THE ABSOLUTE SOUND – GOLDEN EAR AWARD

We are honored that the following three MBL products received The Absolute Sound´s 2021 Golden Ear Award. Many thanks to The Absolute Sound for the recognition.











Radialstrahler Speaker System 101 X-Treme

"These truly outstanding omnidirectional loudspeakers won Golden Ears from me for the past two years (and an Overall Product of the Year Award from TAS in 2019), but since they remain the most realistic-sounding loudspeakers I've ever heard I'm awarding them another GE in 2021.

Comprising two Radialstrahler columns and two outboard, powered subwoofer stacks, the 101 X-Tremes are giants. Expensive giants. But until you find a speaker system that sounds more like the real thing (on every kind of music) for less money...well, you're gonna have to settle for second best. As good as drivers-in-a-box speakers have gotten to be...nothing else, dynamic or planar, sounds like these gargantuan Radialstrahlers, because very little else projected its energy, from top to bottom, throughout a true 360 degrees, like instruments themselves do. As a result, the 101 X-Tremes simply own the third dimension. As I said in my original review of the X-Tremes a decade ago, listening to every other transducer is like going to a movie of a concert; listening to the 101 X-Tremes is like going to the live event. If you've got the dough (and the space) and are looking for the closest approximation of the real thing, these are the transducers to own."

Jonathan Vailin \$263,000 / pair







Radialstrahler 120

Radialstrahler 126

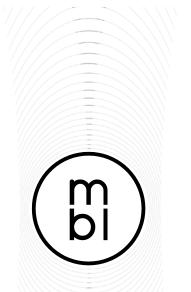
Radialstrahler 120 | Radialstrahler 126

"I didn't know just how much I'd missed the musicality, transparency, and astounding spatiality of the brilliant MBL 120 until my memory was jogged by listening to its equally startling and extraordinary little sister, the MBL 126, now in my review queue. While closely related in many respects, the beefier MBL 120 sports greater bass output, extension, and dynamic range, thanks to its larger-diameter side-firing woofers. But beyond that there are more similarities than differences to these three-way, omnidirectional, stand-mount Radialstrahlers.

The Sonics they offer are characterized by sweeping ambience retrieval, 3-D-like immersion, and seamless top-to-bottom response. As only an Omni can, they approach the complex relationship between imaging, soundstaging, and envelopment in ways direct-radiating transducers often only hint at, but rarely attain. Orchestral music assumes a naturalism and spine-tingling immediacy akin to the real thing. Low-level resolution and sensitivity to dynamic gradients abound. But it's the superb, carbon-fiber, radial mid and tweeter drivers that spin the sonic silk—both grainless, airy, and harmonious.

Crafted and finished with precision and taste, and inseparable in so many sonic respects, these Golden Ear prospects ran in a virtual dead-heat. Take your pick, but either way MBL's 126 and 120 deserve to share this award. 126 Review forthcoming"

Neil Gader 120 \$21,400 / pair | 126 \$11,800 / pair



This changes everything!