

{ Hong Kong }

Clockenflap Is

Hong Kong's Clockenflap music and arts festival received rave reviews for its 8th edition. Definitely the biggest event of its kind in HK, Clockenflap pulled in a fascinating and cleverly curated bill of national and international artists, bringing eclectic new music and popular heroes from every genre to a record audience of 60,000 fans.

On its 7 stages, the line-up included thunderous rock 'n' roll from British and American guitar bands like Battles, the Libertines, Mercury Rev, Ride and New Order, melodic singer-songwriters like Damien Rice and Rachel Yamagata, electronica from Flying Lotus, hip-hop from A\$ap Rocky, death metal from Taiwanese band Flesh Juicer, indie rock from local Canto star Denise Ho, and disco-funk from perennial favourites Earth, Wind and Fire, and the peerless Chic with Nile Rodgers.

In technical terms, the star of the show was French manufacturer NEXO, the audio partner for Clockenflap. Under the supervision of the Engineering Team of Top Plot International, the HK-based distributor of NEXO products in China, and local PA provider GL Events, nearly 500 NEXO cabinets were on site. This was one of the biggest festival projects ever undertaken that has exclusively used NEXO systems for all main PA and stage monitoring.

NEXO director Denis Baudier explained the logistics. "Our systems have been used at Clockenflap in the past, but this year, we became the exclusive supplier, deploying virtually every product in the NEXO range to match the varying PA locations. This was made possible by a tremendous collaboration between the engineering team of Top Plot

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Clockenflap

International, NEXO's own distributor for China, the Hong Kong PA company GL Events, and regional NEXO user Showco from Singapore, together with the Engineering Support group from NEXO itself."

Led by Chow Shui Wing, the Top Plot engineering team resourced the event with their own systems, bringing in additional inventory of NEXO's STM Series modular line array from Showco to handle the four principal stages of the festival. Clockenflap's much-admired location, on West Kowloon's waterside looking at Victoria Harbour, was huge; the cable requirement alone was 15km! In addition to the seven performance stages, PA was supplied in backstage VIP lounges and band common rooms.

"Magnetic Asia, the festival organiser, has extremely high standards," commented Denis Baudier. "These were matched by Top Plot International's own exceptional professionalism, not just the meticulous preparation before the event, but by having a large team on site to sort out last-minute problems. I was very impressed by the teamwork between Top Plot guys and the GL Events staff who coordinated the overall audio systems. They were supported by four engineers sent out from NEXO's

newly-formed Engineering Support Division – Val Gilbert, Mark Bollenberg, Leo Manhimho and Theo Said.”

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System designer Val Gilbert highlighted the second Atum Stage as his personal favourite. “This was the largest show I’ve done using the new STM M28 main cabinet, and I have to admit to a twinge of concern when the arrays went up and I saw how small it was! The standard of musicianship and engineering on this stage was particularly high, but everyone was stunned by the performance of the system –engineers couldn’t believe the output from the double 8” box!”

The versatility of the M28 cabinet, designated an ‘omnipurpose module’, could be seen on the Harbourflap main stage, where it was deployed as the downfill element underneath main PA arrays using the larger main cabinet the STM M46, coupled with the B112 bass module. “For Harbourflap, where the primary audience field is just over 100 metres, we set up with 15 sets a side plus downfill. There were no side arrays, no delays. The coverage was superb. Engineers arrived with their showfiles and just got started – no extra EQ was needed.”

The YourMum stage was the third largest, and here the system designer Val Gilbert downsized his STM inventory, flying just 6 x sets of M46/B112 per side with a total of 18 x S118 subs. Single M28 cabinets sat on top of the subs groundstacked in front of the stage to provide a low-profile front fill.

In the Electriq dance tent, Gilbert took a completely different approach, ground-stacking the STM modules to create a fierce club sound system using 4 x sets of M46/B112 cabinets stacked on top of 6 x STM S118 subs per side, and supplemented by

Stage	Main	Monitors
Harbourflap Stage with STM	- 15 x M46 main/15x B112 bass/1x M28 downfill per side (flown) - 8 x S118 subs per side (flown) - 20 x S118 subs (groundstacked)	- 24 x 45°N-12 stage monitors - GEO S12 stagefill
Atum Stage with STM	- 15 x M28 per side (flown) - 27 x S118 subs	- 16 x PS15 stage monitors - GEO S12 stagefill
YourMum Stage with STM	- 6 x M46 main/6x B112 bass/3x M28 downfill per side (flown) - 18 x S118 subs	- 12 x PS15 stage monitors - GEO S12 stagefill
Electriq Stage with STM	- 4 x M46 main/B112 per side (groundstacked) - 6 x S118 subs per side (groundstacked) - 8x RS18 subs	- M46/B112/S118 stack for DJ monitors - 4 x 45°N-12 stage monitors





8 x NEXO RS18 subs across the front of the DJ stage. All systems were powered by NXAMP4x4s, packaged in NEXO's Universal Amp Rack (NUAR) format, complete with digital input and output patches and EtherNet network cards.

With NEXO's 45-degree N-12 line monitors covering the Harbourflap stage and PS15 monitors for other venues, and with GEO S12 and PS Series on general PA duty for the smaller performance stages, this was a definitive event for the newest addition to the NEXO team.

Michel Brouard has joined the French manufacturer as Greater China Business Development Manager, and played a key role



in pulling the project together. "I'm proud to have initiated this first partnership between Clockenflap and NEXO, and I owe great thanks to Festival Director Mike Hill, production manager Peter Gorton and Head of Partnership Kinny Barlow. This has been a great collaboration between people in Hong Kong, Singapore and France. It also shows the strength of the STM network, and the high level of back-up from the manufacturer, sending 4 support engineers to this event."

www.topplot.com.cn
www.gl-events.com.hk
www.nexo-sa.com
www.clockenflap.com

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– Val Gilbert, NEXO System designer

