

Date: January 2007

XTA AND DIGICO – A KILLER COMBINATION

The Killers are often described as the 'Best British band to have come out of America'. James Gebhard has been the band's front of house engineer since the spring of 2004 and, wherever possible, uses a combination of DiGiCo D5 Live and XTA processing for their live performances.

"I had used the D5 before I started working with The Killers and then on and off, as and when we could afford to use it.

If he has a criticism, it is that sometimes he feels the D5's pre amps sound too good. "The D5 is so precise the mix seems very lively, but that's a good thing really because it provides clarity," he smiles.

Gebhard is using a stripped down version of the D5 with 46 inputs and nine or 10 outputs for PA routing depending on requirements. "I want to try and get into the console's snapshots function more," continues Gebhard. We have a lot of instruments on stage, but they're only used in specific songs and it would a lot easier and simpler between song changes if I used snapshots.

"I think the D5 sounds great. I took out a competitor's console in the States because it's part of the tools of the trade and you should learn what's out there. It sounds good, but not as good as the D5. But then it's not in the same league, the D5 is the next leg up the ladder. You can't beat it for sound quality. I love it!"

Consistent quality throughout the audio chain is always of paramount importance, and with Capital Sound providing the audio requirements this is never a problem. Having looked at upgrading their processing and considered the options available, Capital decided the DP226 is still the best around and have just invested in a further four units, which fits perfectly with Gebhard's preference. Seven DP226s driving the Martin Audio loudspeaker system. "I love the sound of the 226 and I love the AudioCore software," he smiles.

"We have a great combination with DiGiCo, XTA and Martin," concludes Capital's Paul Timmins. "Which is why we continue to invest in this winning formula."



