



VEGAS 2006

Day four

The Newfoundland company Aurum made it to CES, as its unique system enters production. You may recall that Aurum makes triamplified speakers: three way speakers driven by individual single-ended tube amps, with a solid state amp for the woofers. The crossover is electronic, placed before the amplifiers. An optional extra is a combo CD player and preamplifier. Designer Derrick Moss has been refining the system, and at this point its "wow" factor is way into triple digits. "How can you get such clean transients?" asked a visitor. The answer is that the stuff that smears transients is left out.

The picture at right, by the way, shows the new look of the Aurum cabinet. Those cabinets are made in Denmark, by the way. That may seem odd, but then again CES mailed us our show badges from Sweden, so why not?



Rejskind, G. (2006, January). VEGAS 2006: Day Four. *UHF Magazine*. Retrieved January 20, 2006 from <http://www.uhfmag.com/Vegas2006/day4.html>

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DAILY DIARIES

Marc Mickelson

I've saved the best for last -- my list of the best systems I heard in Las Vegas, that is. These are the systems *I'd* most like to hear in my own listening room -- although they did just fine in the hotel rooms that housed them.



I mentioned the Aurum Acoustics system (shown above) earlier, and even after three additional days of listening, it retains its place on my list. This is a well-designed, synergistic collection of products to settle into and enjoy, not analyze and pick apart.

The first day of CES is always filled with excuses to explain less-than-stellar sound: "The speakers are brand new"; "we just retubed the amp"; "the CD player doesn't sound good until it has had four days of constant play on it." Two systems I heard, however, needed *no* excuses. The first (shown below) used Vitus Audio's massive SM-101 class-A monoblocks (\$49,000/pair) to drive Focus Audio Master 2.5 speakers (\$17,300/pair), with a dCS P8i CD/SACD player as the source. There were no tubes, but the sound had warmth and presence -- and scads of power. The second system was from Canadian manufacturer Aurum Acoustics, and we've heard it in other forms in the past: Integris CD player (\$10,800) and Integris Active 300B speaker system (\$30,000). I listened to entire cuts while in front of this system, a guilty pleasure during a hectic show.

Mickelson, M. (2006, January) Daily Diaries. *The Soundstage! Network*. Retrieved January 20, 2006 from http://www.shows.soundstagelive.com/shows/ces2006/dly_diary_marc.shtml

ONHIFI

January 5, 2006

The Jimmy Awards: A Call for Nominations

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As the day wound down, I almost missed a real treat: the sound of my Aaron Neville test track in the Aurum Acoustics room. Taking the total system approach to equipment choices, Aurum Acoustics denies audiophiles their much-loved freedom to mismatch and otherwise foul-up the sound of separate components. However, if I had the money, I would gladly surrender to Aurum's siren call. The Integris CD player (\$10,800), a CD player/preamp, and the Integris Active 300B active loudspeaker (\$27,000/pair with amp) portrayed the Neville musical instrument with eerie verisimilitude. Was this the best sound of the show? You'll have to read the full post-show report to find out.

Saxon, J. (2006, January) The Jimmy Awards: A Call for Nominations. *SoundstageAV.com*. Retrieved January 20, 2006 from <http://www.soundstageav.com/onhifi/20060105.htm>



show

CES 2006 - Part 1

by Dave and Carol Clark



In the Aurum Acoustics room was the Integris Active 300B loudspeakers (\$27,000) and system.



Aurum Acoustics Integris CDP CD player/preamplifier and amplifier (\$10,800) with the Integris Isolation rack. The come from a system approach -- this is a complete system, cables and all!



show

CES 2006

by Roger Gordon



Aurum Acoustics - Aurum is a small company from near St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. This is their third year of exhibiting at CES. The previous two years, Aurum was demoing a prototype of a complete 300B based system, including CD player. This year they were still demoing a prototype, but production is about to commence. The system consists of an integrated CD player and amplifier, a stereo tri-amplifier, and a pair of three-way loud speakers (\$44,000 for the system including cabling). The stereo amplifier is actually six amplifiers. There are four 300B single ended amplifiers—one each to drive the midrange and tweeters. There are also two Bryston solid state amplifiers to drive the 10" woofers. Cabling is by Cardas. Three years in a row I have been impressed by the sound. Solid bass. Extended highs. Very musical on all types of music including heavy metal. Not being able to mix and match components seems unnatural to an audiophile. However, for a person who wants a complete turnkey system and has the bucks, this system should be on their short list.

