

# on track

Keeping you on track with the developments at Grahams Hi-Fi

Winter 2008



“One of the five best hi-fi shops in the world”

ARENA Magazine

## christmas opening hours

Our opening hours over Christmas and New Year will be as follows:

Wednesday	24th December	..... 10am–4pm
Thursday	25th December	..... CLOSED
Friday	26th December	..... CLOSED
Saturday	27th December	..... 9am–6pm
Sunday	28th December	..... CLOSED
Monday	29th December	..... CLOSED
Tuesday	30th December	..... 10am–6pm
Wednesday	31st December	..... 10am–6pm
Thursday	1st January	..... CLOSED

## the cheapest or the best? doom and gloom or opportunity?

Every day we wake up, read the paper and resign ourselves to a long-term economic downturn. Having been around since 1929, Grahams has seen its fair share of ups and downs in the market place. During tough times, we've seen our market share increase as people spend more wisely and demand even better value. At Grahams we realise this and constantly look at ways of improving our levels of customer service and standards. When things are tough, you either have to be the best or the cheapest – there is no room for mediocrity and poor value.

In our newsletter you'll see many examples of the solutions we offer and over the next few months we have a number of interesting events and joint promotions with our suppliers which we hope you will also find of interest.

## events

**Meridian** – Grahams have been selling Meridian for nearly 30 years and are delighted to be involved in their Partner Scheme. To celebrate this, we are holding an open evening on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 to show off some of their latest system solutions.

**Linn** – As many of you know, Linn design and manufacture some of the best music systems available and are also at the leading edge of streaming digital audio. In these times when the mass market are listening to compressed music that is worse than CD was when it came out over 30 years ago, Linn are now providing our customers with the chance to download studio-quality master recordings at 96khz 24 bit resolution and stream these into their music systems.

## free live concert

Access to this quality of sound is down to the fact that Linn realised a long time ago that it had to be part of the recording process. We are delighted to be offering an open evening on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, with live music courtesy of Linn Records with Maeve O'Boyle playing a solo set. See more on Maeve on back page.

**PLEASE NOTE: Tickets to this event are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis - max two per person.**



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## attention all arcam owners... just in time for christmas!

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009 inclusive, Arcam will be offering a 10% discount when you buy any qualifying Arcam Hi-Fi separate or system and trade in any old Arcam Hi-Fi or Home Theatre component. A 10% discount may be claimed if one product is produced against an entire system. The offer applies to the following products: Arcam A18, A28, A38, P38, C31, P1, CD17, C37 and T32. For example: Trade in an Alpha Once CD against a CD17 (rrp £500.00) and you would get £50.00 off. Trade in a Delta 290 amp against an A37/CD37 (rrp£2200.00) and you would get £220.00 off. So now is the ideal time to look at replacing that older CD player or even make that upgrade that you've always been meaning to make!



## meridian dunhill ad88

Following hot on the heels of the Ferrari/Meridian collaboration, gentlemen's prestige brand Alfred Dunhill has decided that they too would like to offer their clientele a slice of the audiophile good life.

Like the F80, the AD88 is a DVD/CD, DAB/FM radio and amplifier in one neat, elegant package. Utilising their DSP digital speaker technology, Meridian have been able to create a small box system that creates a room-filling sound with surprising clarity and openness. In addition to the CD and radio, it comes with a matching iPod dock and has one analogue and one digital input. DVD picture connection is handled via S-Video or composite and there is also an alarm feature and remote control. Price £1995.



## spendor a series

The new Sendor A Series is a range of compact high-performance floor-standing loudspeakers. All three key elements of loudspeaker design have been addressed: cabinet, drive units and crossovers.

New drive units based on the excellent reference SA1 technology have been incorporated. The smaller A5 consists of a pair of 15cm mid/bass units and a 22mm-wide surround tweeter. The larger A6 has a new 18cm mid/bass driver and a 29mm-wide surround tweeter. All internal wiring is high grade silver-plated pure copper and the crossover employs high grade precision wound inductors. The cabinet incorporates a new approach to dealing with low-frequency response. Minimal cabinet damping and the use of a fourth-generation linear flow port work together to deliver a deep yet articulate bass response in most listening environments. Overall, this A Series represents a sonic step forward for Sendor and are a welcome addition to the Grahams loudspeaker range. They are available in Oak, Cherry, Wenge and Black Ash finishes. A5 - £1495. A6 - £1895.



