

MEETING NOTICE - Sunday, February 15th, 2 PM - 5 PM

Arlington Heights Historical Society
Arlington Room, 110 W. Fremont
Arlington Heights, IL

For directions go to:

<http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

2009 DUES ARE DUE!!!

Thanks to all who paid dues at the January meeting.

As we enter our 16th year (!) there has never been a dues increase and with your support we hope to keep it that way!

Great meetings, great guests, great music, your fellow audiophiles, and free refreshments for about the cost of a quarter pounder with cheese per month!

\$40 Annual Dues-Please bring to the meeting or if you are unable to attend checks can be made out to Chicago Audio Society and mailed to:

**Chicago Audio Society
P.O. Box 7281
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089**

Thank you!

FEBRUARY MEETING

We are very pleased to have Roger Sanders of Sanders Sound Systems (<http://www.sanderssoundsystems.com/>) present his new 10b Hybrid Electrostatic Loudspeaker with bass crossover/amplifier as well as his latest line stage and amplifiers. Roger Sanders has been designing electrostatic speakers since 1974 and in addition to numerous articles on electrostatic speakers, authored The Electrostatic Design Cookbook published by Audio Amateur in 1993.

Our thanks to our member John Burke Gallagher for arranging to have Roger Sanders and his equipment on hand. The speaker features 98 DB efficiency, bass response -2 db at 24 Hz, and an arc-proof design that can handle the output of any home amplifier. The following equipment will be on hand:

10b Electrostatic Speaker

(http://www.sanderssoundsystems.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=121)

The 10b includes an electronic crossover & 600wpc @4ohms amplifier for the bass module

Preamplifier

http://www.sanderssoundsystems.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=48&Itemid=126

And two ESL Monoblock Amplifiers

http://www.sanderssoundsystems.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=46&Itemid=124 for the panels, >800 wpc @ 8ohms and stable into a load of less than 1 ohm.

For the source an **Ayre C-5xe universal stereo player**

http://www.ayre.com/products_detail.cfm?productid=13

This is a unique opportunity to meet with one of the leading designers of electrostatic speakers and hear a new product that has generated a lot of buzz at both Rocky Mountain Audio Fest and CES. Do bring your favorite music, especially new "finds" with you. All audio disk formats play on the Ayre.

See you all this Sunday!

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

We compared the sound of the Benchmark PRE DAC-1 and the Grace M-902 preamp/dacs, both of which have attracted significant attention in recent months. Our thanks to Sam Rodgers of Sweetwater Sound (a large pro audio supplier-www.sweetwater.com) for supplying the 2 units. Our thanks to our member Mark Malboeuf for coordinating this effort and supplying the associated system consisting of the following equipment:

- Arcam AVR300 (amp for Sapphires and crossover to subs)
- Audio Concepts Sapphire XL Speakers
- Hsu VTF-3 Mk III subwoofer
- Hsu VTF-2 (2nd subwoofer)
- Cambridge Azur 840C (used as a transport with pre/dacs)

Overall preferences appeared to favor the Grace M902 with the Cambridge as transport over other combinations listened to at the meeting (Benchmark/Cambridge and Cambridge as a CD player). It's clear that all of these components represent excellent value and high performance. Our thanks to Sam Rodgers for making this available to us to listen to, when all too much audio equipment today is written about in magazines and the internet, but often not available to hear first hand for oneself in the real world.

HELP WANTED!

No this isn't a job posting, but if anyone is aware of a potential meeting location where we could have a secure permanent system setup please contact Rich Sacks at: pres@chicagoaudio.org . We are certainly pleased with our present location, but the advantages of having more permanent control over room acoustics and having a system in place would have obvious benefits for all of us. We would need space to seat 50+ people and good expressway access. Please let me know. Thanks!

The first volume of Chandos' proposed transversal of the orchestral music of Gustav Holst was just released when word of the death of conductor Richard Hickox, age 60, was announced. Bittersweet is an apt description because this project was off to a roaring start and now the world of classical music has lost a wonderful musician and will never hear what he might have accomplished.

As far as the actual disc goes with the exception of the ballet music from his opera 'The Perfect Fool' the remainder of the music was unknown to me. Actually that made this recording all the more fun because of the sense of discovery. 'The Golden Goose', 'The Lure', and 'The Morning of the Year' were considered failures when they premièred and have since languished in the background. Actually the music is very good, these were all ballets, and that had more to do with their lack of success than the music. The sound is first rate and I highly recommend this recording.

Next is John Corigliano's third symphony 'Circus Maximus'. Jerry Junkin conducts the University of Texas Wind Ensemble. If you like symphonic band music then you should love this disc. The composer attempts to make a musical parallel between the entertainments of ancient Rome and what now passes as entertainment for the masses in the 21st century. I won't try to describe the music except to say that it will give you and your system a workout.

Also included on the program are the Gazebo Dances which is the perfect tonic for what preceded them. For a moment it was like going back in time and listening to Frederick Fennell conduct the Eastman Wind Ensemble on Mercury but without the midrange shout. All in all a very good recording and heartily recommended.

The last disc up for your consideration is Vittorio Giannini Symphony No.4 and his Piano Concerto. Giannini belonged to that group of mid century American composers that included Walter Piston, David Diamond, William Schuman, Morton Gould, to name a few. If you are not familiar with Giannini or only know him from the recording of his Third Symphony by the Eastman Wind Ensemble on Mercury, then by all means get this recording.

Giannini had both feet planted in the 20th century but he never abandoned tonality or embraced the more radical elements of the period. This Naxos release with the Bournemouth Symphony and Daniel Spalding is a welcome addition to their American series.
