

Adamson rig and microphones in abundance at French awards night in Lille

Classical spectaculaire

FRANCE: The 11th edition of 'Les Victoires de la Musique Classique 2004' took place in February at Le Nouveau Siècle [The New Century], a 1,900-seater concert hall in Lille in Northern France (Lille is the European Capital of Culture 2004).

The ceremony was broadcast live on both the France 3 public television channel and France Inter radio station, and the highlight this year was undoubtedly the presentation of the 'Honour' Award to Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich.

An impressive array of microphones was employed by hire company Silence, working alongside a team from Radio France, in order to capture the sound of the Lille National Orchestra conducted by Jean-Claude Casadesus, as well as the individual musicians participating in the evening's event.

Radio France sound director Pierre Bornard explains, "We used two main suspended stereo mic systems: two omni DPA 4052s at four meters above the conductor, with a space of 2.5m between the two microphones, in order to pick up the orchestra; and two cardioid DPA 4022, two metres apart and placed three metres behind the conductor, dedicated to the music played in the front stage."

Other microphones used included a selection of Schoeps CCM4s (woodwind, celesta, harp and choir), Schoeps plates (cellos), Neumann KM84 (also woodwind), Neumann KM140 (double bass), Sennheiser MKH40 (timpani and percussion), omni DPA 4060 (strings) and DPA 4033 (voice, cello, piano and guitar soloists). For ambience, four Schoeps CCM4s were suspended above the public at Le Nouveau Siècle. The sound was mixed on a Studer D950 console, the centrepiece of Radio France's Régie 1 mobile, with a Lexicon 960 for reverb.

Bornard says, "This stereo music mix was then sent to the France 3 mobile where additional speech and commentary were introduced. After being slightly compressed, the final mix was returned to Radio France Régie 1 for broadcast to -air France Inter radio."

Sound engineer Michel Marie was looking after the Yamaha DM1000 FOH console.



Winner of the 'Honour' Award
Mstislav Rostropovich

Most of the audio equipment, including the FOH Yamaha DM1000 console with Michel Marie at the helm, was provided by Silence, though the Adamson PA rig was supplied by CSE Live.

Silence's Gilles Hugo comments, "As usual, our preference was for the sound quality of Adamson speakers, the design and help from Didier Dal Fitto of DV2 [Adamson support for Europe] and the fact that CSE Live had worked with us the week before using a system

which suited us – pure coincidence!"

Hugo mentions, "After many years, we have reached a real understanding between the teams and a mutual respect in our performances. It has become more rapid, more efficient, more pleasant."

As PSNE went to press, Silence and Radio France were preparing for the second annual Les Victoires du Jazz 2004 on 7th May at Le Centre International de Deauville, in Normandy. ■

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Les Victoires de la Musique Classique, held at the 1,900-seater Le Nouveau Siècle