

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 2007



Molde Jazz Festival's main arena, the 10,000 capacity open air Romsdalsmuseet (Museum) amphitheater

Renkus-Heinz has the town covered for Molde Jazz Festival

NORWAY – The 47-year-old Molde Jazz Festival in Norway, one of Europe's foremost annual jazz events, saw a unique Renkus-Heinz double bill this summer with the appearance of two models of the company's line array systems, while other Renkus-Heinz systems were in action throughout the town's numerous venues.

The event's main stage is located in one of the world's most beautiful festival sites, the 10,000 capacity open air Romsdalsmuseet (Museum) amphitheater, which houses a reconstruction of a medieval Norwegian village amid trees and rolling hills, with mountains beyond. The town of Molde itself lies by a picturesque fjord and, over the years, the festival has hosted such luminaries as Sting, Stevie Wonder, Branford Marsalis, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Santana and Bob Dylan.

This year the main stage was graced by a unique double bill, which saw Steely Dan take to the stage, followed by Elvis Costello and musical collaborator Alain Toussaint.

Production company Molde Forum, which was formed 17 years ago to serve the festival but today also operates as a full-time rental/production company, supplied the audio, with an STLA/9 high power line array for the main stage, comprising 12 STLA/9 self-powered line array modules a side and a total of 10 self-powered DR18-2 dual 18 inch subwoofers and two ST4/94 front fills, all controlled by XTA processors. Twin delay towers featured four PN102/LAs and two DR-18-2s per side.

The stage was mixed on a Digidesign Venue with FOH handled on a Midas Heritage 2000. “The STLA/9, as well as being very powerful, is easy to fly and to steer because of its 90 degree horizontal coverage,” comments general manager Jo Tore Bæverfjord. “It proved its versatility with the huge range of artists we had at the festival, including, of course, Steely Dan and Elvis Costello.”

Some of the company’s first line array investment, 28 cabinets of the compact PN102LA self-powered system, is used for all the festival’s indoor concerts at the 900-seat Bjørnsonshuset Theatre.

The system used consisted of 20 PN102/LAs and eight DRS18-2 subs. “It’s a special system, too,” says Bæverfjord. “Very small and easy to handle, but the 150 degree coverage means you can usually address an entire audience without side fills. We also use it as a club system with just four a side stacked on the subs, almost as you would configure a conventional system. This system handles anything we expose it to – from rock to classical – with all the clarity and punch you would ever want.”

Among the festival’s more unusual venues is the elegant, modern 1,000-seat church, Molde Domkirke, where Molde Forum deployed a second ICONYX IC24 digitally steerable array to supplement the permanently installed IC24, augmented by a pair of subwoofers. “It works incredibly well,” says Bæverfjord. “Like most churches it’s acoustically a difficult room, but once you’ve set up the ICONYX correctly the problems almost magically disappear. We have very enthusiastic and critical audiences for these concerts and anything less than superb quality would not please them at all!”

Headquartered in Foothill Ranch, California, Renkus-Heinz is the worldwide leader in the design and manufacture of powered and non-powered loudspeakers, system specific electronics and fully integrated Reference Point Array systems.

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