## arcam avr600

Arcam has built a world-class reputation for audio and video performance through fine engineering. Designed from the ground up, the new AVR600 AV receiver represents the tour-de-force of Arcam's design skill and technical prowess.

The AVR600 is focused on performance. While most receivers are designed to provide an overwhelming list of specifications they are usually short on outright performance. Its discrete styling hides a huge 7-channel, 120wpc power amplifier and some of the most advanced audio and video processing seen in a high-performance AV receiver. Using six layer PCBs, the internal design of the AVR600 utilises ultra high-precision digital audio and video circuits and is the culmination of thousands of research man-hours and development by Arcam's design team. It represents the largest project ever completed by the company.

Fully equipped for high definition, the AVR600 decodes the very latest Dolby Digital+, Dolby TrueHD, DTS High Resolution Audio and DTS HD Master Audio streams with great precision. With over 100 input, output and control connections from simple analogue I/O to high-speed HDMI, the AVR600 is ready to deal with the most demanding of home cinema systems or custom installations. Sources such as DVD, Blu-Ray, set-top boxes, iPods® and games machines are all accommodated with ease.

Stereo direct mode bypasses and disables all digital processing for pure 2-channel analogue sources. Full video up/down and frame rate conversion of all inputs is available where technically allowed.

In 5.1 speaker set-ups, channels 6 and 7 are assignable to bi-amplify front left and right speakers or can be used to run a second pair of speakers in a second room. The AVR600, in black or silver (£2,750) will be available shortly.

## linn klimax kontrol

All aspects of the Linn Klimax system have undergone some form of upgrade in recent times - now it's the turn of the Klimax Kontrol pre amplifier.

The audio engineers at Linn have come up with an inspired enhancement that truly transforms the performance of the pre-amp. The upgrade comes in the form of a new dual mono volume control topology which separates control of the left and right channels. This helps to dramatically reduce harmonic distortion and produce an extremely low noise floor. Sonically, the improvement gives the pre-amp a lot more energy and music is reproduced with a palpable toe-tapping attention to rhythm. There is also a significant increase in detail and information retrieval, making it a surprisingly cost-effective way to literally transform a high-end system.

This upgrade is available to current owners of Klimax Kontrol pre-amps at a cost of £1,800. A new Klimax Kontrol will cost £7,200. Grahams will be able to carry out the upgrade in-store by arrangement.

## win a special vip trip to linn products in glasgow!

To celebrate Linn's recently completed range of Linn DS digital stream players, we have teamed up with Linn to offer a fantastic one day trip to the Linn factory in Glasgow for four lucky winners.

After arriving at Linn's Lord Rogers-designed facility, you will see first-hand how Linn's products are designed and manufactured. Not only will you get a full factory tour, but you will also get the chance to hear all the latest products and meet the people who help create the world's finest systems for music and movies.

Four lucky winners will be drawn at random and the winner notified by 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009. This special prize will include return flights from London to Glasgow and a special Linn Records goody bag. This 'money can't buy' prize is simply a music lovers dream!

All you have to do is provide the correct answers to the following questions:

1. *What is the name of Linn's iconic turntable, which has been in production since 1972?*  
A: DS12      B: CD12      D: LP12      E: HMV-12
2. *How many different types of DS player do Linn offer?*  
A: 3      B: 4      C: 5      D: 9
3. *What is the highest quality of audio format available from Linn Records?*  
A: 128kbs      B: mp3      C: 33 1/3      D: 96khz
4. *What does FLAC stand for.*  
A: Fairly Lousy Audio Compression      B: Fully Lossless Apple Computer  
C: Free Lossless Audio Codec      D: Floppy Line Able Coding

Please submit your answers by post or email [comp@grahams.co.uk](mailto:comp@grahams.co.uk)



Linn Klimax Kontrol

## linn ds promotion

In conjunction with the launch of their Digital Streamers, Linn have announced a CD player trade-in scheme which will allow customers to trade in ANY CD player and receive a 10% discount off the price of a new Klimax, Akurate or Majik DS streamer.

