



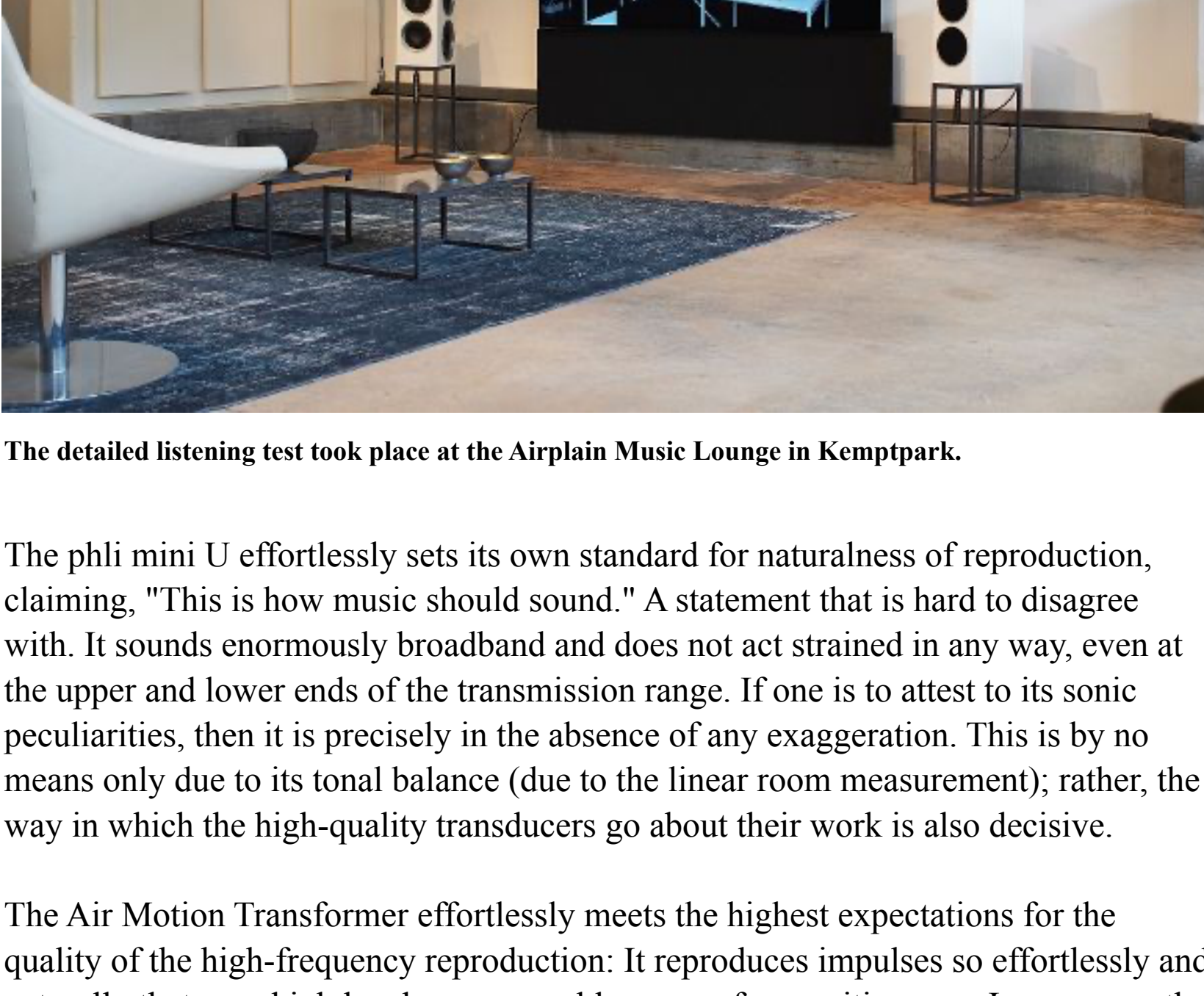


# Precision and charm

Test active loudspeaker Airplain phli mini U

## Magnificent sound

For the extensive listening test of the Airplain, two hours were actually scheduled. However, it turned out to be considerably more, because the phli mini U captivated the author with its fascinating sound splendor to such an extent that digressive thoughts of a lunch break did not even arise. This active loudspeaker clearly belongs to the category "technology in the service of music reproduction" and makes it difficult for the listener to assess the sound quality in an analytically detached manner. Even after a short listening time, the Airplain encourages the critical listener to indulge in the music rather than concentrating on the ears.



