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SOUND ADVICE Audio/Video Files

By Mike Quinn

Living-room Audio

MANHATTAN HOSTS THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

Pianists know that the name Bösendorfer (bosendorfernewyork.com) equates with music of the highest caliber. Now we civilians can reap the benefits of Bösendorfer's Viennese quality in our own homes with the recent introduction of its ingenious line of stunningly finished loudspeakers. Famed German speaker designer Hans Deutsch was employed to develop these new products, and the result is a speaker that takes advantage of essential resonances of the cabinet itself to achieve a startlingly lifelike sound. The results I heard from the model VC-7 (\$17,000 to \$25,000 depending on finish) were spectacular. Powered by the peerless Art Audio Adagio single-ended tube amplifiers (\$20,000/pair; artaudio.com), a level of emotion and detail rarely heard poured into the room. There was an exceptional presence, razor-sharp precision, extreme openness and naturalness, and bass was astoundingly clean and tight. A dynamic piano solo came across as one of the most believable reproductions of the instrument I've ever heard. A second visit to the room confirmed my suspicions that these were speakers to be reckoned with—a sample of some wonderful Gary Burton allowed every nuance of his mallet strokes and the gentle vibrato decay make it seem as if he were playing in the front of the demo room. And just as Bösendorfer's pianos are works of art, its speakers, available in a variety of ultrahigh-grade finishes, can fit into any environment or decorating scheme.



Bösendorfer VC-7 loudspeakers