

»SOUNDBITES

• A DiGiCo SD8 console was employed for a special showing of *Hidden* director Michael Haneke's latest film, *Das Weisse Band (The White Ribbon)*, at the historic plenum of the Austrian Parliament building. Supplied by DiGiCo's local distributor, Ton Eichinger, the SD8 was synchronised to the digital cinema server, with six audio channels sent from the server via MADI. The console's integral matrix was utilised for aligning the system to digital cinema standards, while the desk also facilitated a series of speeches. www.digico.org

• Proel AXIOM and EDGE systems were deployed at a number of high-profile events in the Netherlands recently. At sports/music gathering Amersfoort Beach, Expressive Audio Rent used a Proel AXIOM line array system of 24 AX2265P mid/highs and 12 AX11155P low-frequency boxes, alongside six EDGE1215P subs and two DSO480 Digital System Optimisers. Dekker Sound also relied on an AXIOM/EDGE system for The Music Weekend event in Zevenbergen, which encompassed musical performances and motor sport activities. www.proelgroup.com

BELGIUM

Clouseau makes it with Metrix

Clouseau are huge in Flanders, selling out the Antwerp Sportpaleis year after year. The annual concert series is also a huge challenge, discovers **Marc Maes**



It's always an impressive show when Clouseau are in town

For the seven Clouseau 10x10 (referring to their 100th concert in the Antwerp Sportpaleis) concerts, staged in the round in the centre of the 17,000 capacity venue, EML sound engineer

Patrick Demoustier designed a specific speaker layout, with subs flown from the venue's centre and 12 clusters of Adamson Metrix cabinets. "We calculated the exact distance and size of the

flying sub-clusters, and made sure that they covered the whole ellipse form of the Sportpaleis," Demoustier says. "Actually, we designed the show around the sub-columns, keeping them as invisible as possible for the public, but giving exactly the same 'sub-feeling' for the whole audience, including the VIPs in the 'golden circle' close to the stage."

Whereas before, with in-the-round concerts, all of the sound system was spread from the centre, Demoustier decided to use the main PA system just for the ground floor and first grandstand. "We put together 12 clusters containing eight Adamson Metrix line source array cabinets each and installed them near the upper grandstands. The Metrix is ultra-compact, extremely directional, but relatively new and not so easy to find in large quantities. I'm happy that (European Adamson distributor) DV2 was very helpful here as it is not easy to have 96 speakers out for a complete month."

All in all, EML used over 200 Adamson speaker cabinets during the seven sold-out Clouseau shows, which was controlled by Audiodcore XTA software and processing and featured Lab.gruppen amps, with a Midas XL4 as FOH and SD7 as monitor desk. All of the amplifiers were stacked in a new ceiling platform in the Sportpaleis, reducing cable distances and resulting in better sound quality. ♦ www.adamsonsystems.com

• The Lib Dems could have an influential role on policy if, as some commentators suspect, the general election fails to deliver a decisive result. In this event, would [party leader] Nick Clegg make arts and culture a priority area?

"One of the most heartening things for Don [Foster] and myself is that Nick personally launched our creative arts policy a month ago. Historically, arts and culture have been very much the Cinderella of government [...] but I hope that with this kind of endorsement we would have an impact, and I certainly know that Nick feels very strongly about the importance of culture and music to our way of life. And, quite honestly, I think that if more politicians understood that we would be in a lot better shape as a country."

Finally, what is your personal relationship to live music? Any specific in-concert highlights?

"I tend to see more informal gigs in pubs or clubs; booking tickets in advance [can be a problem] when there is a vote in Parliament and you can't get out. But we did have MP4 [MPs band including SNP member and former Runrig keyboard player Pete Wishart] play at the Commons recently – that was fantastic! – and I have fond memories of seeing The Rolling Stones at Wembley. In fact, I went two nights running: the first in a box behind a glass panel, and the second down among the audience, which was a lot better. I learnt a valuable lesson there: it's the atmosphere that really counts." ♦

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