

BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

MEMO: To All Bryston Customers

SUBJECT: Bryston 'Best of Show' TAVES 2013



TAVES 2013

by Ken Choi | November 19, 2013

The other candidate for best sounding room at TAVES was Bryston's.



Last year I noted the introduction of their Model T speakers and this year Bryston showed an expanded line of home-theater speakers. They demoed pretty much the same system as last year, however, anchored by a pair of the Model T's in an upgraded walnut finish that adds a thousand dollars to the base price.

These were driven by a pair of 28B SST² monoblocks and a BP26/MPS-2 preamp and power supply. Digital files were played off a thumb drive into a BDP-2 digital player/server that fed a BDA-2 external DAC.

The big difference this year was the room. Bryston showed in the same ballroom, but closed off half of the space. Unlike last year, the system was set up along the shorter wall and the resulting sound quality was leagues ahead of what it was before. In addition to an enveloping soundstage and precise imaging, a singer-songwriter track was presented with outstanding nuance and purity of tone. This came as a big surprise to this audio snob who has continued to associate Bryston mostly with pro-audio applications.

Both the Audio Pathways and Bryston rooms readily vie for "best of show" in terms of sound quality at TAVES, but such an appellation is so much a matter of taste that a proclamation like this is a little meaningless.