

## The 2005 Stereo Times “Most Wanted Components” Awards Event

**Harbeth Super HL 5 Loudspeaker:** Designed around Harbeth’s state-of-the-art Radial™ cone bass/midrange driver, the 3-way HL5 offers effortless musical communication, neutral tonality, and fine detail allows the deepest penetration into music’s aesthetic worth of any cone driver speaker on the market. Reasonably priced at \$3995/pair, the Harbeth has the near-magical capability to extract the best from partnering gear, allowing a wide range of component choices, including very inexpensive gear. The apotheosis of the grand BBC design tradition? Yes. The ultimate music lover’s speaker? Oh yes. A masterpiece? Uh-huh. Synergistic match with Stillpoints placed between speaker and stand [Paul Szabady].



[*Photo right: Walter Swanbon, importer and Nelson Brill*]. Paul Szabady beat me to this one in his illuminating review of the HL5 this past October, but this did not stop me from purchasing a pair and loving every moment with this “great musical performer” (Szabady). I have cherished the HL5’s purity of tone and timbre, its unflinching realism to string and horn and making recorded music so accurate and real. I have utilized this pair in a small office space, giving them as much room to breathe from the walls as possible and partnering them with solid state amps with 100 watts or more to get the fullest benefit of the HL5’s dynamic character. Vocals are superbly rendered with Knopfler’s husk intact, and Krauss’s feathery highs captured without edge or false highlights. They breathe, they convey the inner workings of any given recording and they are a joy to listen to at low volume. In their price range, I have heard none better [Nelson Brill].