



Audio Analogue Bellini Anniversary

HIGHLY COMMENDED PREAMPLIFIER

Audio Analogue has made a Bellini preamplifier before, but this model – launched in 2020 to celebrate the brand’s 25th anniversary – shares almost nothing with its predecessor.

In fact, it’s more akin to the preamplifier stage of the awesome Maestro Anniversary integrated amplifier, but with an inductive-capacitive filtering system to the main power supply, designed specifically for the preamp. The preamp’s four-layer circuit board uses Audio Analogue’s own SeGeSTA (Single Gain Stage Transconductance Amplifier) circuit, designed to keep the noise floor low, and features discrete components as opposed to surface-mount devices. The fully-balanced, dual mono preamp has no global feedback, and the board layout is designed to minimise potential noise and crosstalk ingress by reducing crossing points between input and output and between digital control sections and analogue inputs. It does include both RCA and XLR inputs and outputs.

Tested with the powerful Donizetti Anniversary power amplifier, Alan Sircom felt that, “The shape and texture of the music played had great flow and some force when called for and had plenty of grace and charm throughout.”

He also said that, “Again and again, I found myself drawn into a wide, near holographic soundstage filled with instruments that have a sublime midrange, a subtle underpinning of bass, and a refined, never once brash treble.”

He concluded by saying, “We sometimes prize those classic big pre/power combinations from the 1980s, but if we listened to them today on a level playing field, I suspect a few of the Anointed Ones of audio wouldn’t hold a candle to this Audio Analogue pairing. It’s gentle, refined and sophisticated touch with music – that not only rolls with the punches but can also deliver a neat haymaker when required – is extremely alluring.”

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