This offer is only available until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.



## the little red devil – meridian docks successfully

The F80 looks and sounds great and everything, but where do I plug in my iPod? Well, Meridian has anticipated just such a question and came up with the perfect answer - the i80 universal dock for the iPod. Hook it up and it will happily accept any dockable species of iPod, including the iPod touch and iPhone 3G, allowing you to enjoy complete and immediate control in the comfort of your living room. Control comes via the F80's remote or front panel buttons, whilst track information is displayed on its crystal-clear OLED display.

And, if that's not enough to tempt you, you may also be interested to learn that the i80 will even charge your pod whilst you listen, ensuring it's ready to go as soon as you're ready to leave the house. Styled to match its parent device, the i80 is available in gloss black, but also can be selected in the red (pictured) or yellow trim. Price is £195.

Please note: if you have an existing F80 this may require a free software update to provide full functionality.

what's new at grahams

## pioneer krl 32v, 37v and 46v

Already famed for producing arguably the finest plasma TV sets on the market, Pioneer have now entered the LCD market - and what an entry! As part of their KURO range, the LCD Kuros are available in three sizes - the 32-inch Pioneer KRL-32V (£1,300), 37-inch KRL-37V (£1,500) and the largest of the LCDs, the 46-inch KRL-46V (£2,000). All models feature a range of picture technologies to propel it ahead of the competition. A high-contrast front filter gives life and depth to the picture whilst 100Hz technology ensures smooth, flicker-free motion. Enhancing the KRL32V's picture still further is an automatic backlight adjustment that deepens blacks and provides colours full of vitality, while an additional ambient light sensor optimises on-screen images according to the brightness of your room. It also helps save power when lighting conditions dictate. This Pioneer LCD HDTV range is full HD 1080p, 24fps, making it an ideal partner for the next generation of Blu-Ray players.

No fewer than three HDMI sockets are included for connecting to HD components and there are also plenty of analogue connections for your other components. All models come inclusive of a matt black stand which contrasts well with the TV and gives a perfect view thanks to its 15-degree swivel.

A PC connection is supplied, so the screen can work as a monitor for your computer or video source. All common video inputs appear on the connection panel including the three HDMI 1.3 connections.



## pioneer bdp-lx71

Pioneer's latest Blu-Ray disc player, the **BDP-LX71**, has arrived. Priced at £600, it supports the HDMI 1.3a technology and scales your standard DVD collection up to 1080p resolution for improved picture quality, delivering Blu-Ray films at their intended 24 frames per second. The BDP-LX71 should now produce 'judder-free' movies on your high definition TV. There is also support for an improved graphical interface and closer integration with Pioneer's KURO range of HDTVs.

The BDP-LX71 supports advanced audio formats with the ability to decode Dolby TrueHD, Dolby Digital Plus, DTS HD and DTS HD Master high resolution audio formats. Users can also customise their viewing experience with the exclusive 'video adjust mode' that includes pre-defined settings and allows manual adjustments of most image parameters.

There is also an abundance of connections and settings - video connectivity includes HDMI and component video outputs, and on the audio side you get coaxial and optical digital outputs together with a set of 7-channel analogue and standard RCA phono outputs. There is a new remote handset which can also (thanks to Kuro Link) control your Pioneer TV.

The flagship model of the range, scheduled for later this year is the **BDP-LX91**. It is a full Profile 2.0 Blu-Ray player that is absolutely loaded with high-end features making the LX91 the only Profile 2.0 player in the line-up - yet Pioneer are very keen to stress the upgradeability of the LX71.

This is because the BDP-LX71 is BD-ROM Profile 1.1. So, while you can enjoy Blu-Ray's Bonus View functionality, you cannot take advantage of the interactive BD-Live content found on some discs. It is not a vital feature but nice to have.

After spending some time with a variety of discs, we can confirm that the BDP-LX71 is the closest a Blu-ray player has come to deserving videophile status, and more than justifies its price tag.

Apart from two minor niggles (i.e the BDP-LX71 can't decode DTS-HD Master Audio which, we understand will be sorted out with a future firmware upgrade, the loading of discs could be a bit quicker), the BDP-LX71 is the best Blu-Ray performer we've seen so far and, if you haven't been credit crunched, it is well worth the price tag.

