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Music in Motion

THE BALTIC 130 *MY SONG* JOINS AN ELITE BREED OF HIGH-TECH CRUISER-RACERS.

By Justin Ratcliffe

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ust as “My Song” is for those who think they don’t like jazz, the Baltic 130 named after Keith Jarrett’s well loved composition is a yacht for those who think they don’t like sailing boats.

Even moored under bare spars in a steady drizzle off La Spezia, Italy (where this author first saw her), *My Song* has something moving and musical about her pure lines and teak decking. But there is also something savagely exciting about her plumb bow and wide, flat afterbody derived from grand prix racers—design elements more than hinting at potential power. Perhaps that’s why Baltic Yachts describes the cruiser-racer as “one of the most remarkable, state-of-the-art, all-carbon superyachts ever launched.”

My Song is the fourth yacht of the same name with overall styling by Nauta Yachts in Italy, built for Pier Luigi Loro Piana, deputy chairman of the eponymous luxury textile brand. The owner spends long periods cruising the Mediterranean and Caribbean with family and friends, but he also wanted winning performance on the regatta circuit. Baltic Yachts is a Finnish yard with the maxim “lighter, stiffer, faster,” and it built the hull from carbon and Corecell composites with Nomex cored bulkheads, giving *My Song* a light displacement of just 231,485 pounds.

“Because of their holistic, in-house approach to design, engineering and construction with teams for all disciplines constantly communicating with each other, Baltic are one of very few yards capable of building such a complex yacht on time and to weight,” says Nigel Ingram, the owner’s project manager at MCM Marine.

San Diego-based naval architects Reichel/Pugh developed the hull lines for fast, stable and comfortable

BELOW: The expansive guest cockpit offers shaded, open-air relaxation with the bimini raised in cruiser mode.



performance whether racing or cruising. They spent 18 months running computer fluid dynamics models to optimize the waterline maximum beam, reduced wetted surface, full waterline length and more. Further performance attributes come from the chord dimension and top-to-bottom taper of the lifting keel fin. Its characteristics reduce the wetted surface area to increase performance. Engineering challenges included determining how to guide the tapered fin and bulb as they move

CARLO BORLENGHI



ABOVE: The interior design is soberly nautical in style, but all is not what it seems: Soles and ceilings are made of resin-impregnated linen fibers on a carbon-fiber base.

from raised to lowered position (from 15 feet, 9 inches to nearly 23 feet) while ensuring the same grounding strength as a conventional fin.

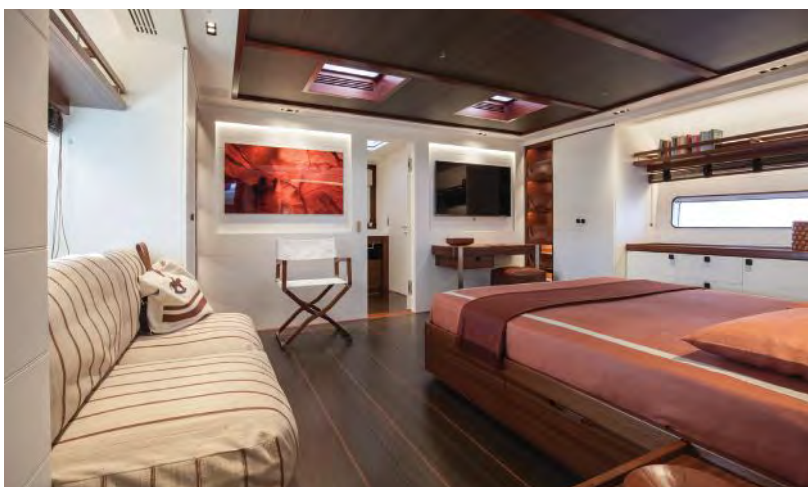
Another innovation is the retractable propulsion system, which has an azimuthing, forward-facing, pulling propeller. Such systems are not new, but Baltic developed its own in collaboration with Hundested Propeller in Denmark. The unit combines the ability to

retract the propeller when sailing with rotation through 180 degrees, so the prop doubles as a stern thruster.

