

FESTIVAL FEVER

It's fast approaching that time of year again... Festival season. We've been to plenty of these over the years, be it a boutique event (that closes the following year), a bizarre hippified folk gathering in rural England, or something substantial, such as V Festival, Hellfest, or Glastonbury. Whatever the live event, one thing's for sure, PA companies are facing more challenges when it comes to audio. Why? Purse strings are tightening, and crowds are more expectant than ever when it comes to 'good sound'. We look at some of the technology that keeps everything ticking over nicely...

Powersoft is on the cutting edge, as far as amplifier technology goes, with products such as the X Series now being used to optimise audio at festivals and live events across the globe. It's often about being on the ball when it comes to load in and load out times at these events, making sure patching, wiring, and overall PA setup is optimised. Thankfully, efficiency is a word Powersoft knows all about, explains the company's US sales director, Kurt Metzler.

"Something key to the X Series is its ability to take three-phase power directly, and automatically load balance between those three phases," Metzler explains. How does that work, exactly? "Well, I look at it like a three-cylinder engine, where the pushing pistons provide the power, if that makes sense?"

It does. Metzler goes on to tell me that the maximum AC current draw can also be set on each Powersoft amp. So, if generator power is limited, for example, users can make sure no breakers are tripped?

"Exactly. And another key benefit to using our amps on major shows and festivals is the ability to re-route ins to outs through Dante," Metzler says. "You can mix and match any input to any output, be it AES, Dante, or analogue, without degrading the audio signal."

Just to be sure, we thought we'd check what some of the end users had to say,

so we had a chat with Lithuanian rental house, No Noise, a recent adoptee of Powersoft's X Series.

According to the company's creative director, Lina Staniškauskaitė, X8 has helped transform workflow on all the live shows they put out.

"We have eight X8s, but what we *actually* get is 64 channels of 3kw/4ohm, so it's 192 kw in total, which is fantastic," Lina explains. "You get a lot of channels in a small package, and it's unbeatable for transportation."

No Noise also looks after Lithuania's premier artist, SEL, and for the band's upcoming tour, X8 will be at the helm.

"For SEL's big concerts, X8 is a perfect fit; we use it on the entire system, be it a line array, subwoofer, monitor, or sidefill," Lina continues. "As well as X8's impressive DSP power and three-phase power supply, what really sets it apart is its phenomenal dynamic range. Even at high SPLs, big sound is very easy on the ear, and aside from the subs, we use FIR filters on everything."

"We never like to *worship* gear, but we think these amplifiers are the best on the market; and as the summer season unfolds, we'll be investing in more X8. It's now the only amplifier we want to work with."

Well, there you have it, a job well done! Make sure you check out for our interview with SEL in the next issue.

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SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

Powersoft prides itself on being as compact as possible when it comes to product, prioritising power-to-size ratio, and tight DSP amplifier integration. With the X Series, they've perhaps taken that concept to another level, as the amp isn't just a part of the audio chain, it's basically the centrepiece.

If you take X8 as an example, in just 2U of space, they've squeezed in three-phase power distribution with auto load-balancing, a fully configurable input/output non-Boolean matrix (Google it!), and top dollar DSP. Add to that, a patch-bay accommodating Dante I/O, eight AES3 inputs, eight analogue XLR inputs, and a massive output stage, capable of 8 x 5200W.

Powerful. Flexible. Compact.