## pioneer 5 year warranty

We are delighted to announce that Pioneer are offering a 5-year warranty as standard on all of their plasma screens until 31st January 2009. So now not only do you get the best picture on the market, you also get that extra piece of mind that such a guarantee brings.



## to have it all

This edition of 'To have it all' features a unique property in central London. This penthouse apartment was for many years the dormant and unused top floor of this period property. It was in fact the servants' quarters and the large dormer windows were used as sleeping bays. The design and build was carried out by **Roach and Partners**, who are also responsible for the beautiful luxury home in southern Spain we featured in a recent issue, with great inspiration and architectural input from Mike Tonkin at **Tonkin Liu Architects**.

The contemporary design has produced a large open-plan apartment with extensive terraces and views overlooking London. We were involved in the early stages of design and installed our usual range of whole-house systems, including music throughout, control of the heating, ventilation, lighting control, data networking and much more...

Most of our installations use the same overall system architecture, but it is the custom-made solutions that make each installation unique. For example, we provided integration with the heating system to use its sensors to open roof and side vents which ensured a natural flow of air through the apartment when it became hot, eliminating the need for air-conditioning to be installed.

The **Lutron QED** electric blinds used throughout the apartment are virtually silent and are programmed to lower when the sun glares onto the artwork in the hallway gallery, with many windows fitted with both black-out and sheer blinds to cut down glare. The **Crestron** in-wall touch panels integrate with the apartment block intercom to call the porter on the ground floor as well as providing a method of activating the passenger lift that brings guests directly into the apartment. There is extensive use of dimmable fluorescent and DMX controlled LED lighting which are both energy efficient and provide a wide range of colour schemes for the apartment.

The AV system includes some custom-made smart solutions. The **Meridian** projector is mounted on an electric mechanism that folds the projector up into the wall when not in use. We utilised an unused window space and had the mechanism custom designed and manufactured by **Future Automation**. Opposite the projector, the plasma panel lift makes the plasma screen vanish into the wall when watching on the large screen. The drop-down electric screen folds up into a concealed ceiling recess when the plasma is on.

The AV system uses a **Philips Pronto** remote which we integrated with the Crestron and Lutron system to provide one coherent interface. Around the house, Crestron in-wall touch panels provide control of lighting, entertainment, door entry, lift control and ventilation.

More images of this installation, including video clips of the video projector and panel moving ideas, can be viewed on our website.



## loewe art

The new 'Art' from Loewe is the slimmest Loewe TV ever. Despite its lack of depth, the Art retains all the features you would expect from a Loewe TV. A built-in Freeview receiver, full HD ready, 100Hz technology and an optional hard-disk recorder all fit within its 90mm deep frame.

As with all Loewe TVs, stunning looks are standard with both its two-tone silver and black or high gloss black finishes. The Art is available in either 42" or 47" and benefits from Loewe's large range of mounting options. So whether you are looking for a static or pull-out-and-swivel wall mount, table or floor stand with optional shelves, Loewe have a solution.

Don't forget we have wide range of Loewe sets on permanent display in our Loewe Demo room.

## naim audio factory visit

A few years ago (can you believe it was actually February 2001?), we organised a customer day trip to visit the Naim Audio factory in Salisbury. This was so well received by all those who went that we have decided to run another similar event. We have therefore organised a visit on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Pickup by coach from Grahams Canonbury Yard will leave at 8am. The day will include a comprehensive factory tour, demonstrations of their products and a chance for a Q&A session. Our hosts will also be providing refreshments and buffet lunch. We have to limit our numbers to 40 so if you would like to join us, please call 020 7226 5500 or email [sue@grahams.co.uk](mailto:sue@grahams.co.uk) to book your place. Places will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis so early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.



## pure flow wi-fi radio

The most recent offering from Pure embraces the latest radio listening craze - Internet radio. The Flow offers listeners with a Wi-Fi network the chance to listen to radio stations and podcasts from all over the globe. The radio connects wirelessly to a wireless router and allows the listener to choose stations by country or genre as well as streaming music files stored on their PC. Pure also offer access to an online facility called 'The Lounge' - offering more in-depth searching facilities and the ability to save unlimited favourite stations. Like the current range of Pure radios, the Flow is also a DAB and FM radio. It incorporates all the handy features you would expect - presets, alarm settings, headphone socket, MP3 player input. It is available in High Gloss Black and an additional speaker and rechargeable battery pack are also available.

