

# THE HORIZON AUDIOgram

Horizon Audio Services Ltd., is a Professional Systems Contracting company specializing in the design and installation of sound and video systems for Houses of Worship. Over 95% of our business each year is



## 2003

## The "Head's Up" on Head Worn

The Horizon Audiogram is the official newsletter of Horizon Audio Services. For more information on the products and services that we provide...

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### Special points of interest:

- **New Products**
- **Recent Installations**
- **CHJX Grace FM**
- **Additions to Horizon Audio Families**
- **Comic Corner**



Special Projects SP-765

You've seen them on television and at live concerts. You can also see them in an increasing number of churches. Head worn microphones

have some very desirable attributes, but you must understand how to use them properly to get the most out of them. It used to be that when we mentioned head worn mics to a church audio committee, we would hear two names back; Garth Brooks and Madonna! Today, many performers will use a head worn mic feeding a wireless transmitter.

The advantages of the head mic are: (1) excellent volume before feedback because the mic capsule is close to the mouth and (2) consistency of sound; the mic always stays a set distance from the mouth. The disadvantages are: (1) the appearance, to some people, and (2) the inability to vary the mic to mouth distance to help with your dynamics. This last disadvantage can be overcome with a little practice, and manufacturers have worked hard at developing very tiny capsules to minimize the size of the microphone's appearance.

Head worn mics range in price from about \$150.00 to approximately \$700.00. Remember this does not include the wireless transmitter and receiver. At the economy end, the Audio

Technica® ATM 75 over-the-head model and the AKG® C444L behind-the-head model represent good value. The Special Projects SP-765, as demonstrated by our office manager, Laurie Acres, is an excellent mid-priced value. The Countryman Isomax™ model, offers enhanced quality at a higher price, as demonstrated by Jessica of Mission Partners International, our next door neighbour. At the top end of the price scale is the Countryman E6 model, which is so light it can simply hook around the ear. Featuring an extremely tiny capsule, this model both sounds and looks great!

While some people initially object to the look of the head worn mic, most will accept it once they realize how well they work compared to traditional lapel microphones. Some manufacturers offer flesh coloured models for improved appearance.

Head worn mics work well not only for the pastor, allowing greater flexibility and movement than the lapel microphone, but they also work well for dramatic productions, both for singing and speaking. We virtually always have a couple models on hand for trial. Give us a call.

One trial will convince you of their benefits!



Countryman E6 Earset



Countryman Isomax™

# Interesting New Products

The introduction of new products or the updating of old ones is a never ending process in our industry. The following are examples useful to our clients.

## Kramer VP-720DS Seamless Switcher/Scaler/ Picture-in-Picture Inserter



Useful as the main switcher in video projection systems, this new Kramer unit allows you to seamlessly switch between your computer, DVD player, VCR and cameras.

## Shure® DFR-22 Digital Equalization Processor



Digital processors are an integral part of virtually all our audio systems now. The new DFR-22 is the next step in mid-priced models, offering two inputs by two outputs, featuring both parametric and graphic equalizer filters, compression, limiting, automatic gain control, and Shure's dynamic automatic feedback reduction.

## Audio Technica® 3000 Series Wireless



It wasn't very long ago that you had to invest over \$1,000.00 to obtain a good long-term quality wireless microphone system. Audio Technica has introduced their 3000 series UHF programmable system for less than \$900.00. It is the first system in this price range we feel comfortable recommending for long-term quality performance.

## Tascam® DV-D6500 DVD Player



DVD players are not anything new now, however, a model that will allow you to eliminate the on screen display is rather rare. An update CD-ROM allows you to do this, so your congregation doesn't have to see the on-screen menu or graphics when the stop button is pushed.

## Sony® VPL-PX40 -The Evolution of Projection



Sony's latest installation model offers 3500 ANSI lumens of brightness at XGA resolution (1024 by 768 pixels). With inputs for composite video, S-Video and RGB signals, plus a DVI digital computer input, the PX40 is an excellent installation model for church use. The PX35 is identical to the PX40, but with 2600 ANSI lumen output and a lower price. Sony projectors are not the least expensive on the market, but they offer excellent quality and performance, thus making for good long-term value. You'll be surprised they don't cost more; call for complete details.



