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floorstanding loudspeaker of the year The Wilson Audio Sasha W/P

Reviewed in issue 67

Wilson Audio's replacement for the WATT/Puppy was always going to be stepping into some very big shoes, but the new Sasha more than succeeds. Although there are family resemblances, the loudspeaker shares almost nothing with its predecessor. Instead, think of it as a wholly new product, with a sound far more like that of the MAXX 3.

Dynamic, exciting and powerful, the Sasha needs a lot of power to bring out the best in the speaker, but in return you get a sound that has more scale and depth than you might expect from a speaker far larger. "The Sasha has the throat needed to roar, but does so with subtlety as well as gusto," we said.

Although the speaker has the scale to serve up a real sense of orchestral scale, it is also capable of delivering the goods with smaller-scale music, scaling the soundstage and the dynamic range accordingly. The previous WATT/Puppy was a fine and dynamic speaker, the new Sasha manages to make the midrange more transparent than ever and make the sound more in line with current Wilson models.

Best of all, the Sasha is one of those few loudspeakers that manages to reconcile all kinds of music... whether you listen to jazz or thrash metal, the Sasha is the perfect loudspeaker for the job.

Little wonder that we agree... the King is dead, long live the King.

Price: £27,900

Manufactured by Wilson Audio URL: www.wilsonaudio.com Distributed by Absolute Sounds URL: www.absolutesounds.com Tel: +44(0)208 971 3909

Highly Commended Focal Utopia Grande EM

Reviewed in issue 65 Price: £110,000 Manufactured by Focal URL: www.focal-fr.com Distributed by Focal (UK) Ltd URL: www.focal-uk.com Tel: 0845 660 2680

Highly Commended Avantgarde Uno Nano

Reviewed in issue 62 Price: £9,000 Manufactured by Avantgarde Acoustic GmbH URL: www.avantgarde-acoustic.de Distributed by GT Audio URL: www.gtaudio.com Tel: +44(0)1895 833099

Highly Commended MartinLogan Summit X

Reviewed in issue 66 Price: £12,998 Manufactured by Wilson Audio URL: www.martinlogan.com Distributed by Absolute Sounds URL: www.absolutesounds.com Tel: +44(0)208 971 3909