## b&w cm series

B&W have announced an expansion to their popular CM series of loudspeakers, adding four new speakers - the CM9 floor-standing speakers at £1,799, CM5 stand-mount speakers at £799, the CMC2 centre speaker at £750 and the ASWCM subwoofer at £875. These speakers will integrate well with the existing CM series. In addition to the Rosenut and Wenge finishes, they also now offering Piano Black. Maple will no longer be an option.

## arcaydis concept 2

Arcaydis loudspeakers epitomise the British cottage loudspeaker industry. For many years Richard Allan, the company's founder and chief designer (no relation to the Richard Allan Loudspeakers of old) has been experimenting with numerous combinations of drive units and cabinet materials.

The craft of the speaker designer is very similar to the skills of the master instrument maker. A large amount of what you hear is governed by the sound of the cabinet (or in the case of an instrument the sound of the body). It is in this area where Richard has recently broken new ground, by creating a unique cabinet material that adds very little of its own character to the performers' intentions.

Added to this new cabinet is a particularly fine ribbon tweeter, providing a wonderfully pure treble, with openness only bettered by speakers with diamond tweeters costing many times the price. For a very reasonable £1,500 they provide a highly musical product and come in a range of real wood veneers.

## shop on line goes live

By the time you receive this newsletter, our new Shop online will be in operation. We hope you find it of benefit and we very much look forward to receiving your feedback so that we can tailor this additional service to be of most benefit to you, our most loyal customers.

Please note that we are not planning on selling all of our product range on-line because our business is still strongly focussed on selling performance products by demonstration and installing most of our systems. The web site will provide our customers with a range of items that are appropriate to sell on-line including accessories and spare parts. We also realise that many of our customers are busy during normal opening hours and may want access to place orders for certain things at other times of the day.

You can approach the shop in two ways; you can either click on the link marked "Shop" from the main Grahams website [www.grahams.co.uk](http://www.grahams.co.uk) or you can click the "buy now" button on our product pages which will take you directly to the Shop.

We have initially selected some popular items, which we feel you are most likely to want to purchase online but we are going to extend this range in line with your enquiries and interests. One of the main features of our site is the ability to talk to an expert on any of the products you are interested in. To do this, please telephone us on 020 72265500 where one of our experienced sales team would be happy to advise you on any of our products or alternatively you can email us via [enq@grahams.co.uk](mailto:enq@grahams.co.uk). Comments and feedback should be emailed directly to [shop@grahams.co.uk](mailto:shop@grahams.co.uk)



# grahams recommended music



## 1. Buena Vista Social Club At Carnegie Hall

After their studio album was released in 1997, the BVSC played two concerts in Amsterdam, before being allowed into America to play a one night only concert at Carnegie Hall on July 1st 1998. As the band leader Juan de Marcos said "It was never going to happen. Except that it did". Extracts from this historic concert were featured in the Wim Wenders documentary, but this is its first release. The subsequent death of Ruben Gonzalez, Compay Segundo and Ibrahim Ferrer, meant that they never played as a band again. Six of the sixteen tracks were not on the original album.  
**2 X CDs £14.00 2 x 180gram LPs £35.00**



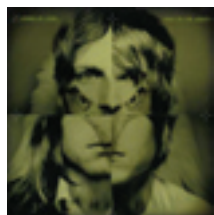
## 2. Laura Marling Alas I Cannot Swim

Laura Marling had only just turned eighteen when this, her debut album, was released earlier this year. Alas I Cannot Swim, a folk/pop album with melodic songs and intelligent, mature lyrics, was deservedly nominated for the Mercury Prize this year. The English singer-songwriter is shy, and worries about everything, she has said "I had a brief spell of confidence when I first signed a record deal, but it hasn't returned since". The limited edition 180 gram LP (only 1,000 copies were produced) contains a CD of a live set recorded at our local Union Chapel.  
**CD £10.00 180gram LP + live CD £20.00 (extremely limited)**