The detailed listening test took place at the Airplain Music Lounge in Kemptpark.

The phli mini U effortlessly sets its own standard for naturalness of reproduction, claiming, "This is how music should sound." A statement that is hard to disagree with. It sounds enormously broadband and does not act strained in any way, even at the upper and lower ends of the transmission range. If one is to attest to its sonic peculiarities, then it is precisely in the absence of any exaggeration. This is by no means only due to its tonal balance (due to the linear room measurement); rather, the way in which the high-quality transducers go about their work is also decisive.

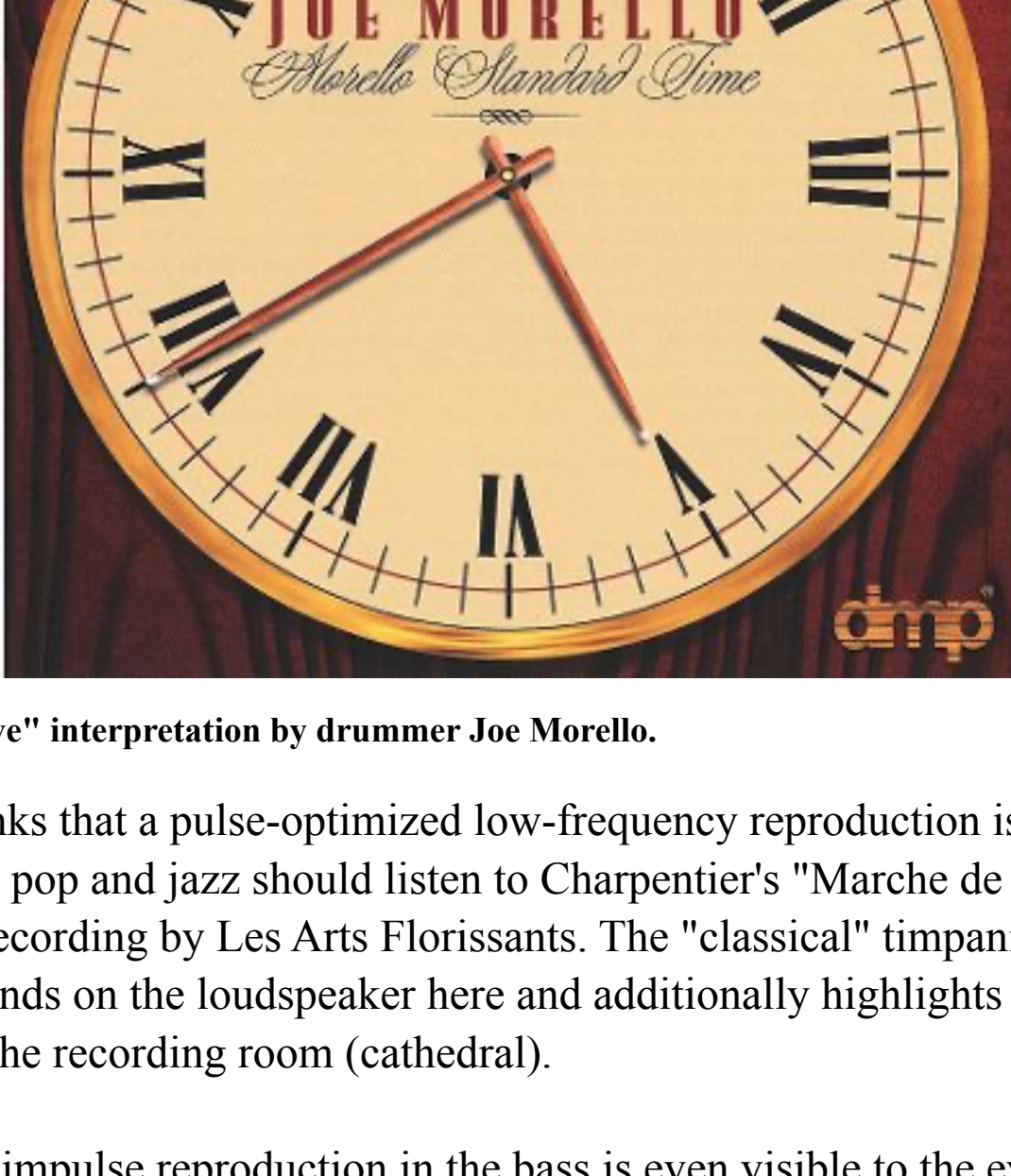
The Air Motion Transformer effortlessly meets the highest expectations for the quality of the high-frequency reproduction: It reproduces impulses so effortlessly and naturally that very high levels are no problem even for sensitive ears. In any case, the author knows of no other loudspeaker that makes listening out loud so much fun - even at relatively short listening distances (caution: continuous listening out loud damages your health!). But even if you only want to listen to a violin concerto in its original volume, you will reach the limits with average speakers.