“The controllable pitch propeller means the speed of the yacht can be reduced when maneuvering without changing the rpm of the main engine, so you still have the rpm to provide hydraulic power, in this case for the bow thruster,” says Henry Hawkins, CEO of Baltic Yachts. “As the system rotates, you can



CARLO BORLENGHI



TOP: The Baltic 130's lines were developed for fast, stable and comfortable performance whether cruising or racing. **ABOVE:** Tones of white and mahogany accentuate the master stateroom.

also use it as a thruster, and driving the boat off the dock in 40 knots is no problem at all."

During my sea trial aboard *My Song*, the wind, smothered by low clouds, was closer to 14 than 40 knots. "Walking" the boat off the dock using the retractable propulsion system was child's play. Sadly, our spin around the Gulf of La Spezia in light airs revealed little of the yacht's performance potential, but she is expected

to be one of the fastest yachts of her type in the world, with an average cruising speed of 16.5 knots and planing speeds close to 30 knots when her Southern Spars rig is in full racing mode.

Nauta's exterior styling oozes power and grace. A raised bulwark hides some of the coachroof and provides privacy in the guest cockpit at anchor. (In addition to concealing hydraulics and line runs, that bulwark also allows for single-wire, half-height lifelines.) Long freeing ports let water drain off the deck and admit natural light into the salon—a seemingly simple design cue that required extra engineering and lamination to maintain hull integrity.

Loro Piana requested 1:1 scale mockups during the design process, and he chose a décor based on white and mahogany tones with stainless steel accents and images of sailing yachts by renowned photographer Carlo Borlenghi. Design details include surfaces, ceilings and soles manufactured from carbon fiber combined with—wait for it—resin-impregnated natural linen fibers.

"With Baltic, we developed around 30 different samples with various gloss, satin and matte finishes before we got the formula just right," says Martino

GUILLIANO SARGENTINI

Majno, Nauta's project manager. "Because the natural fibers absorb the dark resin, they take on the color and texture of hardwood at a fraction of the weight."

Linen is, of course, the material derived from the flax plant for which the Loro Piana brand is famous. According to the *My Song* team, this is the first time linen has been combined with high-tech composites as a structural material. (They also studied using linen fibers in the hull construction, but abandoned the concept.) Other handwoven textiles come from lotus fibers—once used to make the robes of high-ranking Buddhist monks—creating a tactile feel like a cross between silk and linen.

Crew quarters are aft with the master suite forward, separated by the full-beam salon for privacy. In addition

to two guest staterooms aft, each with twin berths, a study adjoining the master converts to allow a total of six guests plus the owners.

"The birth of a yacht is a long walk, throughout which we take the client by the hand," Mario Pedol, co-founder of Nauta Yachts, told *Yachts International* in our May issue. "There is no such thing as a universal concept of what an ideal yacht should be; everyone has their own opinion. But it has to be an object of beauty that in years to come will always give pleasure to the onlooker."

This is especially true of *My Song*. Like her musical counterpart, she is destined to become a modern classic. **Y**

For more information: balticyachts.fi



BALTIC 130 MY SONG

LOA: 129ft. 11in. (39.6m)
LWL: 120ft. 9in. (36.8m)
BEAM: 28ft. 3in. (8.6m)
DRAFT: 22ft. 11in. (7m); 15ft. 9in. (4.8m)
CONSTRUCTION: carbon pre-preg/Corecell
DISPLACEMENT: 105 tons (light ship)
BALLAST: 36.25 tons (fin and bulb)
ENGINES: 520-hp Caterpillar C8.7L

WINCHES: Harken
MAST AND RIGGING: Southern Wind/ECsix
FUEL: 1,690 gal. (6,400L)
WATER: 634 gal. (2,400L)
SPEED (max.): 28 knots
SPEED (cruise): 19 knots
RANGE: 3,000 nm @ 10 knots
GENERATORS: 1 x 54 kVA, 2 x 25 kVA Fischer Panda

CLASSIFICATION: DNV GL
NAVAL ARCHITECTURE: Reichel/Pugh
EXTERIOR STYLING: Nauta Yachts
INTERIOR DESIGN: Nauta Yachts
GUESTS: 6-8 in 3 or 4 staterooms
CREW: 6
BUILDER: Baltic Yachts
YEAR: 2016