



Musical Fidelity M8xi

HIGHLY COMMENDED INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

Musical Fidelity's M8xi is very much on the 'beefy' end of integrated amplifier design. A Class AB amplifier, capable of delivering 550W into eight ohms and 870W into four with a peak offering of 1.2kW, the amplifier weighs in at a stand-bending 46kg. A good part of that mass comes from this large chassis housing a pair of monoblock power amplifiers and a preamplifier, each with its own transformer and power supply that share little more than a C18 power socket. Inputs are both traditional analogue and contemporary digital, with the former in both balanced and single-ended forms and the latter including USB and S/PDIF types in sufficient quantity to satisfy most system set-ups. Unusually, the Musical Fidelity has a wide range of outputs in both digital and analogue form. The on-board DAC also has its own power supply, supporting up to 24-bit/192kHz PCM.

Jason Kennedy was impressed by the M8xi's heavy lifting powers, saying it produced "a sense of headroom that you rarely encounter and

which translates into prodigious bass when it's on the recording." He also noted that "This is not bludgeoning power either, it's articulate and able to respond to the nuances of the material with remarkable speed. High power and serious immediacy are not often found in combination even at this price yet the M8xi is very capable in both departments." Jason also felt that, "Imaging is good too, the soundstage reflecting the various recordings well with plenty of scale and energy." and praised "the spectacular combination of timing and muscle on offer from the M8xi, with track after track offering up oodles of detail in a very coherent and engaging manner."

He concluded his review by saying, "Power does not equate too directly with quality unless it is clean, controlled and able to make a speaker do exactly what's required when it's required. The Musical Fidelity M8xi does that with knobs on, and rather nice knobs they are too."

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