

The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

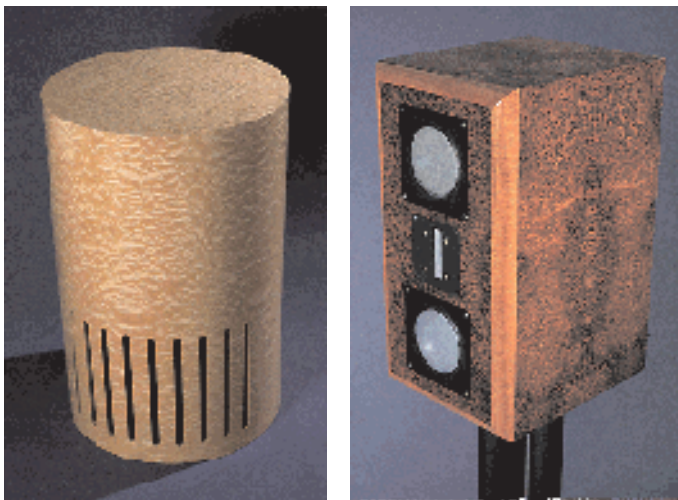
March 2002

Meeting Notice

Sunday, March 17th, 2:00 pm

John Huff

Huff Loudspeaker Co.



Never heard of this company, even though they've been around for years? From their website www.huffloudspeaker.com:

John Huff has been designing speakers for nearly 40 years. He studied E.E. at Georgia Tech. Subsequently he became a major label recording artist, staff songwriter, producer, studio musician, and recording engineer. He spent those 20 years listening to music live, then immediately through the playback system after recording it. Consequently he is experienced at detecting the coloration induced by music reproduction systems, much of which usually comes from the speakers. This professional experience in listening to

shadings of tonal accuracy has helped him in the quest to design the best speakers possible. The rest of the staff of engineers at HLC also have extensive histories in speaker design or as professional musicians.

The speakers he will be demonstrating include satellites using ceramic cone drivers and ribbon tweeters and subwoofers twin extremely long throw 12" woofers in a push - pull configuration for quick, tight, accurate bass.

Bring some CDs and records! (we'll be playing both and have some new Telarc SACDs to play as well)

Last Month

Matthew May gave a nice demonstration of his equipment, along with some history of how he got started in hifi and building and modifying gear. Wish I'd taken some photos to include here and post on the website, 'cause the stuff was cool looking, especially in a retro kind of way, and sounded good, to boot!

He brought the following equipment, all tube:

Eico HF-89 amplifier

Fisher 200B FM tuner

His own homebrew AM tuner

Dynaco PAS2 preamp

Dennis Anderson kindly brought his Ohm speakers which we've used many times before at meetings, and later in the meeting we hooked up a CD playback system Rich Sacks and Gregg Straley brought, with all the tweak "goodies".

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

website: www.chicagoaudio.org

We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at The Dance Building, 1330 Webford Ave., Des Plaines 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 at <http://www.chicagoaudio.org> or in printed form upon request.

In what sounded a little like an "audiophile confession" about to enter a "12 step program", Matthew talked about his entry into audio when he bought the Eico amplifier kit as a teenager and how it immediately sounded much better than his parents' system. He also related his joy when his parents gave him the Fisher tuner as a gift, enabling him to listen to good FM broadcasts on WFMT and other stations as he has done for many years. We also heard about his AM tuner and his Dynaco preamp, the latter which he put together early on as well.

Thanks to Matthew's knowledge of tube audio and radio broadcasting and modest yet infectious enthusiasm he shares with others, the meeting was a big success!

Last Month's Playlist:

Please note: The purpose of this list is to provide ample information about recordings played at meetings, especially so people can actually seek out and purchase them. I publish as much information as is provided (a song title is a lot more interesting and meaningful than "cut 3"). It *really* helps when things are written *neatly*, preferably *printed* - do we have that many physicians in the group?

Album Title \ Cut \ Artists \ Label & No.

Tonite Could Be the Night \ Tonight I Fell in Love \ The Velvets, The Tokens \ Rhino Doo-Wop Volume 4, R171463

Remember When \ Shimming Shimming Ko Ko Bop \ The Earls, Little Anthony and the Imperials \ Rhino (same as above)

Master of Chinese Percussion \ Yim Huh-Man (?) \ Marco Polo 8.225942 HDCD

The Rivet \ cut 5 \ DJO Neeme Jarvi \ Chandos 9154

Charlie Byrd \ cut 8, 9 \ Charlie Byrd \ Laserlight 15 298

Rosemary Clooney Sings Ballads \ cut 3 \ Rosemary Clooney \ ?

Narada Sampler (number?) \ cut 4 \ various \ Narada 70876

Dvorak Sym. 9 \ 1st Movement \ Vienna Philharmonic Orch., Kertesz \ London Weekend Classics 417 678-2

Rumble - Best of Link Wray \ Rumble \ Link Wray \ Rhino R2 71222

Catholic Latin Classics \ Panis Angelicus \ Richard Proulx \ GIA CD-486

Jazz \ 'Nobody' and 'We Shall Be Happy' \ Ry Cooder \ Warner Bros. 3197-2

Handel Coronation Anthems \ Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened \ \ Archiv 410 030-2

Organ Fireworks \ Trumpet Tune in D Major \ Christopher Herrick \ Hyperion CDA66121

Next Month

April 21st - to be announced.

Shows



Information from www.classicalcollector.com:

Saturday, May 18, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Holiday Inn Northshore

5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie

\$2 Admission - Free Ample Parking

This is the 15th year for the Midwest Classical Record Show. Dealers from across the country will be displaying 1000s of collectible classical LPs, hard-to-find CDs, and reel-to-reel tapes. For further information about participating as a seller or buyer, contact Jerry Canter at 847-864-3981.

