

Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, January, 2005

Meeting Notice-Sunday, January 16th, 2:00PM-5:00PM

FOR DIRECTIONS GO TO: <http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

REMINDER - THIS IS THE JANUARY 2005 MEETING-ANNUAL DUES OF \$40 ARE DUE!

Your support to keep the monthly roof over our head is very much appreciated and needed.

Attention horn fans and vinyl afficianados (not to mention tube enthusiasts)!

Larry Musial, one of our members, who did a meeting with us last year, is bringing in a variety of interesting equipment including products from Chicago area Bizzy Bee Tube Audio Design (Paul Grzybek). More information on the amp, preamp, and cables can be found at the Bizzy Bee website- <http://www.angelfire.com/biz/bizzyb/> . The Cayin amplifier was written up favorably in the November issue of Absolute Sound and was included in their annual equipment listings. Larry has an unusual pair of industrial Klipsch La Scalas that have a 2-part cabinet and an audiophile crossover mod, and recently built the Hagerman Cornet kit tube phono preamp. We will have the opportunity to compare the two phono sections-PLEASE BRING A FEW FAVORITE RECORDS TO AUDITION. In addition, we will have the recently updated OGRE Systems Marantz-mod player. BRING A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE CDS TO AUDITION. Larry Hepinstall, the designer is in the Chicago area and Larry Musial can answer questions. Finally, Frank Putnam will be supplying a Denon turntable with Micro Seiki MA-505 tonearm and Grado cartridge.

Here are photos of Larry Musial's La Scalas and the Cayin integrated amp:



Larry will be bringing the following equipment:

System:

Marantz CD-67SE (Modded with new analog section by OGRE Systems, he just modded it again a few months ago, added more detail and information.)

Bizzy Bee Tube Audio Design TAD 150 - tube preamp w/SS phono

Bizzy Bee Cayin TA-30 integrated tube amp (Now can be used as a stand alone power amp.)

Hagerman Cornet tube phono preamp

Klipsch Industrial La Scala speakers (Modded by myself w/ new crossover, dampened horns, braced bass unit and ambiance tweeter.)

One 300 watt powered Sub using 2-12" Eminence woofer in a highly dampened bass reflex enclosure.

Speaker cables - Jon Risch design using Radio Shack RG58 Coaxial cable

Interconnects - Bizzy Bee Fro-Zen and Joe-Zen cables

It's nice to read about some of this stuff in magazines or on the internet, but it's much better to have an opportunity to hear it! Hope to see you all there.

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DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

Rick Berta, one of our members, demonstrated his own speaker design which he is now marketing-the World Audio Jazz Crucible. The speakers are 97db efficient and use a Lambda 15" bass driver with an ESS Heil Air Motion transducer in a series crossover in a sand-fillable cylindrical enclosure. Here is a photo of the speaker:



Rick also brought a pair of custom balanced 300B amps using a differential circuit. Also, an Exemplar Audio Reference preamp and an Exemplar Audio modified Denon 3910 multi-format player were on hand. For more information see <http://www.exemplaraudio.com>

The speakers, with the 97+ db efficiency, certainly filled our 45' x 28' with music and bass and there was much favorable response. Interestingly, relatively few people had left near the end of the meeting.

Our thanks to Rick Berta for a very enjoyable meeting and a unique product.

WEBSITE NEWS

Dennis Anderson has done wonderful things with the website. If you haven't been there in a few months go to <http://www.chicagoaudio.org> and have a look around. Better yet, tell your friends and spread the word.

A big thank you to Frank Putnam, who has saved every newsletter from the very beginning (over 10 years ago). This will allow us to have all the newsletters added to the website in the future.

CLASSICAL CORNER by Len Cronin

Naxos has become over the past ten years, the most important and financially successful classical label in the world. Yes, you can get the standard repertory, but Naxos' real claim to fame is its that it provides the listener the opportunity to hear little known works or composers. This is all done at a price that allows the consumer to explore unknown musical worlds with little financial risk. The three disks I will write about are perfect examples of why Naxos is a success.

Julian Orbon: Symphonic Dances Asturias S.O. Maximiano Valdes conducting - Naxos 8.557368

Let's start off by saying that this is a great sounding recording, and is worth purchasing for the sonics alone. However, the composer Julian Orbon is a pleasant discovery. Orbon was born in Asturias, Spain, moved to Cuba as a young man, and died in exile in 1991. He studied under Aaron Copland, and his music reflects the master's influence. The music on this disk may not be profound, but it is enjoyable.

Michael Daugherty: Philadelphia Stories ; UFO Colorado S.O., Marin Alsop conducting with Evelyn Glennie percussion soloist NAXOS 8.559165

Michael Daugherty is a composer that I have avoided for many years. He has the habit of writing music that references pop culture, such as his Metropolis Symphony, which was a tribute to superman. I bought this disk for the piece titled: UFO for Solo Percussion and Orchestra, but for me, you need to take in this type of music in a live performance. This way you can watch the soloist, which is half the fun in a concerto for solo percussion. On the other hand, Philadelphia Stories is pure enjoyment. This is actually the composer's third symphony, and I look forward to exploring more of his music. The music is tonal and completely approachable. Sound is very good. Recommended especially for the Philadelphia Stories.

Boris Tishchenko: Symphony No. 7 Moscow P/O. Dmitry Yablonsky conducting Naxos 8.557013

This may be some of the strangest music that I have heard in a long time. Strange not in an avant garde way, but strange in the influences that make up this music. What you need to do is combine elements of Latin music, jazz, marching tunes, Ives, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and who knows what else, and somehow make it work. Tishchenko makes it work. You may not like this music, but on the other hand if you can think outside the box, here is some uniquely original music. This was recorded in concert with pretty decent sound. Recommended for anyone who is willing to take a chance.