



Florida International Audio Expo 2026 Show Report — What We Heard, What Matters, And What to Buy

Expert listening notes from FIAE 2026 (Tampa Hi-Fi event), standout systems, and buying guidance for serious music lovers, high-end audio enthusiasts, and hardcore audiophiles.

BEST OF FIAE BLUE NOTE AWARD 2026 for UNIQUE HOME AUDIO featuring VIABLUE

The eighth annual Florida International Audio Expo (FIAE) returned as the Southeast's most eagerly anticipated high-end audio gatherings, bringing together music lovers, audiophiles, immersivephiles, and industry professionals for a long weekend of listening, discovery, and community. FIAE Tampa hi-fi show's 2026 edition continues the event's tradition of pairing commercial exhibits with live music and educational programming to give visitors both demonstrable gear experiences and context for what they hear. From Friday through Sunday, February 20th through 22nd (2026), thousands of music lovers, dedicated musicphiles, and audiophiles / immersivephiles alike had a great time. As always, in the end what really matters is that you... enjoy the music!

UniQue Home Audio

The system displayed in Brandon Room Six featuring a Trinnov Amethyst (\$12,000) front end and Kora TA480 amplifier (\$19,999), supported by an Apex Design custom server (\$6,000). When you add in Prodigio Audio Vitorlas loudspeakers (\$90,000) and VIABLUE cabling, it really shows what modern high-fidelity engineering can do. It shows both strong dynamics and accurate sound control. The most noticeable feature is how well it handles the lower frequencies. The bass is clear and punchy, without the boom or muddiness you sometimes hear in smaller rooms. This solid bass helps support the rest of the music, keeping everything steady even when the music gets fast and energetic. The way the system controls the sound suggests that the speakers and the room work well together, either because the space is treated or the setup is carefully done.



The system's midrange and treble help the sound feel natural and real. Vocals and instruments sound true to life, without the cold or harsh quality that some digital systems have. The midrange is smooth and picks up the small details in the music, while the treble stays clear and never gets sharp. This careful tuning makes it easy to listen for hours, since there's no ringing or distortion to cause fatigue. You can enjoy the music's emotion without being distracted by playback flaws. Brandon Room Six also stands out for its handling of space, creating a stable and realistic soundstage. The system gives you a three-dimensional sense of recording, with performers clearly placed in the room.



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This precise imaging comes from the system's very low noise floor. With less electronic noise and background hum, you can pick up even the smallest details, like a fading piano note or a singer's breath. This low noise floor helps create a soundstage that feels open and lifelike.



Why These Winners Matter

Each Enjoy the Music.com exhibitor and brand who earned a Best Of FIAE 2026 Blue Note Award demonstrated an extraordinary combination of sonic clarity, musicality, and room synergy that made listening feel immediate and emotionally engaging. Audio Note UK impressed with its tonal purity and analog heritage, while UniQue Home Audio showcased system-level refinement and presentation. Focal continued to push high-end audio driver and enclosure engineering, and Gershman Acoustic earned praise for acoustic excellence that transformed their exhibit room into an immersive music lover listening session. House of Stereo's room stood out as a complete audiophile experience, where equipment, room / gear setup, and curation came together to create a benchmark demo.