

PRESS



7 June 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JBL® TO SPONSOR LEGENDARY MUSICIAN ERIC CLAPTON ON UPCOMING NORTH AMERICAN CONCERT TOUR

– Industry-Standard JBL VerTec® Loudspeakers Selected for Use in Concert Audio System –

WOODBURY, NY – JBL, the leading manufacturer of professional and consumer loudspeakers, today announced it is the official sponsor of the upcoming North American summer tour of Eric Clapton, one of the most influential musicians in rock-music history.

Eric Clapton has been renowned as one of the world's finest guitarists since the early Sixties when he first gained prominence with the Yardbirds and John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, astonishing listeners with his remarkable, emotionally powerful playing. After subsequent albums with Cream, Derek and the Dominos and others, Clapton launched an extraordinary solo career that earned him multiple Grammy® awards, and that continues today with his just-released *Me and Mr. Johnson* album. The only triple inductee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Eric Clapton recently received the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) award in honor of his musical and humanitarian accomplishments.

As the official sponsor of Eric Clapton's North American tour, JBL is supporting the tour with a major sponsorship program, maintaining a highly visible presence at all of the tour's stops. To coincide with the tour, the company is launching its "Eric Clapton Chooses JBL" sweepstakes, which features a grand prize of two tickets to the tour's final concert at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, California, on August 2. To qualify for the prize drawing, consumers are required to audition JBL Northridge™ E Series loudspeakers at a participating retailer and fill out an online entry form. In addition to the grand prize, a number of additional prizes will be awarded. Details are available on the JBL Web site, www.jbl.com.

JBL's acclaimed VerTec (Vertical Technology) line-array professional audio loudspeakers were chosen for exclusive use in the tour sound system. Since their introduction, JBL VerTec loudspeakers have established themselves as an industry standard for professional concert sound reinforcement, thanks to their advanced-technology drivers and components, compact size, modular installation flexibility and – above all – their extraordinary sound quality.

Sound services for the tour will be provided by Sound Image of Escondido, California, a leading supplier of concert sound system services worldwide. The systems, which can deliver more than 350,000 watts of amplifier power, are configured to optimize sound quality and coverage in the 15,000- to 20,000-seat arenas that will host the tour. The touring system includes a total of 48 JBL VerTec VT4889 loudspeakers, arranged as line arrays in a typical configuration of two main forward arrays of 14 units each, and two side arrays of 10 units each. The main loudspeakers are augmented by 16 VT4880 arrayable dual-18-inch subwoofers, and onstage monitors.

Eric Clapton's U.S. tour dates will begin with a performance at the Crossroads Guitar Festival, to be held in Dallas, Texas, from June 4 – 6. The North American arena tour starts June 9 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and is scheduled to conclude with the August 2 Hollywood Bowl concert.

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Paul Bente, president of JBL Consumer Products, noted, “JBL could not be more proud to be the sponsor of the Eric Clapton North American tour. Eric Clapton and JBL loudspeakers have both had a major impact in defining the sound of rock and roll – Clapton as a ‘guitarist’s guitarist’ and consummate musician, and JBL as the foremost supplier of high-quality loudspeakers for concert halls, recording studios and home listening. We are proud to take part in bringing audiences a thrilling concert experience from Eric Clapton and his band.”

Robert Collins, front-of-house mixer for the tour, said, “With JBL’s VerTec loudspeakers in the system, the sound quality on this tour is better than ever. The VerTec speakers’ clarity, resolution, on- and off-axis frequency response and high-power-handling capability are exceptional, and they excel at reproducing the full sonic spectrum from the deepest lows of the bass and kick drum to the most subtle high-frequency nuances. In fact, the sound is so good we can now provide our concert audiences with the same level of audio quality Eric Clapton and his band are able to achieve on recordings and in the studio.”

The tour will begin with a performance at the Crossroads Guitar Festival to be held in Dallas, Texas, from June 4 – 6. The North American arena tour dates and locations are as follows (subject to change):

Oklahoma City, OK	Ford Center	June 9
Little Rock, AK	Alltel Arena	June 11
New Orleans, LA	New Orleans Arena	June 12
St. Petersburg, FL	St. Petersburg Times Forum	June 14
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Office Depot Center	June 15
Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena	June 16
Atlanta, GA	Phillips Arena	June 18
Greenville, SC	Bi-Lo Center	June 19
Washington, DC	MCI Center	June 21
Albany, NY	Pepsi Arena	June 23
Philadelphia, PA	Wachovia Center	June 26
New York, NY	Madison Square Garden	June 28
New York, NY	Madison Square Garden	June 29
New York, NY	Madison Square Garden	June 30
Mansfield, MA	Tweeter Center	July 3
Mansfield, MA	Tweeter Center	July 4
Toronto, ON, Canada	Air Canada Centre	July 7
Buffalo, NY	HSBC Arena	July 9
Cleveland, OH	Gund Arena	July 10
Columbus, OH	Nationwide Arena	July 12
Detroit, MI	Palace of Auburn Hills	July 13
Indianapolis, IN	Conseco Fieldhouse	July 15
Chicago, IL	United Center	July 17
St. Paul, MN	Xcel Energy Center	July 18
Milwaukee, WI	Bradley Center	July 20
Omaha, NE	Qwest Center	July 22
Denver, CO	Pepsi Center Arena	July 24
Seattle, WA	Key Arena	July 27
Portland, OR	Rose Garden Arena	July 28
San Jose, CA	HP Pavilion	July 30
San Jose, CA	HP Pavilion	July 31

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Los Angeles, CA

Hollywood Bowl

August 2

The Harman Consumer Systems Group (HCSG) is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of a wide range of high-fidelity loudspeakers, audio and video components, and multimedia systems for use in homes and automobiles, and with computers. The group's brands include JBL, Infinity, Harman Kardon, Mark Levinson, Revel, Audioaccess and Lexicon.

HCSG is a division of Harman International Industries, Incorporated. Harman International (www.harman.com) is a leading manufacturer of high-quality, high-fidelity audio products and electronic systems for the consumer and professional markets. The company's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "HAR."

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