

Van den Hul

Musical revelation

Haute Fidelite, No. 31, Oct.-Nov. '97 (Translation from French)

A garden hose of more than 2 cm in diameter, coral-red coloured and flexible structured: thus the last-born of the van den Hul cables, quite simply baptised The Revelation, presents itself. The jacket feels rather soft and the handling is ultimately pleasant. In short, this cable was delivered to us in a small plastic case with a transparent top, indicating a more than praiseworthy formal concern regarding the price category of this product. Let us not forget indeed that for a standard length of 2 times 2.50 m, 3000 francs will have to be spent. In this price range, however, competition is provided. But this cable reached us already haloed with an enviable reputation since it is regularly used as a working tool by some foreign audiophile magazine reviewers, especially by our American fellows who are rather demanding on this point.

This cable is a total success, hard to stay clear of for those who love music...

Before going further, let's clarify that it isn't a hi-fi cable in the sense that it does not pursue to dissect the sound spectrum in fine sections of sub-bass, bass, upper-bass, low-mids and I pass from there...

But to whom that is amusing; It is equipped with more than sufficient smoothness and precision to that end.

In reality, it is the cable of music par excellence.

With this cable, one does not simply hear in itself or just hears sound. One hears music, and one is irremediably brought to listen to the music. It is in fact an "interpreter" cable. Not in the sense that it adds anything to or subtracts anything from the musical message, but because it "offers" the music to the listener, brings it to him with respect and authenticity, with the jubilation that it gives when it is completely successful.

The Revelation possesses a very wide bandwidth so that one does not experience frustration at the two ends of the spectrum. Thus, the introduction of Also Sprach Zarathustra from Richard Strauss (Symphony orchestra of Boston, Seiji Ozawa, Philips 426 690-2) makes it possible to perfectly hear the breath of the organ, the fundament of extreme low tones as well as the glare of the copper instruments, the explosion of the timpani and the tinkling of the triangle. It also gives a rare enjoyment to follow the violin in its ascent towards the ethereal high pitched parts in the extract of Shéhérazade from Rimsky Korsakov on the same disc: at no moment the instrument does become acrid or shrill.

The quality of the timbres is optimal, and it is perhaps one of the most important reasons for the success of The Revelation: when a whole copper section plays together one has no problem to differentiate between the members who make it up. And the voices! What a sensuality, what an enveloping warmth, what a communicativity! And this without being transformed into a dripping and sticky syrup.

The dynamics? They are also very good. The level variations are retranscribed perfectly, the impacts of the big drum, the glares of the cymbals, the tutti of the orchestra, the grunting of the contrabasses, all this can be nicely felt in the stomach, and one is taken from the pleasant to the thundering without transition.

One can't help to add to the rhythm there: one is surprised to find oneself accompanying the music by nodding ones head or by tapping ones foot... The more so, since the sound is rich, full-bodied, enveloping, with body and soul...

Without this body the music would not come to extinguish the reverberations desired by the sound recording or the echo of a cathedral, that is, the harmonics are not drowned in the crowd by the way the notes extinguish...

This cable makes it possible to listen to all that one wants to hear: timbre, wide bandwidth, dynamics, soundstaging and, in this sense, it is indeed an excellent working tool. Moreover, it offers the rhythm, the singing of men or instruments, the beauty of the timbres. In short, music with a great **M**.

It is therefore a reference. Here or there one will perhaps be able to find more transparency or more dynamics, but in this price range, no competitor combines all of this cable's qualities and also in such a beautiful way.

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