Gordon, R.S. (2006, January). CES 2006. *Positive Feedback Online*. Retrieved January 20, 2006 from <http://www.positive-feedback.com/Issue23/ces06rg.htm>

ONHIFI

February 1, 2006

The CES 2006 Jimmy Awards

1. Aurum Acoustics



This year sees a rare event: the bestowing of a Double Jimmy Award. For excellence in engineering as well as champion sound, Aurum Acoustics, of Newfoundland, Canada, wins two gold statuettes. Derrick Moss's perfectionist efforts over four years have resulted in a hi-fi system that eliminates all consumer decision-making apart from writing the check. The Integris CDP player-preamp (\$10,800) and Integris Active 300B (active crossover, hybrid amplifier, loudspeakers, and cables, \$30,000) are essential ingredients in a recipe for entirely Aurum-controlled playback. If you buy into the concept of a "final purchase," you can expect to experience your CD collection as never before. When I heard the filigreed plaints of Aaron Neville, my head rolled around and fell on the floor. Others' reactions may be less exaggerated, but only a dead man would be immune to the spooky reality this meticulously matched system can purvey. As one of those "investors" who have gone through thousands of dollars in search of the Holy Grail of Hi-Fi, I wish I could start all over again with an Aurum Acoustics Integris system. The only doubt in my mind is whether the need to "upgrade" would plague me every three years. If I could offer Derrick Moss a bit of advice, it would be to provide an upgrade path. Then, I'd give Aurum Acoustics *three* Jimmy Awards!



Aurum Acoustics strikes gold, bringing home top-honors in the 2006 Jimmy Awards

Saxon, J. (2006, February) The CES 2006 Jimmy Awards. *SoundstageAV.com*. Retrieved February 1, 2006 from <http://www.soundstageav.com/onhifi.html>



MONTREAL 2006

Day one

We knew that Aurum Acoustics was coming back, since Derek Moss had told us in Vegas that he was about to enter full production with his expensive but wonderful triamplified speaker system. That description is perhaps inadequate, since this is not so much a speaker system as a complete system. We listened to one of our own recordings, the one of songs composed in the 19th Century by Pauline Viardot-Garcia (people in the room asked for the record number). It was notable for what was not there...the usual hi-fi artifacts we hear all too often. We're leaning toward an actual review of the Aurum (speakers, amplifiers, plus optional CD player-preamp and accessories). For one thing, we would enjoy doing it.

Rejskind, G. (2006, April). Montreal: Day One. *UHF Magazine*. Retrieved April 18, 2006 from <http://www.uhfmag.com/Montreal2006/day1.html>



One of the more impressive systems I heard two years ago in Montreal was back again this year. [Aurum Acoustics](#)'s Derrick Moss all the way from Conception Bay/Newfoundland (love that name) showed off a slightly refined version of his synergistic Integris system. The crossover-less speakers are driven by a hybrid 6-channel amp with Bryston solid-state power for the woofers and 300B magic handling the mid and high frequency drivers. All crossover circuitry is placed prior to the amp section. Custom Cardas cabling, system rack and Integris CDP single chassis preamp/CD player complete the picture. While expensive to guys like me, this circa \$50,000 package was utterly transparent, dynamic and completely effortless. Even on an overly compressed CD such as Matt Mays' self-titled album, the magic shone through. I was especially impressed with the smaller, more room-friendly speakers compared to the larger ones from two years ago. I wasn't the only one impressed as Soundstage's Doug Schneider and UHF Magazine have already claimed dibs for review samples. Even if fifty large is out of your price range, you owe it to yourself to hear this system if you can. Considering the horrible dimensions of the room, Derrick managed to avoid most room-related nasties by setting up the speakers at a 15-25 degree angle and placing chairs for nearfield listening. While \$50,000 systems are a little out of my comfort zone, I urge my fellow moonies to request a set for review. "Paging Mr. Potis, killer system in aisle twelve"...



Candy, P. (2006, April) Industry Feature. *sixmoons.com*. Retrieved April 18, 2006 from http://www.6moons.com/industryfeatures/montreal06/montreal_2.html



Voici le premier "**Best of the Show 2006**", en la présence de Aurum Acoustic, système original tout actif et du même constructeur, l'œuvre du talentueux Derrick Moss, une musicalité hors pair, malgré une acoustique défavorable, j'ai beaucoup apprécié les qualités de cet ensemble haut de gamme, le grave est à citer en exemple pour son intégration avec le reste du spectre sonore, pas de trainage, belle énergie qui malgré tout laisse place à l'émotion des voix .

