

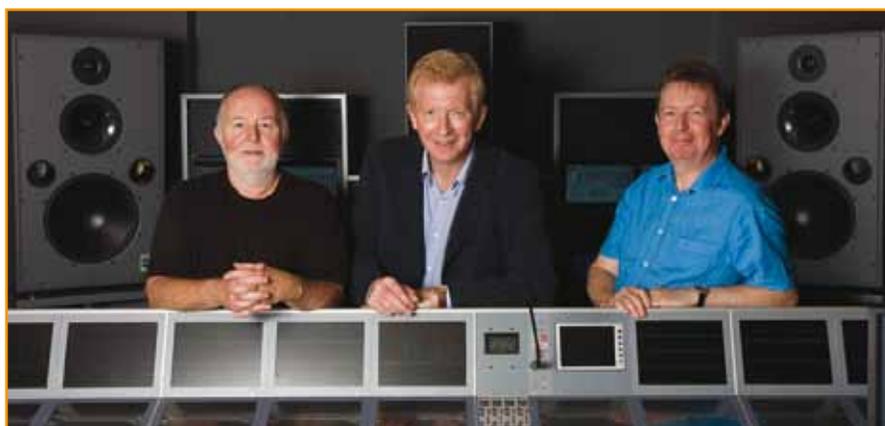
UK'S MOST POPULAR TV SHOWS INSISTS ON HARBETH LOUDSPEAKERS FOR ALL THEIR CRITICAL MONITORING

Highly skilled engineers at The X-Factor needed the best possible monitors for their new 5.1 surround studio

Cult TV programme must have Harbeths

news
www.harbeth.co.uk

PETER BALL (LEFT), FOUNTAIN'S SENIOR ENGINEER, HARBETH'S ALAN SHAW AND AUDIO GURU ROBERT EDWARDS IN THE NEW 5.1 STUDIO



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Fountain Studios, in west London, has chosen Harbeth monitors for its new 5.1 audio control room. As the largest purpose-built studio in the UK, Fountain broadcasts iconic shows including ITV's hit *The X-Factor* which has a worldwide audience. In the UK alone the live programme is watched by around 11 million – that's almost half the total television audience.

"The show's production values are world-class", says Harbeth's MD and designer Alan Shaw. "It has astonished me just how high the technical standards are. A total commitment to excellence of sound, vision and lighting. The production staff demand the very best in speaker design technology – hence our involvement."

Over 100 microphones are in use on the broadcast, all

controlled by sound supervisor Robert Edwards with his Harbeth loudspeakers.

"The sound which Robert creates is a vital part of the programme's appeal," adds Alan. "Robert is the master of achieving a perfect balance between the performers, the judges and the unusually warm and natural sound of the excited audience. All crystal clear but smooth."

Remember, the last person to hear the sound before it reaches your ears at home was creating it on Harbeths.

FOUNTAIN'S 5.1: M40.1s, M30 CENTRE AND M20s REAR



parkershots.com



ITV

NEW MUSIC TALENT AUDITIONED ON HARBETHS

The X-Factor gives fresh talent an opportunity to compete to win a recording contract and has become the most talked about TV show in the UK. Its influence has made headlines at home and abroad as it makes stars out of ordinary people. It is a very British approach to allow ordinary people to shine against overwhelming odds. Format creator Simon Cowell (front right) also judges and mentors on the UK series.

THE fountain STUDIOS



Top TV sound supervisor Robert Edwards (right) tells Alan Shaw that he uses Harbeths at home and wouldn't have anything else to balance live TV to a worldwide audience of millions.

Cooper said his colleagues critically evaluated all the 'so called' monitor speaker brands. "Engineers had their own preferences", he explains. "But the Harbeth combination was the only one which everyone liked..."

Creating the perfect sound on live television, with the extra complexity of 5.1 surround, takes great skill and totally depends on accurate monitoring.

"I have enjoyed Harbeth speakers at home for over twenty years now", says the programme's sound supervisor Robert Edwards. "Why would I accept anything else when working professionally in the studio?"

SHOW STOPPER

Top sound

Harbeth took Norway's biggest hi-fi show by storm at its first appearance. It quickly became the brand most spoken and written about on the country's hi-fi forum. The partnership of Audiovalve tube amplifiers and Compact 7-ES3 loudspeakers, in Tiger Ebony, was much appreciated by the many visitors to the September event.

www.hifisentralen.no/forum/index

THE COMPACT 7-ES3 TAKING PRIDE OF PLACE AT NORWAY'S HIGH-END SHOW



Harbeth 'only choice' for sound boss

Engineers in charge of the sound quality of the UK's hit TV show *The X Factor* had to have monitor speakers which were in the

BBC sound tradition – warm, with exceptional imaging and totally fatigue-free.

Fountain Studio's technical director Chris

TRUE H.K. WELCOME

Harbeth's Hong Kong fan club spent an enjoyable evening with Alan Shaw discussing ideas for future products. They said it was a very warm meeting and he was surprisingly approachable for the boss of an international brand. "Hong Kong was Harbeth's first overseas market in 1977", explains Alan. "It remains as important today as always, so it was a pleasure to meet the group and share ideas. See you next time - cheers guys."

LEADERS OF HARBETH'S HK FAN CLUB



PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF NEW P3ESR

ENGINEERS at a TV post production house find the diminutive Harbeth P3ESR a pleasant surprise to use as they create television trails...



"It was immediately apparent that the P3ESR's central mono image was so clear and sharp that it seemed the sound was emanating from a single, centrally placed speaker", the studio's senior audio engineer tells the online Harbeth User Group.

The first test he uses is with low-level male speech. It has to sound like a real person talking from the other side of the room. Most loudspeakers are so unnatural that they fail this critical test – but not the

P3ESR which passed with flying colours.

"Half an hour of the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony and, I have to say, the tymps sound stunningly powerful yet detailed; the lower strings have fullness, depth and precision. The upper strings are not harsh in the slightest. The brass is bright and clean – the sense of rasp in the trombones is moving. And the organ? Yes, please!

"But the quality that really shines through it how the sound escapes the confines of the shoebox-sized cabinets in three dimensions with such a great sense of ease."

More user experiences at www.harbeth.co.uk/usergroup



Harbeth Audio Ltd,
3 Enterprise Park, Lindfield,
West Sussex, RH16 2LH England
sound@harbeth.co.uk www.harbeth.co.uk

Harbeth

All colours in this brochure are approximate - E&OE