

Warm and Clear:

Choosing the best podium microphone for public venues.

In the opinion of **Kyu-Chol Jung**



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Generally musicians and sound engineers develop a strong preference for a microphone whose coloration and response are favorable to the type of music they most commonly record. They believe that the consistency of the characteristics of a familiar model will ensure a quality recording. Microphones for sound reinforcement of orators before an audience have entirely different requirements – often much different than those used for musical recording.

In venues where there are known and regular speakers, such as church clergy or a recurring lecturer, etc. – it is proper to choose a microphone that complements that individual, and should be chosen accordingly. However – when choosing a microphone for use as a podium microphone at public venues where the speakers are varied and unknown the requirements are much different.

The essential characteristics for a podium microphone should be delivering clear, warm and uncolored sound, without any assumptions about the speaker. A harsh and edgy sound with a great deal of sibilance can quickly tire an audience, while a warm and gentle voice quality calms the audience, making the audience far more receptive to the speaker's message.

Many Podium Microphones have been brought to market, most of them are well made, provide adequate frequency response and have the ability to deliver clear and uncolored sound. Unfortunately – most can be somewhat harsh and susceptible to pops and other distracting artifacts limiting their usefulness as a podium microphone.

I have tested many different gooseneck microphones in live sound environments and the Earthworks FM Series Microphones deliver the most pleasing and “listen-able” sound. In my opinion, it's far more important to connect the speaker with the audience – than meeting some “expectation” of a recording engineer.

Smooth bass, pop-resistant; clear but warm and pleasing at the same time -- This is what makes Earthworks FM Series so special.

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