



By Mark Frink

The Audio Engineering Society met Oct. 21-23 at New York City's I.M. Pei-designed Javits Center for the 131st AES Convention. Though MTA construction proved an eyesore, if not an inconvenience, it will extend the #7 IRT Flushing Line, providing Grand Central and Times Square commuters subway access to Javits, by 2012.

This year's convention's 310 exhibitors saw nearly 16,000 attendees over three days, shy of the 321 exhibitors and 18,000 attendees for the 2009 NYC AES, the last year of four-day exhibits, but the general vibe was upbeat, aisles crowded and old acquaintances rekindled.

For the fifth year, AES made free VIP exhibitors-only passes available through exhibitors,

saving AES members \$20, non-members \$60 and driving attendance on the show floor.

Live sound introduction highlights included **Studer's** 22-fader version of their **Vista 5 M2**, **DiGiCo's** 24-fader version of their **SD-Ten** and **Studio Six Digital's** launch of the **iAudio-Interface2** for the iPhone and iPad.

On the recording side, **Avid** released **Pro Tools 10**, the last release to support Pro Tools|HD (TDM) hardware and legacy "Digidesign" interfaces. For live sound Venue consoles, an HDx card can be used with Pro Tools HD 10 when using Pro Tools|HD Core or Accel cards, or a Pro Tools|HD Native card, but not with the new Pro Tools|HDX card. Pro Tools 10 does not support Venue's FWx FireWire card employed in Venue's FOH Rack, Mix Rack and SC48.

With Pro Tools 10, Avid introduces AAX, a new plugin platform that aims to replace both TDM and RTAS plugs, though existing plugins will continue to work in PT-10. There will be both AAX DSP and Native versions. AAX plugins include Revibe, Reverb One and Impact.

A range of live sound seminars were presented, however exhibits were located at the north end this year, while papers and panels were in their usual location on the first floor, three blocks south.

Panels included **AC Power and Grounding**, chaired by Bruce Olson with panelists Bill Whitlock and Jim van Bergen. **Subwoofer Arrays and Beam Steering** was chaired by Jim Risgin of On Stage Audio with panelists Paul

Bauman, Doug Fowler, Charlie Hughes and Martyn "Ferrit" Rowe. **Advancements in Green Technology for Pro Audio and Concert Sound Touring** was chaired by Outline's Tom Bensen, with panelists Klas Dalbjörn of Lab.gruppen, Claudio Lastrucci of Powersoft, Jim Meyer of Clair Global, David Robb of Acoustic Dimensions and Felix Robinson of AVI-SPL.

**TVBDs and Geo-Location Database Impact on Wireless Microphones** was chaired by AES Live Sound co-chair Henry Cohen of Production Radio, who once again did a remarkable job with the live sound events.

The 132<sup>nd</sup> European AES will be held in Budapest, April 26-29, 2012. The 133<sup>rd</sup> AES Convention returns to San Francisco's Moscone Center Oct. 26-29, 2012. ●



Book of Mormon's Mary McGregor demonstrates dressing Sennheiser body mics



Chris Currie with Neumann 204 capsule for Sennheiser 2000 handheld



Christian Poulsen wears DPA d:fine headset mic



Renkus-Heinz' Jonas Domkus with new triple concentric tweeter Iconyx



Bill Norton with Earthworks WL40V wireless capsule



Martin Ucik, GM, Sanken/Plus 24, with Sanken COS-11D



Joel Butler programs Eminence D-fend speaker protector



David "Webby" Webster and Mick Whelan with DiGiCo's new 24-fader SDTen



Ralph Heinz with IC Squared



Judy Collins interviewed by Jason King



Rob Lewis with 22-fader Studer Vista 5 M2



*Production Wireless Systems Practical Applications and Practices* panel chaired by James Stoffo (R), with panelists (L-R) Tim Vear of Shure, Mark Gubser of GSC, Joe Ciaudelli of Sennheiser USA and Karl Winkler of Lectrosonics.



*10 Things to Get Right* panelists (L-R) Bennett Prescott, Dave Shadoan, Lloyd Kinkade, Mark Frink, Karl Winkler (chair) and Bruce Olson.



*Things I Learned on the Broadway Ladder* chaired by Jim Van Bergen (R), with panelists (L-R) Abe Jacob, Megan Henniger, Joshua Reid and Jessica Paz.