## 3. Al Green Lay It Down

Despite the guest appearances of some younger singers like Anthony Hamilton, John Legend and Corinne Bailey Rae, this is very much a classic soul album from the inimitable Reverend Al Green. The producer and drummer, The Roots' Ahmir Kestlove explains, "The reason we are doing this is because we all idolize Al Green. Even today nobody has a range like him". It may be thirty-six years since the recording of 'I'm Still In Love With You' but nothing has changed and Al Green is still making that sweet soul music.  
**CD £14.00 2 x LPs £20.00**



## 4. Kings Of Leon Only By The Night

This is the fourth album from the Followill family, brothers Caleb, lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Jared, bass, Nathan, drums, and cousin Matthew, lead guitar. Despite coming from Tennessee, and recording this album in Nashville, this is very much a rock album with soaring guitar riffs and strong melodies. After five years of constant touring the band took a break to write and record this album whilst Caleb was recovering from a shoulder operation. This settled period led to the band recording their strongest album yet. The double LP contains a bonus track, 'Frontier City'.  
**CD £14.00 2 x LPs £20.00**



## 5. Taj Mahal Maestro

Maestro celebrates forty years of Taj Mahal's recordings, an oeuvre that began with 'Taj Mahal' and 'The Natch'l Blues' in 1968. Although a new album, Maestro is an excellent example of the range and variety of Taj Mahal's music. Predominantly a blues album, The Phantom Blues Band play on several tracks, there is also the usual potent mix of Caribbean, African, Hawaiian, Latin American and Cajun music. A joy from start to finish, guest artists such as Ben Harper, Angeliqe Kidjo, Toumani Diabate, Ziggy Marley and Los Lobos join in on the fun too.  
**CD £14.00 2 x 180gram LPs £28.00**



## 6. Levon Helm Dirt Farmer

This is the first studio recording for twenty-five years from Helm, the former drummer with The Band, and vocalist on such classics as 'Rag Mama Rag'. In the 1970s he built a barn and studios at his home in Woodstock, where he recorded Muddy Waters, whose 'Woodstock' album won a Grammy in 1975. Recovering from throat cancer surgery in 1998 it was years before he could sing again, an event he described as a miracle. This album, a collection of traditional and contemporary songs was recorded and mixed in his studios, and won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album 2008.  
**CD £14.00 180gram LP £25.00**

This selection of music is available for collection or by mail order. Contact us by phone, e-mail, fax or post. Our contact details are on the front page of this newsletter. Postage & Packing for 1 CD is £1.00 and for 1 LP or up to 4 CDs is £3.00. There is a maximum charge of £5.00. There is a 10% discount for the purchase of all six recordings.

## quadraspire media wall

Quadraspire have added a new and unique storage solution to their range of furniture. The modular Media Wall can house hi-fi components, cinema components, loudspeakers, TVs and, if required, a projector screen. The Media Wall can be customised to individual requirements and caters for a wide range of systems, transforming any part of a room into a self-contained media area. The large storage capacity not only allows for the housing of equipment, it is also ideal for anyone with a sizeable DVD/CD or vinyl collection.

The system is available in different sizes and storage options and is easy to install. The Media Wall base units also have an option to house loudspeakers which have retractable doors that reveal the speakers during use. Unlike many permanently-installed home cinemas, Media Wall is an adaptable, movable fixture, and can be upgraded when the need arises to add more storage.

Media Wall is available in standard Quadraspire finishes - cherry, maple, light oak, dark oak, rosenut and black. Premium finishes are also available to order, including birds-eye maple, white and piano black. Other finishes are available by request. Prices from £2000.



## hi-note aftercare programme

Some of you might be aware that we have been developing this maintenance programme for our customers, to ensure that their equipment continues to operate at maximum performance and protect their investment.

We have now appointed a specialist engineer to support this service and we will be contacting customers shortly with full details of the upgraded version of this product.

The programme includes of a number of scheduled visits throughout the year depending on your plan, in addition to a priority call-out service when required.

