

Stereo Times

The Complete Audiophile Magazine



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Next up was a visit to the always inviting space occupied by none other than Doug White from The Voice That Is. Again – I caught “the man” standing in the doorway chatting (as usual) so I simply moved past him and entered into a room that instantly greeted me with very pleasing visual effects. Soft lighting with some luscious sounding music coming from the other end of the room. Doug has a knack for room set up, both visually and sonically, and this exhibit followed in that tradition. Featuring the esteemed Tidal speakers and electronics plus playing a wide variety of music - Doug's system quickly and easily captured the attention of all listeners seated in the room.

Initially digital playback was on the menu and no doubt that it was sounding quite good. At that point, Doug switched to his rather visually gorgeous and sophisticated analog rig resulting in the musicality of the system quickly moving up to a whole different level. Essentially pure musical joy for me and judging from the reaction for other listeners, I clearly wasn't alone. And as I listened, I heard numerous soft comments made saying things like, “OMG – that sounds so much like a real piano right in front of us.” Or, “I feel like I can see and almost touch the singer.” Anyway – I'm sure you get my drift.

Clearly, with this type of system – you get what you pay for so be prepared to open your wallet (or purse) very wide and get ready to dig deep. This system has the potential to reward you with such an authentic musical presentation that perhaps the cost is simply a matter of relativity. Here is a listing of those precious speakers and wonderful electronics, plus cabling, for your review and consideration: TIDAL Audio Contriva 20th anniversary speaker, rosewood veneer, \$68,000; TIDAL Audio Ferios Monobloc Amplifiers, \$60,000; TIDAL Audio Preos Preamplifier, \$30,000; Vertere Acoustics Turntable SG-1, \$17,995; Acoustical Systems Aquilar 10" tonearm, \$9995; Acoustical Systems Archon cartridge, \$3500; Critical Mass Systems Black Diamond amp stands, \$2995 ea; Innuos Statement Server, \$13,750 (1TB); Ictra Design Proto-AS Rack, \$25,000; Black Cat Stargate XLR Cables \$5999, Stargate speaker cables \$8399, Stargate Tron digital cables, \$3299, Stargate Lupo Power Cables - \$1749; Stillpoints Aperture Panels: \$800 ea.