

2008 FSI SHOW REPORT

Dropping back down to the larger rooms, I encountered the **Sumiko** room about which John Marks had warned me. It was every bit as good as he claimed. The *hot babe* in the room was clearly *The Music*, which is the chosen name for **Vienna Acoustics** new flagship loudspeaker (\$25,000), borrowed, so they say, from a Klimt painting. There was a print of Gustav Klimt's *Kiss* next to the left loudspeaker, but I didn't see any relation to the loudspeaker. The *Kiss* is a rather digital image. *The Music* is not. I have no question about the loudspeaker. It is first class all the way with some breakthrough design elements. Ignore for a moment that it is a beautiful loudspeaker (available in sapele and gloss black or all gloss black) and one must understand the driver in the upper angled cabinet. Notice that its surface is flat with radiating ribs. This is important but too involved for this report. Notice also that the center of this driver is the tweeter, coaxially mounted for point source effect. This combined driver plays 150Hz up. – Rick Becker
Enjoy *The Music*.



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\$25,000 is a lot for a pair of speakers but Vienna Acoustics should have plenty of takers for their new five-driver offering "The Music", named for a painting from Viennese artist Klimt. The Music is beautiful to look at and outstandingly vibrant and musical to listen to. It sounded even better here than on its introduction at CES. A new flat concentric 8" driver is the key to this performance, offering seven octaves of music in a single phase-coherent time plane. Designer Peter Gansterer created a radial-vented structure cast into the flat cone that produces an enormously stiff flat surface, eliminating time and frequency specific phase shift across the driver. In the center of the driver sits a silk domed tweeter with a large vented pole piece and a neodymium ring magnet. This driver is set in an adjustable cabinet allowing you to first optimize the speaker position for bass room loading, then to adjust the angle of the tweeter to suit the listening position. Below the driver physically (but above it acoustically) sits a Murata exciter, also featured in Reference 3A's exceptional Grand Veena. Bass is provided by three 9" spidercones manufactured for Vienna Acoustics (like the 8" driver) by Eton Germany. The two lower drivers operate in parallel from 18 Hz to 100 Hz, and the third has its own sub enclosure and acts as a transition to the main array. The Music, shown here with Vienna Acoustics' International Sales Director Kevin Wolff is available in a true Piano Black lacquer and a Sapele wood veneer finish and spearheads the top of the line Klimt Series. – Phil Gold, Enjoy *The Music*.



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Kevin Wolff, Vienna Acoustics' new international sales manager, poses next to the new \$25,000/pair The Music loudspeakers. That rotating section of the cabinet contains Vienna Acoustics' revolutionary (*hah!*) new, flat, concentric 7" tweeter-midrange unit, which handles frequencies from 200Hz to 20kHz. A separate super-tweeter takes over above the audioband. Called "The Point," the coaxial driver uses a single layer of TPX polymer, reinforced by radial ribs, to create a driver of unusual rigidity without adding mass. The "bass module," which is to say everything up to 200Hz, is first placed within the room and is raked backwards to mate with the listening position, then the coaxial module is rotated to achieve precise focus. That, at least, is the theory—and, powered by an Audio Research CD-7 CD player (\$9000), Reference 3 preamplifier (\$10,000), and Primare A3 250Wpc power amplifier (\$4495), The Music was pretty convincing. Lots of slam, supported by tones of air. Not to mention, a layered, holographic soundstage that beckoned me to stay seated long past the point where duty elsewhere called. The Music is the flagship of Vienna Acoustics' Klimt line, so those of us with smaller budgets may benefit from The Point's trickle-down technology. – Wes Phillips, Stereophile



Vienna Acoustics showed speakers from the new Klimt series, led by this large floorstander, "The Music" (yes, that's its name). The speaker uses a newly developed flat midrange with a coaxially mounted tweeter and a separate supertweeter. The picture does not do justice to the speakers' stunning appearance and impeccable finish, including a piano black version, not shown here. Yours for just \$25,000/pair.

The top module is rotatable to aim it toward the listening position using an elegant screw and

with your greasy paws (though oddly the supertweeter is fixed in relation to the woofers). There will also be a center channel ("The Poetry" and a stand-mount, "The Kiss" (that's not a typo). though these two models will be several months behind the first quarter delivery of "The Music." (First quarter always means the end of March in CES-speak.) Photos of the center and surround follow in the next two entries. No prices were given for them, nor for a somewhat smaller floorstander scheduled for release late in 2008. – Tom Norton, Ultimate A/V