Il faut dire que la partie grave est alimentée en solid state et le médium aigu avec une électronique à lampes, le meilleur des deux mondes en quelque sorte : 48 000,00 \$ Can pour le système complet.

Translation:

Here's a first "Best of Show 2006", for Aurum Acoustics, whose original all-active system design (the work of the talented Derrick Moss) offered peerless musicality in spite of the unfavourable acoustics. I really enjoyed this high-end setup, with a special salute for the integration of the bass with the rest of the audio spectrum. There was no hangover, and a lovely energy which still left room for the voices' emotion.



www.magazine-audio.com © Marc Philip 2006

Philip, M. (2006, March) Compte rendu du FSI 2006. *audio-conseil.com*. Retrieved April 18, 2006 from <http://www.audio-conseil.com/Forum/viewtopic.php?t=573>



Faithful messenger boy that I am, after spending far too long in the Fidelio room, I tracked down the Aurum Acoustics folks to make arrangements for delivery of their one-brand system to Doug Schneider for review. While I was there, I gave a good, long listen to this very interesting and ambitious system. While not cheap, the Aurum Acoustics system delivers cutting-edge, top-to-bottom performance and synergy. The Integris Active 300B speaker system (\$30,000) comes complete with amplifiers, speakers and cabling. The Integris CDP is an integrated CD player and preamp (\$12,000). The same wire is used both inside and outside the speakers. Things get even more interesting on the amplification side, where you get separate channels for the bass, midrange, and treble, with a separate tube driving each midrange and tweeter, and solid-state power for the woofers. Is that clever or what? On top of it all, the sound was triode-sweet without being cloying, the bass was solid-state tight, and it all integrated perfectly.

Thorpe, J. (2006, April 15) Searching for the Extreme: Le Festival Son & Image 2006. *Ultra Audio*. Retrieved April 18, 2006 from http://ultraaudio.com/features/2006_04_15.htm

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Le Festival Son et Image de Montréal 2006 Show Report The Home Entertainment and Electronics Show

**FSI FESTIVAL 2006
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Le Salon de l'Électronique en Divertissement-Maison
The Home Entertainment and Electronics Show

Report By Phil Gold

A company to watch is Aurum Acoustics, with its ambitious cottage industry one brand solution. Here all the parts are made to work together: the Integris CDP CD player with built in preamp, and active speakers with outboard active 300B based tube amplification. A complete high-end system in four (big) boxes! President and System Designer Derek Moss is pictured here with his system, but who the lady on the CD cover on top of the right speaker is - you'll have to ask Derek. A lovely natural sound too, with amazing extension at both ends for a tube system. I would like to spend some quality time with these finely tuned instruments and give you all a full report. This system has sounded good at every show and is now in full production.



Gold, P. (2006, April) Le Festival Son et Image de Montréal 2006 Show Report. *Enjoy the Music.com*. Retrieved April 18, 2006 from <http://www.enjoythemusic.com/montreal2006/gold/part2/page3.htm>

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Le Festival Son et Image de Montréal 2006 Show Report The Home Entertainment and Electronics Show



Report By Rick Becker

Derrick Moss of **Aurum Acoustics** in Newfoundland had his rig set up on a slight angle to optimize his system as he has in the past. The deep, full bass of this one-brand system over-loaded the room a bit, but the excellence I've heard from it in previous years shone through nonetheless. The \$48K CN rig is sold as an entire system because of the particular functional combinations that were designed to optimize performance. The preamplifier and CD player are combined in the front end. The power amplifier with its 300B tubes and crossover are combined, and the loudspeakers feature self-powered woofers with solid state amplifiers while the tube amplifier takes care of the mids and highs. If you were able to listen through the strong bass in this room, you recognized this as one of the **Best Rooms** in the show. I present this low light photo because it reveals the simple elegance of the electronics, as you would experience it at home. The visual design of the system is outstanding, yet understated, and suitable for the finest homes.



Becker, R. (2006, May) Le Festival Son et Image de Montréal 2006 Show Report. *Enjoy the Music.com*. Retrieved May 13, 2006 from <http://www.enjoythemusic.com/montreal2006/becker/page2.htm>