



ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY MEETS ITALIAN TALENT - ANDREA BOCELLI AND OUTLINE MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER

AS THE BIGGEST-SELLING ARTIST IN THE HISTORY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH OVER 80 MILLION ALBUMS SOLD TO DATE, AND ONE OF THE VERY FEW CLASSICAL ARTISTS TO ACHIEVE CROSSOVER ACCEPTANCE INTO THE MAINSTREAM, ANDREA BOCELLI IS COMFORTABLY THE MOST POPULAR CLASSICAL ITALIAN SINGER IN THE WORLD TODAY. HIS SACRED ARIAS ALBUM HAS SOLD OVER FIVE MILLION COPIES ALONE, MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CLASSICAL ALBUM EVER RECORDED BY A SOLO ARTIST, AND HIS ROMANZA ALBUM FROM 1997 IS THE ALL-TIME BEST-SELLING ALBUM BY ANY ITALIAN ARTIST. TPi DISCOVERED THE AUDIO CREATION BEHIND THE SINGER'S LIVE PERFORMANCES.

His long-time FOH engineer is fellow Italian, Andrea Taglia, a devotee of Outline's remarkable GTO system and has been using it with Bocelli throughout his 2013 US tour. He was also one of the engineering team who produced Europe's largest music event, the vast *May Day* festival held in Rome where more than 750,000 people packed the city's Piazza San Giovanni.

In November, Bocelli performed at two sold-out UK shows, at the First Direct Arena in Leeds and Glasgow's SSE Hydro. Both shows featured an Outline loudspeaker system, specified by Taglia, facilitated by Britannia Row Productions, with Outline's UK distributor CUK Audio providing operational support.

With Taglia at the helm a total of 45 Outline

GTO enclosures were flown as three hangs of 15 in variants of Taglia's preferred mono L-C-R configuration, and each hang used four Mantas enclosures as downfills (emphasising the value of flying hardware that is compatible throughout a range of loudspeakers).

Furthermore, 24 Outline SubTech subwoofers delivered the low end, while 12 Outline LIPF 082 dedicated compact stage lip-fill enclosures filled in the nearfield and small arrays of Outline Butterfly were deployed as sidefills. The entire system was powered by Outline T-Series amplifiers and controlled by multiple Lake LM-26 units.

Taglia said: "Using the Outline GTO at the *May Day* event in Rome was a great pleasure as I could test it in a 'real-life' situation and listen

to the system alignment properly. Subsequently working with Outline GTO, GTO-DF, GTO-SUB, Mantas, DVS 12 and LipFill-082 products on the Bocelli US tour has been a great success - it is a light and compact system which is very easy to handle and store on trucks and also speeds up load ins / outs.

"From a sound point of view, it is a very linear system. Using FIR filters extensively throughout the processing greatly improves its natural response, which is the best starting point for a classical music concert where we mainly use the best microphones with only hi-pass filters and a little reverb.

"Venues are always arenas in the US but I am used to preparing an accurate sound design for each using Outline's Open Array software - it

First Page: In November, Bocelli performed at two sold-out UK shows. Below: A total of 45 GTO enclosures were flown as three hangs of 15 in variants of FOH Engineer, Taglia's preferred mono L-C-R configuration were utilised.



is a very quick, reliable and detailed prediction tool, so every sound design is tailored to every venue. Having a trusted tool such as Open Array allows me to provide detailed set-up information to the entire touring crew which reduces set-up time and which keeps everyone informed about the pre-show process."

So what about the two UK shows? Taglia continued: "I always use mono systems designed around venue geometry so it was a L-C-R / LL / RR system for Glasgow and a L-C-R for Leeds due to the different shapes of the rooms. A mono system built around a 'star' concept allows me to align it exactly to the stage centre that I use as zero reference to provide a sound image that keep the attention over performers on stage and not over the loudspeakers."

Using large rock 'n' roll sound systems for classical music is still a relatively new concept but Taglia has the approach that using a lot of horsepower for a show such as Bocelli's, where SPL is far less important than coverage and intelligibility certainly seems to be working.

He highlighted: "PA systems should not be made for a specific music style but to provide the best possible diffusion. A large system such

as GTO allows for better low frequency control, a major plus when using a large number of condenser microphones on stage as we do for Bocelli, as well as providing the long throw that in indoor venues allows us to use fewer delays, thus reducing set-up time and providing a much better sound image.

"I always use a centre subwoofer arc delay as it provides the best match for the centre cluster dispersion. If the venue is wider than 90°, I match the horizontal coverage of the arc delay to that of the center cluster by adding two subwoofer cardioid arrays of four subwoofers each under the left and right hangs - they are then aligned to the subwoofer arc delay and effectively widen its horizontal dispersion to cover the entire venue."

Stuart Thomson, MD of Outline's UK distributor CUK Audio said: "Having attended Andrea Bocelli's UK shows and experienced a large GTO system in a real-world situation, the reasons for its growing-rider acceptance are now completely clear to me. The two venues are very different spaces with entirely separate acoustic challenges, yet the linear nature of the system combined with its control, especially in the low frequencies, gave Taglia the tools

to deliver the same exceptional audience experience on both dates.

"After the SSE Hydro event, even the Scottish press made note of the sound system and how it had 'overcome' the acoustic issues that had previously been experienced there. It's nice to be noticed and GTO certainly is being noticed," continued Thomson.

After the UK run, Bocelli resumed his US tour for which PRG provided an entire Outline rig of GTO, GTO-SUB, GTO-DF, DVS 12, Mantas and LipFill-082 for shows in Las Vegas, Phoenix, New York, Washington, Tampa and Atlanta.

Clearly a man at ease with his system, Taglia concluded: "A linear system such as GTO with great overall coherence, which provides real low frequency control and delivers very even coverage over distance really helps the mixing engineer concentrate on the mix itself, rather than the technology - and that's what the people come to hear."

TPI

www.andreabocelli.com
www.outlinearray.com
www.cuk-audio.com
www.britanniarrow.com