



Audio Analogue Bellini and Donizetti (Mono/stereo pre-amplifier/amplifier) - By Alban Amoureux

Audio Analogue is a world-renowned Italian sound craftsman established for 25 years now in Tuscany. The devices designed by its electronic engineers pursue a goal of very high sound quality based on advanced technical choices. Nevertheless, visual simplicity is the order of the day at Audio Analogue. The devices are devoid of any unnecessary stylistic effect. Music above all, as will prove to us the listening of this ensemble composed of the pre-amplifier Bellini and a pair of Amplifiers Donizetti.

Both aircraft are from the Italian manufacturer's Anniversary range. Their design was born from collaboration between the teams of Audio Analogue and that of AirTech Laboratories, manufacturer among other things of cables. This joint work is visible by the AirTech logo on the top of Anniversary aircraft. It is also listed on internal electronic cards. In addition, an AirTech Alfa power cord is provided with each Anniversary device. These Bellini and Donizetti are all new devices. They take the name of their predecessors, but the similarity ends here. The entire internal design has been reviewed from A to Z. The components and technical choices correspond to a quest for excellence. Anniversary models benefit from innovative choices that do not reveal their rather wise aesthetic.

At Audio Analogue, after validating technical performance on the technical bench, the final adjustments go through many hours of adjustment to the ear. In the end, Audio Analogue clearly assumes that the final validation of what the devices must deliver from the factory can be done "at the expense of respecting the results of laboratory measurements". High musicality must come before high-fidelity.

A majestic presence

The Bellini Anniversary pre-amplifier is massive. Available in black or silver finish, it comes in the form of a large block almost as deep as wide. It rests on large feet cushioning any mechanical micro-vibrations. Its 14 mm-thick façade accommodates a single order: that of the volume placed in the central position.

To his left, tiny LEDs indicate the source being listened to. On the right, an LED scale indicates the volume level. All the right is the infrared remote control receiver. The latter is just as massive and cut from a block of metal. It allows you to light the Bellini, select the input, manage the volume and mute. Five analog inputs are available: three asymmetrical and two symmetrical on XLR. Both pairs of exits are offered in asymmetrical and symmetrical.

The Donizetti Anniversary is a stereo power amplifier. Imposing, its façade is no less than 22 cm high. Its weight is in the right place with 41.2 kg on the scale. Only a start/sleep button is present in front. At the back, we find two pairs of inputs, a RCA and an XLR. Butterfly-type screw-bounders also accept banana connectors. With a maximum power output of up to 2400 Watts, the power sheet is a 16A model for C19 connectors.

Interior

The Bellini consists of a single four-layer electronic card. The arrangement of the oversized components follows an entirely differential mono double pattern. Their implantation was designed to prevent the entry and exit signals from intersecting. Everything about inductive power is on the left side, for the toroidal transformer, and at the front of the case. Digital control circuits are completely separate from audio signals.

All connecting cables are made of pure 7N OCC copper from the AirTech laboratory. Audio Analogue has integrated its SeGeSTA technology, which means "Single Gain Stage Transconductance Amplifier," or single-gain step-to-gain transconductance amplifier. It is intended to remove any feedback to improve the functioning silence.

Designed entirely in double mono, the Donizetti's amplification channels can also operate in bridging mode. The power then goes from 2x250 Watts under 8 ohms to 1x1000 Watts. Under 2 ohms, the power climbs to 2200 Watts. These impressive figures are achieved through the use of 12 bipolar transistors per channel. The SeGeSTA design is also present with a design without a global counter-reaction.

Each channel has its own 1200VA toroidal transformer, ten audio-quality capacitors selected by AirTech, and again oversized military resistors. AirTech also provides the internal wiring of pure OCC copper, always carried out at the shortest path. The Donizetti's passive cooling is provided by wing complexes on each side panel.

The installation

We were able to enjoy the Bellini combined with two Donizetti amplifiers, each in bridging mono mode. With 2x1000 Watts, the association with any pair of large speakers with conventional performance figures is possible.

