

Reviews, Show Reports, Audition Notes

Stereophile Recommended Component – Concerto 3

Art Dudley – Stereophile April 2009 Concerto 3 review: "The Sonist Concerto 3 came as close as I've heard to being the one true, affordable, all-around satisfying choice among the SET-friendly loudspeakers I've heard."

stereophile.com/floorloudspeakers/sonist_concerto_3_loudspeaker

Steve Marsh – 6moons VSAC 2008 show report: "Another room that I would consider to be in the top tier at the show was the deHavilland/Sonist/Cable Research room, featuring Randy Bankert's Sonist Concerto 3 high-efficiency, two-way floor standing speakers."

Jeff Poth – Enjoy the Music VSAC 2008 show report: "The Sonist loudspeakers had superb bass, and the driver integration was surprisingly good. One of my favorite rooms!"

DRCOPE – AudioAsylum Bottlehead forum VSAC 2008 show report: "exceedingly musical."

Adam Goldfine – Positive Feedback THE Show 2008 show report: "Let's see, Goertz Alpha Core air core inductors, Cardas binding posts and jumpers, Auricaps and Auric internal wiring, 2" thick solid poplar baffles, these things [Concerto 3s] have got to be the high end bargain of the century. I had to ask several times if I heard the price correctly, \$3495/pair. These sounded seriously good and better than anything I've heard at that price."

Garrett Hongo – Vacuum Tube Valley THE Show 2007 show report: "Both pairs of beautifully crafted speakers -- the floorstanding Concerto 3s and the stand-mounted Concerto 2s threw off huge soundstages and rendered the difficult choral music I asked to be played (a CD of Mozart's Mass in C Minor) with finesse, detail, and unusually good dynamic range."

Garrett Hongo – UltraAudio September 2007 Concerto 2 review: "The detail in the system was nothing short of crazy – transients not only opening the dimension of the music to fine attacks and decays from each performer, but also rendering the exquisite *pianissimo* dynamics of these sonic ephemera. The interpretive acuties of the performances were so clear that the musical *thinking* and instincts of each player were revealed, making for a thrilling listening experience."

Mike Quinn – Jazz Times December 2007 Concerto 2 review: "The Sonists possess the ability to paint a totally credible, totally satisfying in-home musical experience. If you enjoy the sound of low-powered tube amps, the Concerto 2s should be on your very, very short list."

Jeff Dorgay – Tone Audio June 2006 Concerto 2 review: "Fantastic results [with SET amps]. The C2s have nice weight, but aren't boomy. They go pretty strongly down to 40Hz, with some useable output at 30Hz, smooth, natural high-end response. Thanks to the ribbon tweeter and waveguide, these speakers do a nice job of throwing a big sound into the room. Randy nailed the crossover on these speakers, as I have never heard this tweeter sound this smooth in other designs."

SonicFlare November 2005 VTV Pasadena Show Report: "At \$2495, the Concerto 2 speakers from Sonist received a lot of positive comments at the show. One guy commented that the Sonist was the first speaker he heard that nailed this particular tweeter/woofer combo."

Racamuti – Audio Asylum April 2008 customer comment: "I have a pair of Concerto 2s that are just fantastic with my 5 watt amps!" November 2005 VTV Pasadena show report by Rick R.: "Best Monitor Speakers – Sonist." Jon L: "Seriously good music with strong bass and coherent integration."

Specifications & Pricing

Recital 2 Standmounts

Frequency Response: 50Hz – 40KHz
Sensitivity: 93dB
Impedance: 8 ohms, min 6 ohms
Dimensions: 13" H x 8.25" W x 12" D
Weight: 30 lbs. each

Recital 3 Floorstanders

Frequency Response: 35Hz – 40KHz
Sensitivity: 93dB
Impedance: 8 ohms, min 6 ohms
Dimensions: 40" H x 8.25" W x 12" D
Weight: 50 lbs. each

Concerto 2 Standmounts

Frequency Response: 40Hz – 40KHz
Sensitivity: 95dB
Impedance: 8 ohms, min 6 ohms
Dimensions: 18" H x 11.5" W x 14.75" D
Weight: 40 lbs. each

Concerto 3 Floorstanders

Frequency Response: 30Hz – 40KHz
Sensitivity: 95dB
Impedance: 8 ohms, min 6 ohms
Dimensions: 40" H x 11.5" W x 15" D
Weight: 80 lbs. each

Standard Sonist models feature folded ribbon tweeters, integral tweeter waveguides, paper cone woofers, Black Hole 5 cabinet damping, Cardas binding posts and jumpers, tapered sidewalls, magnetically mounted woofer grills, wood finish solid Poplar front baffles, black satin cabinets, and two coats of semi-gloss lacquer. All-wood versions have solid poplar front baffles and cabinet panels, and two coats of semi-gloss lacquer.

