The named CYGNUS – Quasar is a two way passive studio monitor, which is perfect for critical mid field mastering applications in an home entertainment friendly mid size sealed enclosure. Its passive crossover design is optimized in phase and frequency response and populated with the best material available, housed in a separate module under the exclusive stand. Beyond of phase and frequency response conditioning circuits the hand wired filter includes elements to liberalize the over all impedance, which is an advantage when using high definition tube amplifiers like the described Eternal Arts OTL's. Even 20 Watts tube power on Ohms will drive the speakers to exceptional results in sound reproduction. As mentioned, the system comes on beautiful SPECTRAL stands which are customized and modified by CYGNUS to operate vibration free. For optimal results the base is vibration damped mounted with the speaker and thus builds a fixed unit. The chassis are pair matched and counting to the best available on the market today. This is in particular a extreme light weight 6" Kevlar Cellulose membrane bass mid range woofer and a large iso dynamic mid range high frequency flat foil transducer with strong neodymium motor. Thanks the design of the large high transducer and the low separation frequency the sound dispersion is very well controlled in the horizontal and vertical plane, with low first reflections from floor and sealing. On one hand the extremely heavy 5 layer wall closed enclosure speaker design provides quietness and stability into the sound image on the other hand as a dot of the I the crossover enclosure is filled with sand to keep away microphony from the electronic parts inside.



The active subwoofer follows the principles of Siegfried Linkwitz's Dipole design from 1996 with some intelligent adoptions like streaming friendly symmetrical parts, limiting inside resonances and fully impulse compensation with two professional face to face 15" PA drivers on a 5° angled soundboard. Due to the fact that this dipole subwoofer works as a velocity transducer the manufacturer named this design an impulse composed velocity transformer. The driving power of the active dipoles subwoofer module is provided by a 1000 Watts Class D amplifier with DSP and 24 bits and multiple choices to fit the room acoustics like three parametric equalizers, wide range phase (0-270°) and time alignment for compensation of delay between subwoofer and satellite which are qualified through relative alignment of each another in the listening room.



**The CYGNUS satellite**

All this customer specific programming of the inbuilt DSP is accomplished by a windows PC software through an RS 232 interface and will be completed by authorized and trained dealers or acoustical engineers during the setup of the system. Very high value equipment like this should be installed and started up through experienced personal to consequently achieve the maximum of the performance of the construction. Non compromising loudspeaker systems like the described CYGNUS setup are handcrafted in small batches, which results in high pricing. The customer will have a large number of choices in finish of his new CYGNUS speaker system and determines the individual color (piano lacquer as an option) or selects between multiple possible veneers. Thus every CYGNUS setup is real unique. The CYGNUS setup brings together exceptional sound reproduction capabilities utilized in professional recording studios, where absolute naturalism and precision is requested with optical and practical habit, requested in the private living environment.

### **Sound description**

With the CYGNUS – Loudspeaker system which is described in this article, the author can reduce the sound description to a minimum. It simply reproduces any audio signal with the maximum possible fidelity nothing more and nothing less. Favorites for any kind of musical styles never have been evident, which is a great compliment for the reproducing capabilities of a speaker system. The CYGNUS system provides a stable and precise phantom center and single sound events are present on the 3 dimensional virtual sound stage with exact localization of those events and without audibility of a speaker that reproduces them at any time. During the review the author made an never lived before experience while listening to recordings which where delivered from different sources to the amplifier.



**The active CYGNUS – Dipole Subwoofer**

The CYGNUS System very precisely emerges the individual sound characteristics between the sources which came in operation during the review, respectively the relative dimension between them in terms of 3 dimensional virtual stage imaging. This was in particular a CD player, a music server and a turntable, delivering the same recording material from different techniques. Without forced efforts and concentration the speakers discovered the differences in sound of the three sources. A speaker system that masters this in such perfect manner must be counted to one of the best sound reproducing systems of its kind available. In this context the author only can suggest any potential buyer to schedule a date for self experience of the loudspeaker because even a few minutes of auditing this exceptional and outstanding system would in particular clarify long lasting "sound enigmas" of a recording which was not 100% accurate for certain reasons. With the CYGNUS loudspeaker system the listener is able to detect very detailed even tiniest voice articulations and to capture micro details that are produced through recording technology. This definitely is a value for the realistic reproduction of music. Some music lovers may not like such a precise reproduction but those who want to feel emotions like joining a live

rendition would love the CYGNUS system. With the purchase of sound system like the CYGNUS 2.1 setup which is unmatched clear and clean in reproduction the owner and long term listener of styles like rock music would even become open for music styles like classical and jazz having no admission before auditing with other systems.

## Summary

**The CYGNUS system is addressed to listeners, professionals as well as private music lovers that pay maximum attention and value to artifact free and clear music reproduction without any compromising in the optical appearance. Such a system will satisfy even the very demanding listener in the studio or home environment over many years and will bestow lots hours of bliss. With the CYGNUS system music plays absolutely naturally and on a very high level.**

SVEN BAUER

## Information

Entire Setup consisting of one pair of  
CYGNUS Quasar (satellite) and Dipole-  
Subwoofer CYGNUS X15  
International retail price : 56.000 US\$  
Manufacturing and Sales:  
CYGNUS-audio  
Brückner + Melzer GbR  
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