

~ *UK Consumer Review*

Although the name may or may not be familiar you, Von Gaylord Audio (formerly known as Legend Audio) have a strong reputation for great sounding hi-fi in many parts of the world and it is not by no surprise to learn that their customer base has been rapidly growing in the UK. They are very much known for producing exceptional and innovative designs such as water-cooled amps but also Von Gaylord Audio are one of the very few companies that will provide the complete audio setup including speakers, cables and interconnects.

My personal experience of VG Audio products has been one of the best in all the years of owning different hi-fi systems. High standards of after-sales service, exceptionally well-built products and most importantly, great sound. The company has also impressed many other reviewers of audio equipment including Stereo Times, Sterophile and IAR. It seems that a well-balanced VG Audio system is capable of bettering much more expensive systems and in fact, has on several occasions reported to be the best one of the best sounding rooms at annual audio events. It is no doubt that Von Gaylord are a fresh face in audio equipment here in the UK and are here to offer something special in the audio market.

During my first listening experience, I was left in complete admiration of the overall quality of the equipment on show. What struck me straight away was the incredible level of depth and soundstage coming from the two-way ported design Von Gaylord Return of the Legend speakers. They sounded much larger than I would expect coming from a speaker of such design. That said, these were not small bookshelf speakers and therefore would need solid stands to support their heavy weight and size. They also looked absolutely stunning in the mahogany high gloss finish. The rest of the setup consisted of the new Nirvana mono block valve amplifiers with an impressive power output of 110w (\$8495), a Legend Audio Harmony valve pre-amp (\$12,995), a VG Uni DAC (\$12,995), VG Chinchilla Interconnects and speaker cable.



So how would I personally describe the sound after a couple hours of listening? I would have to say that this is a subjective question and everything depends on the individual listener and their ears! However for me, this system was just sublime, packing punch with an incredible dynamic expression that almost resembled live performances. Music just sounded so good, so far as to say that it was almost addictive. The highs were smooth and not intrusive whilst the lows were full of depth with great slam, a real credit to the powerful Nirvana amps that sounded and looked wonderful. I later had the pleasure of listening to the system through vinyl playback; Rega RP6 and a Dynavector 10X5 cartridge and the system continued to make music sound detailed, full bodied and sweet, using the source to its full potential and giving back every last detail in a natural and uninterrupted way. I have heard some expensive valve systems that sound good but not quite as good as this one. Some valve setup listening experiences have left me somewhat unimpressed because they can tend to be too much on the warm side and

even uneventful at times. However, Von Gaylord in my opinion, seem to have mastered it in revealing the true potential of high quality valve setups.

I was also lucky enough to meet Ray Leung of Von Gaylord Audio at the show. He has an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience in the hi-fi industry and I would recommend anyone to get in touch with him for support and advice on building the perfect Von Gaylord audio system.

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