

# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

February 2003

## Meeting Notice

*Sunday, February 16th, 2:00 pm*

**James Ginsburg & Bill Maylone**

**Cedille Records**



About three years ago, in January 2000, our guests for this month visited us and were well received. In our ongoing emphasis on music and wanting to take advantage of local expertise, we invited these gentlemen for a return engagement. They will give an update on Cedille's commitment to recording superb classical music performers in the Chicago area and on music not commonly available in recorded form, featuring recordings released since their visit three years ago. As was the case with their previous visit, we are surely in for some sonic treats.

Cedille Records, converted in 1994 to a nonprofit organization known as the Chicago Classical Recording Foundation, raises funds and obtains grants from the Illinois Arts Council and Channel 11, as well as donations from private foundations and individuals. Started by Jim Ginsburg while he was a young law student at the University of Chicago, Cedille uses local talent of international performance caliber, ranging from solo performances on piano, organ, and violin to the Chicago Baroque Ensemble, light soprano Patrice Michaels, and the Chicago Chamber Musicians.

CDs will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Please invite your friends.

Society officer elections for the current calendar also will be held.

## Last Month

**Gregg Straley** demonstrated his **Philips SACD1000** player, which was modified by Stan Warren and cryogenically treated. It was compared against an identical unit in stock form which had been cryogenically treated. Due to difficulty in closely matching levels, no conclusive results could be firmly reached, although the general preference was for the modified player. The remainder of the system consisted of Gregg's Audiomat integrated amplifier driving **Roman Cichy's** Dunlavy SC-IV speakers, with Gregg's homebrew cabling throughout and various tweaks. Thanks to Gregg, Roman, and others including Jeff Kenton who helped.

Brief highlights of the recent Consumer Electronics Show and THE Show were given.

## Future Meetings

March 16th - to be announced.

By the time you read this, the Society executive committee will have met to discuss and plan the meeting schedule. If there is a topic, presentation, or other activity which interests you, please bring it up at our meetings, or speak with club officers.

Chicago Audio Society, P.O. Box 313, Barrington IL 60011, tel. (847) 382-8433

website: [www.chicagoaudio.org](http://www.chicagoaudio.org)

We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at the Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Heights IL. Nonmembers are welcome (first meeting is free, otherwise \$5 fee or \$40 annual dues). CAS is a volunteer organization of audio and music enthusiasts dedicated to having fun. Our constitution and bylaws are available on our website or in printed form upon request.

## The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

February is Black History Month which provides the perfect excuse, as if one was needed, to review Cedille Records' Volumes II and III of their African Heritage Symphonic Series, CDR90000 061 and CDR90000 066. The music presented on these two discs shouldn't frighten any lovers of classical music. All of the works are tonal and in some cases downright conservative.

A perfect example is George Walker's *Lyric for Strings* which is not only beautiful but also holds the distinction of being the last music heard on WNIB before it signed off the air. Adolphus Hailstrock's *An American Port of Call* and *Epitaph For A Man Who Dreamed* deserve to be heard because they are good. Both of these composers appear in Volume II. If for no other reason, Volume III is worth acquiring for Michael Abels' *Global Warming*. I went in kicking and fighting but was totally won over by this music. All I will tell you is that after a rather somber beginning, it develops into Irish and Middle Eastern dance tunes and is a hell of a good time. The remainder of this volume is up to the high standards of this series. I especially enjoyed William Banfield's *Essay For Orchestra*.

It's important that new music is performed and recorded. It's even more important that good new music be performed and recorded. This is good new music. Cedille Records, Paul Freeman, and the Chicago Sinfonietta are to be congratulated on a job well done.

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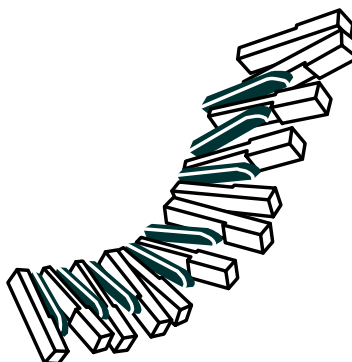
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## Topics for Debate

A couple of online discussions that caught the eye...

Do you treat your CDs? If so, with what? A chemist recently warned to not use Windex or other ammonia-based cleaners on CDs, as they damage the polycarbonate coating.

(Although the following is slightly edited, "significant other" may be freely substituted. Equal opportunity :-)

*How many audiophiles have come home with an expensive component and told their wife they bought it for practically nothing? Only to have paid for it out of their private stash? How many audiophiles have secretly installed a new "toy" in their audio system thinking their wife wouldn't notice? My old girlfriend thought anything beyond a boombox was excessive. Whenever I would upgrade my system, I would come up with some far fetched tale(lie). Would love to hear your story.....*

## Dues Reminder - Final Notice

Dues are due for 2003 and remain at \$40, which includes refreshments at meetings and all other member benefits. Please take care of this as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. The mailing address is indicated on the bottom of the preceding page. Dues may also be paid at this month's meeting.