

BELGIUM

All digital at Night of Proms

DiGiCo consoles and Adamson Metrix cabs provide a new sound quality standard for the Antwerp Sportpaleis, finds **Marc Maes**

The 2009 Night of the Proms (some 40 shows in Belgium, Holland and Germany) saw EML Productions sound engineer Patrick Demoustier working with nothing but DiGiCo consoles, both for FOH and monitors, making it the first ever 'totally DiGiCo' Proms series.

Until last year, Demoustier used Yamaha DM2000 and DiGiCo D5 at FOH, and D1 and D5 desks at the monitor position. "We felt that the DM2000 was becoming a bit dated," explains Demoustier. "It was one of the pioneering consoles for live applications and very reliable too... But times are changing and we found that it was limited in its pre-mix and recording mix options."



Patrick Demoustier with the DiGiCo desks

The need for a fully digital recording on 112 channels of the Antwerp Sportpaleis Night of the Proms shows (recorded by EML on a MADI recorder) encouraged EML to rethink the console configuration, with an (upgraded) SD8 and SD7 as FOH mixers and D5 and D7 as monitor desks.

"A crucial element was that all desks use the same digital MADI standard, and each of the four DiGiCo consoles has a MADI-patch on board," Demoustier continues. "I admit that the SD7 was a bit of a luxury update, we could have managed with the D5 console, which is still quite revolutionary, but the SD7 is so much more powerful, with 128 busses and 250 ins – it was the next logical step for us."

Demoustier adds that the single clock system (integrated in the SD7) is another bonus to the MADI protocol-driven console network used during the Proms shows.

A cardioid sub speaker configuration of 18 EML S318 cabinets completed the EML Adamson 24 Y18 main, 24 Y18 delay, 16 Spectrix frontfill, and 24 Y10K outfill rig. 🍷

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