Midwest Audiofest

Website: www.midwestaudiofest.com

Lima, Ohio

Friday and Saturday, March 29th and 30th

Location is the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center. Hotel rooms are available at the Wingate Inn, attached to the Civic Center, phone 419-228-7000.

Description from the website:

This meeting was (hastily) conceived to bring together people who relish horn and high efficiency systems, as well as tube amps. In short order, it has expanded to include showcases for companies building things such as tube amplifiers, horn and high efficiency speaker systems, and a wide range of do-it-yourself endeavors. Horn and other high efficiency speaker systems are emphasized, but if your a solid-state, non-horn kinda audionut, come on, as there will be lots of different systems in evidence. Besides, we're a friendly bunch!! If you are a do-it-yourselfer who has labored to bring your vision to light, come on! We prefer to be inclusive towards fellow audiophiles, whatever their passion, as opposed to exclusive.

"The operative word here seems to be Firepower; there won't be many polite, wimpy speaker systems at this event! We have one operating maxim at this event; Have Fun, and bring your gear! This event is a not-for-profit event for people who have the goal of pursuing great audio reproduction, and we don't want to lose sight of the fun factor!! Plan to join us, whether you're a neophyte do-it-yourselfer, or an industry expert. Yeah, I know, Lima Ohio ain't Vegas, but then, I guess there'll just be less to distract us from having a good time...! Check this site often for frequent updates to schedules and such. Please register via email as soon as possible so we can better plan. Thanks, see you in March!

Event closed Sunday for Easter!

Dr. Bruce Edgar, Classic Audio Reproductions, Parts Express, tmh audio, deHavilland, DIYCable/Adire Audio, Swap table area, Tube amp "shoot-out", Mystery system, Live music breaks, Chicago area horn club, DIY Seminars, etc.

Further information may be obtained by visiting the website or calling Mike Baker at 800-221-6688 x112.

\$10 admission. Email mike@allannott.com to register.

Concert News

Bluegrass Music Concert

If you have never attended a folk concert at The Maple Street Chapel, here's a great concert to correct that shortcoming. Saturday, March 23, at 7:30 PM. The Clearwater Connection will perform their brand of Appalachian and bluegrass music. The group is made up of former Old Town School of Folk Music instructor Bill Hansen and his partner Doris Sotirellis. I will be attending this concert (proof that I listen to more than just classical) and hope to see some of you there.

The Maple Street Chapel is located at the southwest corner of Main & Maple Streets in downtown Lombard. For more information contact George Brown at 630-0964-4871 or visit the web site at www.tccafe.com/msc

Tickets are available at the door. \$10 per person.

-- Len Cronin

John Renbourn



This is a RARE appearance by this gifted British folk musician, and if you are at all inclined, do not miss it!

Among his accomplishments since his birth in 1944, John Renbourn is a former member of **The Pentangle**

and has played and sung with other accomplished artists including Bert Jansch. He signed a recording contract with Shanachie Records in 1997 "to do five CDs, the first to be recorded in Ireland with a choice of outstanding players, giving me the chance to combine traditional themes with less traditional approaches to arrangement. It was an ideal situation and the result "Traveller's Prayer" came out early in 1999."

Visit his website for plenty of great info:
www.johnrenbourn.com

OK, here's the gig:

Saturday, April 20th

Luther's Blues, 1401 University Ave., Madison, WI

(608) 257-1184 for tickets

www.luthersblues.com

Let's get a group together to go. Our friend Marty DeWulf is very likely to drive up from Kewanee, Illinois to attend (he was seriously considering driving to Houston, Texas for Renbourn's performance a few days earlier until he learned about the Madison date), I imagine with his wife Laura, so perhaps we could meet them there. Now doesn't that sound like fun? I definitely plan to go and will be happy to take your money (!) if you'd like me to order a ticket or two for you (soon - this will sell out fast once it's posted on Luther's Blues website). See me at this Sunday's meeting if interested!

The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

Among my favorite composers of the 20th century is Ralph Vaughan Williams, and probably no conductor had a longer association with his music than Sir Adrian Boult. EMI (EMI 5 73924 2) has released his complete cycle of the and symphonies along with many of Vaughan Williams major orchestral works in

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a mid priced box. This is the same set that has spent years on the Absolute Sound list of super disks. The set contains eight CDs at about seven dollars a disk this collection is a steal. Start out by playing the Second Symphony 'A London Symphony' and you will understand why this was used as a demonstration disk in the seventies and eighties. This is great music, beautifully played and recorded. Highly recommended.

Naxos has released volumes 2 & 3 of the orchestral works of Samuel Barber. Included on these disks is the Cello And Violin Concerts, 'Adagio for Strings', and the 'Medea' and 'Souvenirs' ballet suites along with some shorter pieces. This is some of his best music given good performances and decent sound. There is probably no better introduction to his music than these two disks, and at the price that Naxos charges, this should be a real no brainer.

As I mentioned above, the Barber disks are recorded in decent sound. If it's spectacular sound you're after, then try Naxos 8.553350, Bohuslav Martinu's Symphonies Nos. 3 & 5 conducted by Arthur Fagen and the National Symphony Orchestra of the Ukraine. I was in Tower Records Schaumburg store while this music was playing, and two people asked the sales clerk what was playing and then proceeded to buy the disk. This is not the music of Vaughan Williams or Barber but it is accessible, and as I said, the recording is spectacular. Give this music a try, I think you will like it.

Until next month, good listening.

Society Business

Last month's meeting included voting for officers. The incumbents were reelected, or at least not impeached, so either we're doing something right, or nobody else wants the job! Tell us what you'd like the group to do, throw in your two cents' worth, and by all means get involved and have fun.