

# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the  
Chicago Audio Society  
January 2004

## *Meeting Notice*

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm to 5:00pm

CES & THE Show Highlights  
Turntable Clinic

Brian Walsh will give a summary of what was seen and heard at the Consumer Electronics Show and THE Show in the areas of high end audio, with a slide presentation, highlighting music, equipment, people and events of interest. Others attending the show are strongly encouraged to speak as well.

**Frank Putnam** will give a much-awaited presentation on turntable setup and tweaking. Don't miss it! Frank will show useful pictures and give a how-to for novices and experts alike, including cartridge alignment. Take good notes, it'll be worth it.

We will hold official elections of Society officers for this year.

And of course we'll be listening to music. Bring records and CDs.

### **Last month**

Our annual Christmas party included listening to music and enjoying a variety of treats and beverages.

### **Society Business**

Reed Rehorst gave a summary of our financial status, and we discussed activities and dues for 2004. Here are the results:

Given that we have seen a small increase in the meeting room cost, along with the need to break even, we discussed the topics of dues and distributing newsletters by email. A vote was taken. Dues for 2004 remain at \$40 for those receiving newsletters by email; dues for members wanting newsletters in hard copy sent by postal mail will be \$50.

Nominations of Society officers were taken, and the present officers were nominated.

**The Classical Corner**

*Len Cronin*

BRUCKNER: Symphony  
9 - Lecture and Final  
Fragment  
Vienna Philharmonic /  
Nikolaus Harnoncourt  
RCA 65433 (2 CD)  
Hybrid multi-channel  
SACD - 131 minutes

BRUCKNER: Symphony  
9 (with reconstructed  
Finale)  
Westphalia Philharmonic  
/ Johannes Wildner  
Naxos 555933 (2 CD) -  
83 minutes

Until these discs appeared, I was unaware that Bruckner had nearly completely the final movement of his Ninth Symphony. Tradition has dictated that this symphony be performed as a three movement work and according to the extensive notes provided by both discs, this did not appear to be the wish of the composer. Shortly before Bruckner's death in 1896, the terminally ill composer informed his friends, that if he should die before completing the symphony, his Te Deum should be used as the Finale. It has been estimated that had Bruckner lived one more month, he would have completed the final movement. Instead upon

his death, many of the pages of the manuscripts were either given to friends or admirers of the composer or well sold outright. His request that the Te Deum be used as the symphony's finale were simply ignored and what had been written was forgotten. Current scholarship has changed the situation.

Johannes Wildner and the Westphalia Philharmonic give us a more than competent performance of what most of us regard as the Ninth Symphony, that is the first three movements of the symphony. However, since I have acquired this disc in early December, I have listened to the Finale at least a half dozen times. This is the thrill of discovering new music by a master This disc is a no brainer for all lovers of Bruckner's music. The recording is decent but unspectacular. A very good introduction to this music.

Nikolaus Harnoncourt and the Vienna Philharmonic give us a first class performance of the first three movements of the symphony. This is the first RCA SACD, and the sound is spectacular. Even without the second disc this performance would get a positive recommendation. The Naxos gives us the reconstructed Finale, RCA gives us the completed fragments, about 565 measures, and a lecture by Harnoncourt on the uncompleted Finale. This disc is a conventional CD, but compared to the Naxos, one could say that there is no comparison. The RCA is much better in all aspects. One could only imagine what the reconstructed Finale might have sounded like with these forces. Highly recommended.

### Next month

February 15, 2004 -- To be announced (nearly finalized).

This year's programs will include music and recordings, presentations on equipment of all kinds, and various projects and tweaks. Members are invited to request topics and welcome to participate any way they wish – please speak with Society officers.

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