Many churches today desire comprehensive simple to use but versatile lighting control, often for both architectural and theatrical fixtures. The essence of good lighting control is a quality dimmer pack, and good ones can be quite expensive. One model we have found that offers what we feel is good quality for the price is the Lighttronics AR-1202, providing twelve dimming channels rated at 2400 watts per channel. This wall mounted unit is hardwired on both the input and output sides. It is fully programmable and easily expandable. It can even be controlled with an infra red wireless remote control. For those who only wish to hit one button to turn on the lights, the system can be controlled by simple on-off pushbuttons. Those who wish to do multiple scene programming for drama production can use any of the Lighttronics programmable consoles. Quality plus performance equals long-term good value.

## AR-1202 Dimmer Pack



TL-2448 Console

## AC-1009 Push Button Station



## The Salvation Army Territorial School of Music &

For more than 30 years now The Salvation Army territorial music department has held their annual National School of Music for students from across Canada. The event is held at their conference center on the shores of Lake Simcoe in Jackson's Point. This year's school from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> marked the expansion of the school program to include contemporary worship and drama. For many years now Dave Wettlaufer, Horizon Audio's general manager, has attended the school as the staff audio engineer. Again this year Dave attended, taking with him a



Three ladies made up Dave's small but enthusiastic class for the Sound System Operation elective at The Salvation Army School of Music and Worship Arts—August 2003

complete small venue concert level audio system, plus a Sony VPL-PX40 video data projector and Sony DSR-PD150 digital camera to complement the contemporary worship arts component of the school. Captain Len Ballantine, head of the Territorial Music and Worship Arts department at national headquarters, and school director encourages all Salvation Army churches to consider sending their young musicians and worship arts people to next year's school. It's an excellent opportunity for the development of their artistic and spiritual lives.

## Recent 2003 Installations Include

- Smithville District Christian High School - January
- Free Reformed Church, St. Thomas - April
- First Lobo Baptist Church - April
- Stoney Creek Community Church, London (*formerly Central Baptist*) - April
- St. Marys Salvation Army - May
- Free Methodist Church, London - July
- Listowel Bible Chapel - July

We are currently working on the audio and video systems for the new Banwell Community Church in Windsor.

## Interior Design?

Interior design and decorating doesn't really have much to do with professional audio and video, but when Horizon Audio Manager Dave Wettlaufer decided it was time to redecorate his living room, he turned to Tracey White from A Piece of Peace interior design services for much needed help. Says Dave, "Although I'm not quite colour blind, I'm not very good at colour co-ordination. Tracey did an excellent job." Tracey can provide her services for public spaces as well as private residences. Do you need someone from outside your church, yet familiar with worship to work with your building or decorating committee? Avoid internal conflict! Give Tracey a call! 519.672.5972

## CHJX Grace FM

People in London will soon be able to tune in a new low power, not-for-profit Christian FM radio station. Tune to 105.9 to hear test broadcasting commencing this fall. Horizon Audio general manager, Dave Wettlaufer, is helping the local group by providing the electronic equipment necessary to get on the air. Other companies providing assistance include Spectrum Communications and Damar Security. Grace FM's studio is located at 100 Fullarton Street in the Menear and Associates building, while the antenna is atop of 100 London Place. Due to the low power designation, with an effective radiated power of only 10 watts, only listeners right in London will receive the signal, however, future plans include an eventual power increase to cover a wider region.



New Grace FM 105.9 An-

## Noisy Sanctuary?

Have you ever sat in a sanctuary and noticed how noisy it is? I'm not referring to the noise people produce, but the ambient noises of the room itself. These include noise from the air conditioning and heating system, noise created by air being forced through diffusers, the hum from fluorescent lighting ballasts, the buzz from incandescent lighting elements, even traffic noise from outside. All these noise sources add together to produce a certain background noise level. The higher this background noise level is, the higher the sound system must be operated to achieve an acceptable level of speech intelligibility.

One of the issues we look into when we perform our acoustic consulting and design services for new facilities is the sanctuary noise level. Will it be suitably low? Experts have established noise criteria curves and recommendations for various types of spaces. For example, a sound broadcasting studio should be NC15; a hotel ballroom should be NC30 to 35; an industrial workshop can be as high as NC65; your sanctuary should be NC25 to 30. We provide such specifications to architects and engineering disciplines for new facilities, and we can then measure the room after construction is complete to determine if the specification was met. Various remedies can be applied to correct noisy situations.

As the percentage of older people rises in many churches, it is more important than ever before that the ambient noise level be reasonably low in order to ensure good intelligibility for everyone. If you feel you have noise problems in your sanctuary or meeting room, give us a call. We are equipped with the knowledge, experience and measurement equipment to help you!

## Common Sense & Nonsense COMIC

"It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money - that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot - it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better."

John Ruskin  
(1819-1900)



"Well we did save a lot of money using volunteer labor on the..."