

The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the
Chicago Audio
Society March 2004

Meeting Notice

Sunday, March 21" - 2:00pm to 5:00pm
Grommes-Precision
Albert Schippits, Alan Kimmel



Albert Schippits of **Grommes-Precision** will speak, as will designer **Alan Kimmel**. As many of you know, Alan has been a member of our club for some time and also has been involved with Welborne Labs over the years. A few years ago Alan brought a pair of amps affectionately known as the 'Grape Ox' amps which sounded very good. Alan has been working with Grommes on their current lineup. Many of you know Albert from his being in the local retail scene.

The equipment for the meeting will be a Revox E-426 standard redbook CD player, their (60 watt) model 360 mono blocks, and Joseph Audio RM 25si MKII's. The cabling will be Nordost Valkyrie balanced interconnect and speaker wire. Amp stands from May Audio (carbon fiber).

The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

On occasion I've been asked to do a column on my favorite music. Well, this will be that column. First some ground rules, all the music must have been written after 1900. Second, all the music must be currently available. Third, this is music that not only do I recommend but it is music that I love and return to

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

www.chicagoaudio.org

We usually meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at the Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Hts., IL. Nonmembers are welcome (\$5 fee per meeting, or join - \$40 annual dues/\$50 with printed newsletters). 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.

over and over again. The following list is in no particular order. So let's get started.

A little background about the following pieces. Four were written during World War II, although one of those pieces bears no direct connection to the war and the others are from the early 20th century.

1. David Diamond's Second Symphony, soon to be available on Naxos 8.559154, Gerard Schwarz, conductor, Seattle Symphony. If I could vote for the greatest American symphony, this would probably get my vote. Written in 1942 it perfectly reflects the times and always brings a lump to my throat. Excellent remastering by Naxos of this early 1990's Delos recording.

2. Walter Piston's Second Symphony, Naxos 8.559161, Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony. This work was written in 1943 is a more abstract commentary on the events of the period. I've always felt that it is more a description of the American people as

opposed to a description of the war. Again an excellent remastering by Naxos of a Delos recording.

3. Vaughn Williams Symphony No. 5, Sir John Barbirolli and the London Symphony, EMI 724305065110 2. Another war symphony this time with a British perspective. One of the great musical works of the 20th Century with a third movement that could melt many a cold heart. Good sound and a classic performance.

4. Bela Bartok, Concerto for Orchestra, RCA 09026-61504-2, Fritz Reiner and the Chicago Symphony. One of the great recordings of all time, all other performances of this work are judged against Reiner's performance. The recording could use a little more base but with that lone exception this is one of those wonderful recordings with great music, performance and sound.

5. A tie between Puccini's Madama Butterfly and Turandot both on Living Stereo reissues. Let me just say that I love both of these operas and that they make the perfect introduction to the world of opera for the newcomer. Butterfly may be the best recording of an opera ever made with an incredible performance by Leontyne Price as the forsaken Butterfly. The recording of Turandot may not quite be in the same league as Butterfly but it is still very good with what might be the best overall performance of this opera on record.

6. I'm going to mention one more piece that unfortunately is no longer in the Catalog. Aaron Jay Kernis Second Symphony on Argo 448 900-2 is a great piece of new music by my favorite contemporary American composer.

If you are unfamiliar with any of the above works, I hope you will give them a try. If nothing else it should show the listener that not all 20th Century music is dissonant abstraction.

Last month

Larry Musial demonstrated his bookshelf speakers using Morel 168 woofers and Morel Supreme 110 tweeters in a MTM transmission line alignment, driven by a McCormack DNA-1 amp and a McCormack TCL-1 passive preamp, and later by a modified Cayin ST30 integrated tube amp. Source was a Marantz CD-67., modified by Larry Hepinstall. After some adjustments of speaker positions, the sound was very good. Larry passed around measurements he had taken of the speakers. All in all an informative, enjoyable presentation.

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Next month

April 18, 2004 - It looks as though we will have Von Schweikert DB 100 speakers to demonstrate, which we imagine will sound good in our meeting room and which should be of interest to high efficiency speaker fans.

We have some other exciting presentations and demos scheduled for the coming months.

Members are invited to request topics and welcome to participate any way they wish – please speak with Society officers.

Society Business

The CAS Executive Committee recently met to discuss a variety of topics as well as future meetings.

One item of discussion was possibly holding get togethers at people's homes during July and August, instead of holding regular meetings. Attendance in the summer months is often low, yet interest continues. We would like to discuss this at this month's meeting so

members can express their thoughts and we can vote on it.

To help our treasury and since we haven't been using them, we will be selling some items of equipment in our possession which have been donated to the Society. Feel free to come and check them out and make an offer if you are seriously interested.

<i>President</i> Brian Walsh	<i>Vice President</i> Rich Sacks	<i>Treasurer</i> Reed Rehorst	<i>Secretary</i> Bill Sweet
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