The listening took place on two types of Harbeth monitors with quite different bass exploration capabilities. The high power reserve will always be beneficial, even if you don't push the volume too much. The important weight of the Donizetti requires to provide a suitable piece of furniture or to place them directly on the

ground. Given the power involved, special care will have to be taken to the electrical circuit, as AirTech's signed OCC power cords are provided.

The Naim NDX 2 from the Classic series served as a very high quality dematerialized reading base. We were able to use our favorite Tidal playlist consisting of different musical styles, but also voluntarily of our favorite songs a little old to the recording sometimes fallible.

The sound

The great strength of the Audio Analogue Anniversary set lies in its analytical ability. It isolates every instrument, every voice and every piece of information from the recording venue in order to recreate an ultra-realistic sound scene spread over several planes. More than different layers of information, the Audio Analogue set places precisely each element in space in all three dimensions. He treats each instrument with a real feeling of matter, thickness and volume of sound. The readability resolution is thus maximum with instruments taking life in the listening room.

Speed is another asset of Bellini and Donizetti. The small percussions and finger snaps are rendered with a dive and precision in the nuances contributing to their realism. On the saxophone, harmonica or violin, we enjoy an impressive respect for timbres/tonality - we feel all the complexity and material of the instrument, the sounds of mouth or rubbing.

Once again, the instruments take shape in front of us, perfectly separated from each other. An instrument can play the right, while the note ends can be effortlessly distinguished from another instrument played more gently to the left. Even on old recordings without real qualities of their own, the Audio Analogue set manages to give them life, breadth and thickness.

As for the bass, it is flawless. We expected no less from such behemoths. They hold the membranes with strength and authority for a dynamic rendition, without any restraint in terms of sound level. All the nuances in the drum are at the rendezvous, in the impact as in the resonances of the skins. Woofers 30 or 38 cm in diameter are absolutely no problem to Donizetti, quite the contrary.

When you go from one to two power blocks, not only does the overall serenity of sound reproduction go up a notch, but the stability of the sound stage becomes even more evident. The structure of the image becomes downright holographic. The rapid reaction of the whole tends towards a certain form of perfection. With a stereo amp, the result is already superb, but with two bridled in mono, the feeling that the speakers (as emissive sources) disappear from the listening room, is even more palpable.

Our conclusion

Give them great recordings and the Audio Analogue Bellini and Donizetti will get the quintessence. These devices play with complexity to extract every detail and recreate a sound scene of a confusing width, height and depth of realism. The

separation of the two channels via two monophonic blocks is no stranger. Moreover, this possibility of evolution will not have escaped the smart music lover who offers himself with this configuration the opportunity to increase the performance of his system a significant notch.

The comfortable power of these amplifiers is more than enough to power just about any pair of speakers. The Donizetti will be perfect in combination with large columns composed of large speakers. But not only that. Large power-hungry speakers will also benefit from this mastery for the exploration of the lowest octaves as well as for the reproduction of a large-format soundstage.

The Bellini and the Donizetti form a high-end analog ensemble that brings music to life in every nuance, from the bottom to the top of the spectrum, with a confounding sense of realism.

DONIZETTI Anniversary	BELLINI Anniversary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZERO Global Feedback from Input to Output• Fully Balanced - ALL Stages• 2x1200VA (2400VA total) Dual-Mono Custom Audio Transformers:• OCC Single Crystal Copper internal wiring• Military grade resistors• Audiophile grade capacitors• 4-layer Printed Circuit Board • 250w @8Ω - @1% THD (MONO 1000w/ch)• 500w @4Ω - @1% THD (MONO 1700w/ch)• 950w @2Ω - @1% THD (MONO 2200w/ch)• Tested by HFN: 350w/680w (8Ω/4Ω) • Signal/noise ratio: >110 dB• Dimensions (HWD): 220 x 450 x 428mm• Weight: 41kg	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZERO Global Feedback from Input to Output• Attenuator: Resistor-based chips for ultra precision, transparency & resolution• OCC Single Crystal Copper internal wiring• Military grade resistors• Audiophile grade capacitors• Power supply uses an inductive-capacitive filtering to minimize mains distortion • Signal/noise ratio: >107 dB• Dimensions (HWD): 140 x 450 x 380mm• Weight: 12kg
