Martin Audio for Rotterdam’s Reborn Baroeg Venue

Picture: Ossip



The Baroeg is a household name in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Founded in 1981, it is the city’s oldest contemporary music venue, enjoying a national and international reputation as a home of hard, alternative, and gothic metal music. In April 2024, Baroeg closed its doors for a major overhaul, and has now re-opened - equipped with a brand-new Martin Audio TORUS sound system supplied by Martin Audio’s Dutch distributor, Ampco Flashlight.

“It's a really alternative venue. It’s very loud! And it's my type of music!” smiles Martijn de Jong of Ampco Flashlight. “As soon as I got wind of the renovation I contacted Baroeg’s head of sound, David Eve, and said, ‘You have my number!’” As it turns out, Eve was freelancing at another venue during the renovations, which happened to have a Martin Audio TORUS system installed: “He really liked the system. So he did call!”

The system design was conceptualised remarkably quickly. “David came over, we got talking, and I sort of designed the venue right in front of him,” de Jong recalls. “He gave me a 3D model, I imported it into SketchUp and into Martin Audio’s DISPLAY 3 prediction software. I said, 'I need to finetune it but I think something like

Phoca PDF

this should work,' and he agreed.”

The installed system is designed around a horizontal deployment of two hangs of four Martin Audio TORUS constant curvature enclosures. “TORUS is what I like to call a crossover between a point source and a line array,” describes de Jong. “If you deploy it vertically, it behaves a little bit like a line array - but that's not always what you want for a room that is only 16 metres deep. I opted for a horizontal deployment because it feels and sounds much more like a point source system. You've got a system with four 12-inch drivers per side in there, and with all the acoustic benefits of how TORUS is designed, the impact and the coverage is fantastic.”

The horizontal configuration also allowed efficient coverage of the room's wide stage: “The horizontal array is angled heavily into the room to avoid wall reflections. This meant the inner speakers provide superb coverage in the centre. Usually, with wide stages, you always have a gap right in the middle front, but here the coverage is awesome.”

Low-frequency support is delivered by four Martin Audio SX218 dual 18-inch subwoofers, whilst a pair of Martin Audio FlexPoint 15 (FP15) enclosures are positioned on stage below the main TORUS hangs. “I used the FP15s to pull the sound image down onto the stage,” he explains. “And they add even more low-end and more punch, which is always good in a place like this.”

On the balcony, three FlexPoint 12 enclosures serve as delays. “What I aim for when I design and tune systems, especially on balconies, is that if you close your eyes, the sound must come from the stage. You don't want to be able to point up to where the delay is coming from. There's minimal output from those speakers, but they work great to just extend the coverage.”

On stage, eight Martin Audio XE300 monitors provide foldback, alongside a Martin Audio SXP118 powered 18″ subwoofer for drum monitoring. A total of six Martin Audio iKON Series amplifiers power the main, delays and monitoring system. Elsewhere in the venue, the Martin Audio portfolio is further deployed with a pair of Blackline XP12 active loudspeakers and accompanying Blackline XP118 active subwoofers providing powerful audio in the foyer.

The result has been a resounding success for the reborn venue. “From the opening night onwards, both Baroeg and I have received a lot of compliments on the sound,” says de Jong. “Visitors, bands and engineers keep telling us how impressed they are with the clarity and impact. For a venue with Baroeg’s history, that’s the best feedback you can get.” He concludes, “Everything just came together so nicely for the whole project. The Martin Audio TORUS system is perfect for Baroeg. It performs like a massive point source system, which is exactly how David likes it, and it was an absolute pleasure working with him to deliver it.”

The final words come from David Eve himself: “As much as I loved the old Baroeg, I

Phoca PDF

could never do justice to the bands. It's really nice now to be able to use my skills in a place I love working, to get an awesome sound for all the awesome bands that will play there in the coming years. “Huge respect to all the hard work from Ampco Flashlight to get us up and running with a kick ass sound system and the rebirth of the new Baroeg.”

www.martin-audio.com

Phoca PDF