

Remarkably Clear Audio

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In one of Musical Surroundings' many rooms in the Denver Tech Center Marriott, the Clearaudio Anniversary AMG CMB turntable (\$10,000), with its 80mm platter and Ceramic Magnetic Bearing of the Master Reference; Benz-Micro LP S-Class Cartridge (\$5000), the company's new flagship; and Helius Omega Silver Ruby 10" tonearm (\$4750) were paired with the Aesthetix Rhea Signature phono stage (\$7,000) and Aesthetic Atlas stereo power amp (\$8,000); Focal Diablo Utopia speakers and stands (\$14,000/pair); Tara Labs ISM The One speaker cable (\$3850/pair for 8') and The One ISM onboard 1m interconnects (\$2495/pair; and Running Springs Audio Jaco (\$2500) and Audio Duke (\$1900) Powerline Conditioners.

Boy, you never thought I'd finish that list, did you? I didn't either. But the wait for the punch line is worth it.

To say I was blown away by the sound of Joan Sutherland singing "Bel raggio" would be an understatement. I didn't hear much in the way of a low end, although that could be the pressing, but the highs were extraordinary. Did I say extraordinary? Extraordinary. The size of Sutherland's voice is very hard to capture, but when she opened up on her high E flats, several people sitting around me gasped. This was very much the sound I heard during her Met debut in *Lucia* many many many many years ago. Fabulous.