It is our intention to add this option to all multi-room proposals from January 2009. If you wish to know more about this service please contact [tonyd@grahams.co.uk](mailto:tonyd@grahams.co.uk) or call us on 020 7226 5500 and ask for Hi-Note Service. More information can be found online at [www.grahams.co.uk/hi-note](http://www.grahams.co.uk/hi-note)

## maeve o'boyle

Maeve is currently recording her debut album with renowned producer Calum Malcolm, after completing the albums writing sessions in Glasgow's "Soul Kitchen" with writer Gordy Goudie (Echo and The Bunnymen, Simple Minds).

2008 has already been a great year for Maeve, with sell-out shows across Scotland, including Glasgow's prestigious Oran Mor, and an appearance at the Live @ Loch Lomond Festival, which featured acts such as The Sex Pistols and Ocean Colour Scene.

Described as a "natural lyricist" with an "exceptional" voice it is clear that she is already turning heads in her short career to date.

Her unique and powerful voice, fused with her own distinctive blend of melodic pop, folk and rock have earned her a reputation as one to watch over the next year. In 2006 Maeve won a "Danny Award" at Celtic Connections and also won the Artist's category in The Daily Record's national talent search.

Maeve O'Boyle has filled support slots with John Cale (Velvet Underground) and Sandi Thom as well as appearances with Ricky Ross (Deacon Blue, James Blunt) on BBC Scotland and Ross's "an audience with", ensured growing interest in one of Scotland's brightest young talents.

Only 21 years old, Maeve O'Boyle has a huge future ahead of her. Check her out on the following links

[www.myspace.com/maeveo Boyle](http://www.myspace.com/maeveo Boyle)  
or [www.maeveo Boyle.com](http://www.maeveo Boyle.com)

## new staff

**Mario Magos** comes from Mexico, where he ran his own AV company. He has worked in the networking and IT sector in the UK and joins us as a Senior Engineer/Project Manager. When not installing, Mario has a love of all things connected to film and cinema. He has written two scripts which he hopes one day will be transferred onto the silver screen.

**Sam Hewlings** is working for us during his gap year, after which he will be reading Mechanical Engineering at Warwick. His role here is to assist the Project Management Team. His hobbies include mountain and rock climbing around Britain. He became a Scout Leader last year, having first joined the Scouts 12 years ago.

**Leigh Dickson** joined the Grahams in April this year as an installer for the Hi-Fi and Service Departments. He trained as a sound engineer and, like many of our staff, is involved in the music industry in his spare time. Leigh has released two records, 'Praise' and 'Aerobatics'. He has his own home recording studio and, apart from making music, he also does some DJ work.

**Rupert Merryweather** comes from a corporate AV background, but wanted to move into the more varied domestic side, having found the corporate installation business to be too rigid. His hobbies vary from riding his motorbike, sports, making music on his computer.

**Andrew Dorrington** has joined us as Junior Installation Engineer having gained his university degree in Animation. Whilst at university, Andrew became interested in hi-fi, AV and custom installation whilst working part-time in a hi-fi shop. In his spare time he enjoys film and music.

As part of our ongoing training we are pleased to announce that **Paul Trafford** has passed his CEDIA Level 1 training with flying colours.

**Matt Sturtivant** has been appointed as our Hi-Note After Care Engineer. Matt is an extremely knowledgeable engineer having had over thirteen years experience in his field. Matt was selected for this role as he has demonstrated his ability to handle a wide range of technical matters.

**Darren Hancock** has been appointed as a Senior Project Manager having successfully managed a number of complex projects both within the UK and abroad on behalf of the Company.

We have recently said goodbye to **Joe Hewlings** (older brother of Sam) who has started his degree at Bristol University, having spent his gap year and latter school years working for us in both the Service Department and Custom Install Department.



Mario



Sam



Leigh



Rupert



Andrew

## events diary

Meridian	Thu 11th Dec 08
Linn	Thu 22nd Jan 09
Naim factory	Mon 26th Jan 09

## email version of newsletter

Our newsletters are published on our website as PDFs which can be downloaded. If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please email us: [newsletter@grahams.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@grahams.co.uk) with your contact details and we'll add you to our email list.

## 2009 calendar

Our Grahams 2009 Calendar is now available for collection. Stocks are limited, so if you would like to reserve one for collection please call or email us ([sue@grahams.co.uk](mailto:sue@grahams.co.uk)) so we can put one aside for you.