Something different from Anne Sophie Mutter for a change: Isabelle Faust's interpretation of Mozart's violin concertos.

An example: Mozart's Violin Concerto No.3 in G major in a HiRes recording with Isabelle Faust and the Giardino Armonico makes very high dynamic demands on the tweeter. The strings can quickly become unpleasantly noticeable. Heard through the phli mini U, the whole thing sounds beguilingly graceful and yet very vital. The typical timbre of the instruments comes across perfectly. The lack of any harsh coating is not bought by an underexposed high frequency range. The transparency is excellent, but without an analytical aftertaste.

What is immediately noticeable about the phli mini U is the excellent definition and speed of the low frequency reproduction. The drum intro by Joe Morello on the track "Take Five" (album: "Morello Standard Time"), for example, has it all. The fast whirl of the timpani beats mercilessly reveals the weaknesses of a loudspeaker in the bass range when heard out loud. The Airplain presents this track with an impressive ease even at an enormously high listening level, but it also creates a noticeable foundation in the bass even at low volumes.



Great "Take Five" interpretation by drummer Joe Morello.

Whoever thinks that a pulse-optimized low-frequency reproduction is mainly important for pop and jazz should listen to Charpentier's "Marche de Timbales" in the "Te Deum" recording by Les Arts Florissants. The "classical" timpani roll makes just as high demands on the loudspeaker here and additionally highlights the great acoustics of the recording room (cathedral).

The superior impulse reproduction in the bass is even visible to the eye with the phli mini U: the two cones of the woofers (visible after removing the fabric coverings) make almost unbelievable excursion, but come to rest subito after the impulse has faded away. The dainty bass-midrange driver cuts a similarly good figure: female and male voices are reproduced with authentic timbre, the latter with a convincing chest tone.

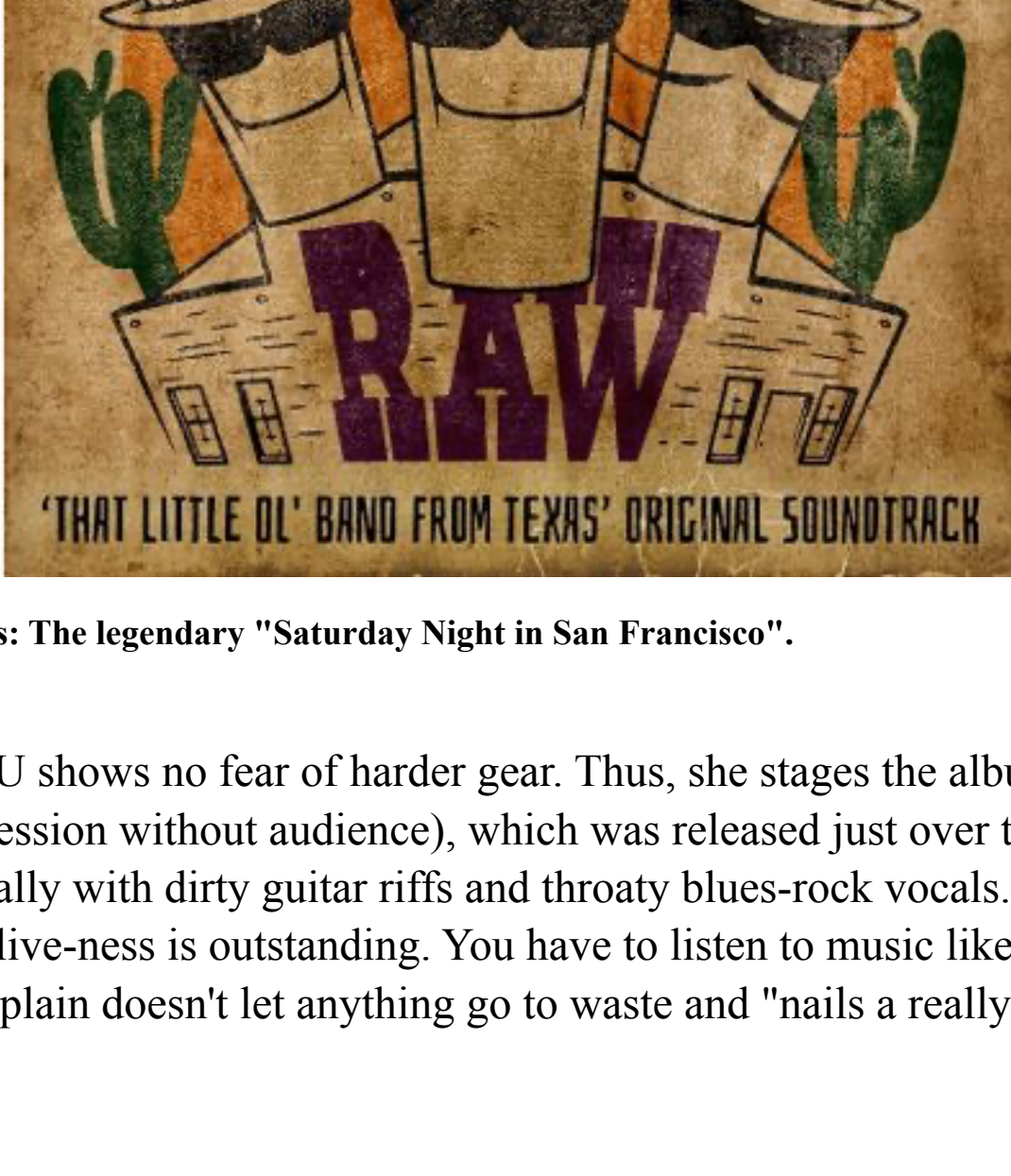
In symphonic music, the Airplain is wonderfully dynamic. It has no problems whatsoever to accurately break down complex musical passages, but is always connected to the overall musical impression. The harmonious cooperation of the musicians in the ensemble is more important to it than analytical dissection into individual parts.



