



## MALAWI MAKES NOISE

Set on the sun-drenched beaches of Lake Malawi, the *Lake Of Stars Festival* came into its own this year after Audile and Funktion-One returned to the island for the second time to implement a festival production to rival no other in the African country.

Now in its seventh year, the three-day, 3,000 capacity festival of music, arts and culture, run by volunteers — sourced mainly through *vinspired.com* — brought together more than 50 Malawian acts (including Peter Mawanga, Sally Nyundo, Lawrence Mbenjere, Agorosso, Mafilika and Dan Lu) and over 20 artists from across the world, headlined by Noisettes.

Freelancer Craig Williams commented on the evolution of its production: "During the first two years I spent working for the festival we used a Malawian sourced PA, which was made of old mismatched black boxes with random drivers, and mismatched amplifiers [scary homemade metal boxes with one knob and telephone wire as power cords]."

A growing crowd capacity resulted in the festival bringing in Audile and Funktion-One. F1's David Bruml said: "With the help of a freight concession from Kenya Airlines that [festival director] Will Jameson secured, F1 first supplied a system in 2009 and again this year."

Funktion-One supplied the control, amplification and loudspeakers for two of the three stages, with Audile supplying other equipment like microphones, FOH desks and outboard equipment, and the lighting — this year ably taken care of by Audile's Tim Hawes.

The main stage sound team comprised Craig Williams, Eduardo Puhl and David Bruml, along with stage manager Kristina Riddington. F1 supplied a FOH system comprising five Resolution 5 mid-high enclosures above two F221 double 21" bass loudspeaker enclosures per side. This four way system was all driven from a single amplifier rack loaded with an XTA

DP448 loudspeaker management system and four MC2 amplifiers.

Said Bruml (pictured above, top right, far right, with Williams and Puhl): "This system works superbly for all music types. As the system was being flown to and from Malawi it was important that maximum performance was delivered from a system of minimal size and weight, one of the system's many strengths."

Audile supplied a combination of Shure and Audio-Technica microphones. A pair of self-powered Resolution 2As were used as DJ monitors on stage and the FF6000 DJ mixer, developed by Funktion-One in conjunction with Formula Sound, was used for all the DJ sets. The FOH mixer was an Audile-supplied Midas Venice, chosen for its sound quality and low weight. Studiocare provided the JBL SRX 712M multi-purpose speakers for on-stage monitoring.

In terms of lighting, Audile supplied four Martin MAC 250 Entours, two Martin Atomic 3000s, 12 PAR 64 cans, a Look Unique 2 hazer and 12 Pulsar Chroma Panel 300s. Four Futurelight 640s were supplied by Monkey Puzzle Designs, controlled by a Chamsys MagicQ 100 console with an extra wing.

Said Williams: "Without the generosity, support, and enthusiasm of Robert Leach, Rob Ashworth, and Stev from Audile, Tony and Ann Andrews, and David Bruml from Funktion-One, Pete Dutton from S.T.S. (backline), and Drew and the team at Studiocare, I could not deliver the quality of hands-on learning opportunity for the Malawian engineers, quality of sound for the punters, and on stage experience for the artists.

If you'd like to volunteer for the festival contact Will Jameson: [will@lakeofstars.org](mailto:will@lakeofstars.org).

For a more in-depth look at the *Lake Of Stars Festival* and to see a video from the event, log on to [www.tpimagazine.com](http://www.tpimagazine.com).

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Photography by Regina Teichs & David Bruml