



OVERALL PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR

Magneplan MG30.7 \$29,000

Over the years JV has listened to just about every loudspeaker that Jim Winey's fabled Minnesota company Magneplan has engineered and manufactured. He's also owned more Magneplanars than any other kind of loudspeaker. Why? Because from the moment he first heard the three-panel Tympani 1-U's in Basil Gouletas' Chicago apartment back in 1973, he hasn't been able to get past the realism with which these planar-magnetic panels reproduce voices and acoustic instruments.

For years now, JV has been begging Mark Winey and Wendell Diller to build a new Tympani—a multi-panel Maggie that would inculcate the company's latest technology, solve the driver-to-driver and power-range issues that plague Maggie's large, single-panel speakers (the 3.7 and the 20.7), and compete on a more even footing (as the three-panel Tympanis once did) with the flagships of the dynamic contingent. Well, Maggie has finally complied. The MG30.7 is the first multi-panel Maggie (two panels per side—one housing the quasi-ribbon midrange and ribbon tweeter, the other the quasi-ribbon upper bass and lower bass drivers) since the Tympani IVa.

It is a genuine shame that Maggie-lover HP didn't live to see and hear the 30.7, for he would most certainly have loved them, as JV most certainly does. Our Executive Editor is not using that word "love" figuratively here, for on first listen the

sound of the 30.7s brought back all of the thrill and wonder he first experienced in Basil's home forty-five years ago, when the original Tympanis fooled him (and his wife, Kathy) into thinking that someone was playing the actual grand piano that was sitting behind those "decorative screens" in Basil's living room.

Folks, if you've never heard a Magneplanar Tympani speaker (or if, like JV, you haven't heard one for decades), you will be stunned and amazed by what this big Magneplan is capable of—and in this case you will also be delighted by the improvements that Mark and Wendell and the Magneplan design team have wrought. This is, quite simply, the most top-to-bottom coherent, highest-resolution, most astonishingly lifelike planar loudspeaker JV has ever heard (from Maggie or anyone else). On acoustic music of any kind, it is very nearly peerlessly realistic (especially through the midband), making almost everything else he's familiar with—and he's heard most of the contenders—sound a little less jaw-droppingly "there."

Not only are the 30.7s the handsomest-looking large Maggies of all time (in their blue trim and snow-white panel covers), they are also among the best deals Maggie has offered. They cost \$29,000 the pair (release slated for January, 2018). That's not chump change, we grant you, but compared to the price of the six-figure speakers they so successfully compete against, it makes them one of the greatest bargains in ultra-high-end history—and one of the worthiest Overall Product of the Year Award winners TAS has ever chosen. (review this issue)