Martin Audio CDD for Caterpillar Club



The Caterpillar Club, Sydney's latest underground music venue, boasts one of the world's largest vinyl collections. Drawing inspiration from the 70s, and the vibrant clubs of New York, bands also play five nights a week, and according to general manager, Emma Franceschini "any time there's not a band on there's a DJ spinning vinyl." This includes the secret Bamboo Room Tiki bar where DJs can also be found at the weekend.

Tasked with turning the vision of operators Stefan & Anton Forte (from Swillhouse Group) into reality, was renowned sound engineer Anthony Russo from Technical Audio Group (TAG). And he instinctively turned to Martin Audio's premium CDD loudspeaker system to meet all eventualities. As he emphasises, this needed to be a statement of uncompromising quality "where every seat needs to be the best seat." His design, therefore, was built to handle everything from the warm sound of vinyl to the crisp clarity of digital recordings through to the huge demands of the club's live acts.

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There is little Anthony Russo doesn't know about the characteristics of Martin Audio's coaxial differential dispersion technology, having specified CDD many times. "It's the premium solution for a lot of top venues around Australia," he acknowledges. "In every room [at the Caterpillar] you'll see CDD8s and 6s and concealed SX110 subs in the ceiling and under the banquette seating right through to the FOH system which is a powerful CDD12 system - with a delay system, complete with LE100 foldback wedges."

In total, he has equipped the venue with over 60 speakers, 30 amplifier channels, and a staggering 40k watts of available amplifier power, ensuring that each patron is treated to unprecedented even coverage over eight zones. Even the Bamboo Room indulges patrons with a powerful Martin Audio system that would be more at home on a large dance floor. To ensure the detail of vinyl can be heard with absolute hi-fi clarity, while enabling easy conversation to take place at the tables, the large complement of speakers delivers a range from lounge low-volume chill levels to a live performance experience of a concert without needing to be overdriven.

Explaining the rationale, he says, "It is also designed to provide consistent coverage of the whole room while permitting everyone to have what I call a 'headphone experience'. There's always a speaker nearby, not too loud, just at the right level. It's something people haven't been used to, a real HiFi experience in a live venue environment and that's why we're infinitely proud."

This focus on precision extends to cutting-edge digital audio processing, networking, mixing and amplification, while to do justice to the vast vinyl library, Caterpillar invested in a handmade Australian custom-made rotary DJ console from Condesa. The final confirmation comes from Emma Franceschini: "The thing about the Martin Audio system is you have that extra clarity in the room. And since we're a vinyl bar, and you want to be able to hear the nuances, a world class sound system like Martin Audio lets you do that."

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