New also in HiRes: The legendary "Saturday Night in San Francisco".

In terms of spatial imaging, no wishes remain unfulfilled. The phli mini U draws enormously spacious and unfolds the musical events detached from the speakers. It manages the feat of placing soloists and individual instruments vividly in the listening room without exaggerated, superficial localization. The depth dimension of the recording space is always comprehensible. A sweet spot with a limited listening angle is not discernible; even vertically (when standing up from the seat) the tonal balance hardly changes. The Airplain proves to be absolutely uncritical in terms of placement in the listening room. Thanks to its closed design, it can be placed close to a wall without thickening the bass reproduction.

The fact that the phli mini U places great emphasis on the fun factor when listening to music is also demonstrated by good jazz and pop recordings. Even old audiophile classics like "Saturday Night in San Francisco" (now also available for listening and downloading in HiRes) come to life. Diana Krall's mainstream jazz album "Turn Up The Quiet" sounds as tasteful and charming as one rarely experiences elsewhere.



New also in HiRes: The legendary "Saturday Night in San Francisco".

## Conclusion

The sophisticated, technically cutting-edge active concept from Airplain Acoustics promises top sound quality. And the phli mini U does not disappoint: It is completely in the service of authentic music reproduction and stages any kind of music so natural and unadulterated, as it is very rare to hear. For a high price, the customer gets a high-precision, handcrafted speaker of the noble class from Swiss manufacture.

### Übersicht zu diesem Artikel

- Seite 1: Präzision und Anmut
- Seite 2: Einer der besten Hochtöner der Welt
- Seite 3: Prächtiger Klang

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

<b>Model:</b>	phli mini u
<b>Profile:</b>	High-tech active speaker of the top class from Swiss manufacture. The phli mini U from Airplain combines the very best technical ingredients and creates a work of sound art that is equally convincing for all types of music. The special feature of the phli mini U is its phase-linear and true-to-pulse reproduction, which gives the music a holistic quality.
<b>Pro:</b>	Sounds as if from a single mold. Convincing spatial reproduction. Sounds completely unstrained even at very high listening levels. Linear room calibration included. Very high sonority from compact dimensions. Outstanding Swiss-made workmanship.
<b>Contra:</b>	Unfortunately, unaffordable for most music lovers.
<b>Price:</b>	CHF 27'800 (pair)
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	airplain acoustics ltd. (Switzerland)
<b>Vintage:</b>	2022
<b>Dimensions:</b>	200 x 450 x 300 mm
<b>Weight:</b>	28 kg
<b>Colors:</b>	white, black, Special colors and coatings on request

0 Kommentare

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Airplain phli mini U

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