Model	Description	MSRP per pair
Recital 2	Standard	\$1,195
Recital 2	All-wood cabinets	\$1,495
Recital 3	Standard	\$1,795
Recital 3	All-wood cabinets	\$2,195
Concerto 2	Standard	\$2,495
Concerto 2	All-wood cabinets	\$2,995
Concerto 3	Standard	\$3,495
Concerto 3	All-wood cabinets	\$4,195

5 year parts and labor warranty. Made in the USA.

Sonist Loudspeakers

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SONIST
The Art and Science of Sound



Recital 3



Concerto 3

Musicality

Sonist Loudspeakers create a deep and transparent soundstage with excellent stereo imaging and wide dynamic range, expressing the nuance and emotion of the performance in an involving way with natural tonality and lifelike presentation.

Design Goal

Sonist loudspeakers are designed to work well with low-powered single-ended directly heated triode amplifiers, such as 45, 2A3, 300B, PX25, 845, GM70, 6C33B, and single-ended EL84, EL34, and KT88, and also work well with push-pull tube and solid state amplifiers. Minimum 2 watts, maximum 200 watts.

Solid Poplar Front Baffles

Poplar is a soft hardwood is less resonant than most hardwoods, and Poplar does not have a specific resonant frequency, so its resonance modes are distributed evenly throughout the audio bandwidth. It acts as a mass loaded platform for the drivers and provides a cleaner and less colored presentation than standard baffles.

Integral Waveguides

Integral waveguides formed in the 1-3/4" thick solid Poplar front baffles provide directivity which reduces early wall reflection notch filter effects, and also provide acoustic gain, which lowers distortion by reducing diaphragm travel for a given Sound Pressure Level. This results in a greater sense of immediacy and presence, and greater dynamic range.

EBS Cabinet Tuning

Extended Bass Shelf cabinet tuning extends the bass another 10Hz and compensates for the typical low damping factor of single-ended triode amplifiers. This prevents bass bloat, providing tight, extended, and authoritative bass. All Sonist loudspeakers have tapered sidewalls to reduce internal standing waves, further reducing cabinet coloration.

Design and Implementation

Hardwired First Order Crossovers

With only two crossover elements, a first order coil on the woofer and a first order capacitor on the tweeter, more of the music is delivered to the drivers. All crossovers are hand-soldered with Cardas Tri Eutectic lead-free solder. The crossover is potted in an epoxy resin to prevent micro-vibrations from degrading the signal, and the pot enclosure is decoupled from the cabinet with neoprene, mounted to the cabinet walls with allen bolts with neoprene washers. Positive and negative wires for the tweeter and woofer are twisted together to prevent inductive signal degradation. Bi-wire and bi-amp capable.

Treated Paper Cone Woofers

Proprietary treated paper cone woofers are very efficient and provide excellent tonality and dynamic range. The paper cone is treated with a viscous elastomer compound to reduce ringing and cone resonance, providing a more detailed and cleaner presentation. Neoprene gaskets and allen bolts with neoprene washers are used to decouple the woofer from the front baffle, reducing cabinet resonance.

Ribbon Tweeters

Time-aligned ribbon tweeters with very light diaphragms respond quickly up to 40KHz, providing phase-coherent harmonic overtones, accurate timbre, and improved spatialization.

Fidelity

Sonist loudspeakers are designed and fabricated to remain faithful to the musical intent of the composer, conductor, arranger, performer, and vocalist who created the music embodied in the recording.

SONIST

Cabinet Dampening

1/2" thick H-braces, utilizing dado joinery, are used to stiffen the cabinet and create non-multiple length panel surfaces to reduce cabinet resonance. 1-1/4" thick Black Hole 5 viscous elastomer and foam constrained layer panels are installed on the interior cabinet walls to reduce standing waves and dampen cabinet resonance. 10 glue blocks strengthen and stiffen the cabinet to prevent flexing and reduce vibration. The result is a cleaner presentation with reduced cabinet coloration.

Signal Path Components

The highest quality crossover components are used in order to provide the best possible tonal quality, frequency response, and dynamics. The result is a lifelike and natural presentation.

- GOERTZ ALPHA CORE COPPER FOIL INDUCTORS

- AURICAPS



- AURIC 21AWG HOOKUP WIRE



- CARDAS TRI EUTECTIC LEAD-FREE SOLDER

- CARDAS SOLID COPPER GOLD-PLATED BINDING POSTS

- CARDAS JUMPERS

