

Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, March, 2005

Meeting Notice-Sunday, March 20th, 2:00PM-5:00PM

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

REMINDER-PLEASE BRING \$40 ANNUAL 2005 DUES IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YET. REED WILL CHEERFULLY ACCEPT CASH OR CHECK. THANKS!

Joshua Bizar from Music Direct (<http://www.musicdirect.com>) will be our guest this Sunday. They will be bringing a complete system made up of their component lines and will be demonstrating BOTH ANALOG and DIGITAL (in other words bring your favorite record and CD). Plus they will be demonstrating both CD and SACD, as well as possibly a few tweaks. And some of the latest and highly regarded music and audiophile recordings will be on hand. Equipment details are still being worked out, but we will probably have Music Fidelity OML-2 speakers, and electronics will likely include Edge Electronics or PS Audio. Many of you may have seen their catalog-here is an opportunity to experience some of the new equipment and recordings first hand. Be there-and bring a friend.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Robert Schult and Steve Rothermel of Ridge Street Audio Designs (<http://www.ridgestreetaudiodesigns.com/>) from La Porte, Indiana presented their new Sason Ltd granite loudspeaker (http://home.comcast.net/~ridgestreetaudio/Features_Overview.html) and Poiema!! Signature line of cables. Both talked about the personal meaning or music to them and how Ridge Street Audio and their products evolved. The Poiema!! / Poiema!! Signature line of cabling was partnered to Greg Straley's Stan Warren modified Adcom CDP, Stan Warren Passive Line Stage and Stan Warren Stereo Power Amp driving a pair of the Sason Ltd. Granite loudspeakers.

There was much favorable feedback about the sound at the meeting. Certainly this has to be the most rigid, inert cabinet seen (and not heard) to date! All the cables (interconnects, speaker wires, and AC cords) were well crafted and obviously contributed to the fine sound we obtained in a short time. Our thanks to Robert and Steve for an engaging and enjoyable presentation. And thanks to Gregg Straley for providing all the electronics.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, April 17th--Ralph Karsten and Atma-Sphere (<http://www.atma-sphere.com/>) rejoin us in April! System details to follow. Mark your calendars! A notice of this meeting has been sent to Stereophile.

Sunday, May 15th--Brian Bienfang from Signature Tech in Milwaukee area will be presenting their lines of speakers and electronics. Their website is: (<http://www.signaturetech.com>) More details to follow!

CLASSICAL CORNER by Len Cronin

Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine. The Wound-Dresser. Berceuse elegiaque. Shaker Loops * Marin Alsop, cond., Bournemouth SO * Naxos 8.559031

Naxos may have provided the perfect introduction to the music of American composer, John Adams. The disc opens with his post-minimalist A Short Ride in a Fast Machine maybe his best known work. next up is The Wound-Dresser, his putting to music the poetry of Walt Whitman's civil war experiences as a nurse. A great introduction to the genre of the art song. Then comes Berceuse elegiaque, an orchestration of a work by Busoni. The disc ends with one of his best minimalist works, Shaker Loops. The performances are good and well recorded. Perhaps not

the best sound that Naxos can offer but more than passable. If you have never given the music of John Adams a try, this is the place to start.

Sculthorpe: Earth Cry. Memento mori. Piano Concerto. From Oceania. Kakadu * James Judd, cond., New Zealand So, William Barton (didgeridoo), Tamara Anna Cislowska (piano) * Naxos 8.557382

Peter Sculthorpe may be Tasmania's most famous composer. I'm sure there will be several jokes made about that statement and about the fact that William Barton is one of Australia's most notable (no pun intended) didgeridoo players and is featured in Earth Cry.

Actually this disc has been a very pleasant discovery. Many thanks to Fanfare and American Record Guide. The Adam's disc could only have been written by an American, likewise, this music could only have been written by someone from down under. This is music that can be soft and introspective one moment and loud and percussive the next moment. I hope that we can play some of this at the next meeting because its pretty hard to describe this wonderful music. The sound is first class. Far better than what you get from most of the major labels today. Highly recommended.