



REVIEW by Joerg Kaufmann - July 2009

When I check out mouthpieces, I differentiate between playability (projection, dynamics, intonation, uniformity over the whole range, is it reed-friendly or not... and so on...) and sound (color, core, is it fat or bright, etc.). Another question is: Do I like it? I tried them with Vandoren V16 #3 and Vandoren ZZ #3 reeds that were both old and new. Here are my results after playing the AMBIKA and GAIA for 2 days:

PLAYABILITY:

Both mouthpieces have perfect intonation, great projection, are uniform from top to bottom, and I could use many reeds. What truly amazed me was that the AMBIKA and the GAIA sound absolutely great even when played very softly. Many mouthpieces sound and react great when played loud or mezzo-forte, but they lack sound-quality when played softly. So no discussion about playability, fantastic work!!!

SOUND:

AMBIKA: Wow...that's it!! No kidding: This mouthpiece is just fantastic: Very colorful, dark and fat even when it's getting played soft, big, big low tones, the highs don't get thin, absolutely perfect! The playability is great, the sound is really haunting, you didn't promise too much! If I compare it with the GAIA it has not so much core (spreads more), but this is just a question of taste. One player want to have a lot of core, others not. Anyway, a great mouthpiece!!!

GAIA: It reminds me on one of the really good Florida Links, which have this "Dexter-thing":-)) The playability is also perfect, but the sound is everything that I dreamed of!! A lot of core, fat, and dark sounding. When I push it, I can play funky on it also; A very versatile piece. The GAIA projects very good, the sound-quality is great in all registers and with all dynamics: This is the thing!!! The GAIA is my personal choice, and will be what I play and record on from now on.

A few words about the Liberty Ligatures: The Gold Ligature seemed brighter than the Vintified one, and the Vintified one with the gold pressure plate was in-between. It is very interesting to me how the sound changes in a brighter or darker direction depending on the ligature and pressure plate.

Joerg Kaufmann

Homepage of Joerg Kaufmann: www.joergkaufmann.com

Joerg Kaufmann with [myspace](#)