

# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

April 2002

## Meeting Notice

*Sunday, April 21st, 2:00 pm*

**Bruce Fetherling**

**Acoustic Dreams**



Bruce Fetherling and his partners at Acoustic Dreams ([www.acousticdreams.net](http://www.acousticdreams.net)) will visit to demonstrate the superb products they distribute in the US: Lumen-white loudspeakers (we'll hear the top of the line Whitelights pictured above, \$38,000/pr, which just received a rave review in *The Audiophile Voice*),

VAIC Audio and Mastersound tube electronics, gear from dCS and Shunyata, and their own make of equipment racks. Plan to attend!



Bring some music to play!

## Last Month

**John Huff** visited to show off the Huff Loudspeaker Co. System One satellites and subs, to great effect. The satellites used were the Model Ones with the optional R2 ribbon tweeters (\$9990/pr), along with the Sub Ones (\$3490 to \$4390 ea., depending on finish).

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

The main (satellite) speakers were driven by a Jeff Rowland Model 12 amplifier, the subs by a Sunfire amplifier. The source used was a Philips SACD player, sorry I don't recall the model number. A CTC Blowtorch preamplifier completed the electronics.

The satellites employ drivers of very high quality, including ceramic cone drivers and Raven ribbon tweeters, the latter which are essentially flat to 35 kHz. You don't need dog ears to hear the difference these tweeters make. The drivers and components used are selected for their nonresonant, fast response, and their performance which tends to get out of the way of the music makes for long term listening pleasure. John's forty years' experience in the music, recording, and audio industries shows. The products speak for themselves and are well worth auditioning if you're in the market for high performance loudspeakers.

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### Last Month's Playlist

Will be published next month, due to lack of time.

### Next Month

May 19th - to be announced.

Classic Records will be visiting in June!

### Shows



Information from [www.classicalcollector.com](http://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.

### Concert News

Anybody who is interested in American concert music will want to be in attendance for the May 3rd performance of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Robert McDuffie will be the soloist in the Barber Violin Concerto and will share top billing with Copland's Third Symphony. Also on the program will be Michael Torke's music for The Color Blue.

If tickets are purchased in advance there will be a 15 percent discount. Prices range between 25 and 42 dollars. The box office may be reached at 847-888-4000. Hope to see you there.

-- Len Cronin

### The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

Some of you might remember a review I wrote of Richard Danielpour's 'Elegies', a symphonic song cycle that was based on the war letters of Lt. Charles Von Stade. After completion of 'Elegies' Danielpour became interested in the experiences of veterans from the WWII, The Korean and Viet Nam wars, this research resulted in 'An American Requiem'. I like the music of Richard Danielpour but I have felt that he has never realized his full potential until this piece. If you are interested in music of the 20th and 21st centuries give this music a chance.

The requiem is based on the Roman Catholic Requiem Mass. Interwoven in this framework are texts by American poets' such as Whitman, Emerson, Michael Harper, Hilda Doolittle, and an Afro-American spiritual. In general the Latin text are given to the chorus and English texts are taken up by the soloist.

Carl St.Clair conducts The Pacific Symphony Orchestra and Pacific Chorale with Stephine Blythe, mezzo-soprano, Hugh Smith, tenor, and Mark Oswald, baritone. The performance is heartfelt with Prof. Johnson

suppling spectacular sound. Reference Recordings 97CD. Five Stars.

Gustav Mahler wrote his Sixth Symphony while being obsessed with the subject of death. In general with the exception of his Ninth Symphony, this may be considered his darkest symphony. Some even consider it as an introduction to the 20th Century and all that it would become. This recording was made from performances in Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco on September 12 - 15, 2001. This is one of the great recorded performances of this symphony, hell, this may be the best. Yes, this recording perfectly reflects the events of September 11th and I would recommend this disk for that reason alone. But when you throw in the fact that this is a SACD recording that fully lives up to the fanfare. Then this becomes a no brainer. Michael Tilson Thomas leads the San Francisco Symphony in what I must consider an early favorite for a Grammy Award. By the way this is a hybrid disk that will play on all players. This may be order either through the Symphony at [www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org) or through Music Direct..

Until next month, good listening.

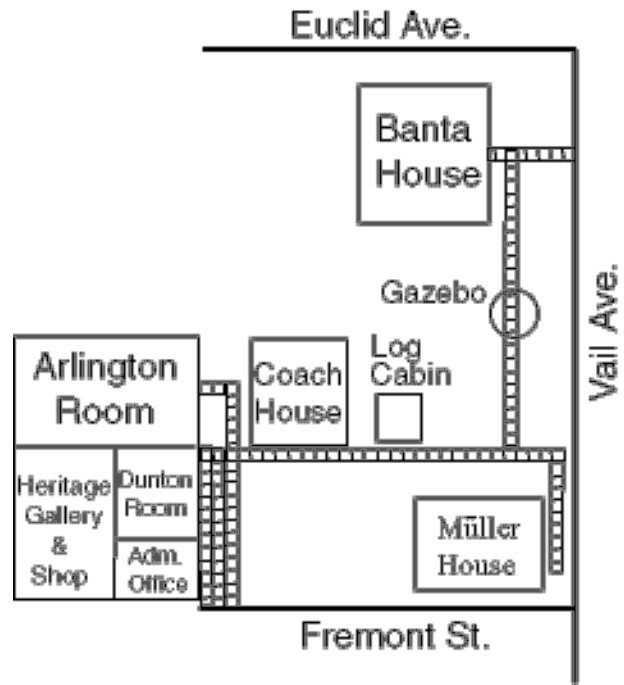
## Society Business

As discussed at past meetings, our group has grown, now to the point that we're outgrowing our meeting venue. In other words, space is getting a little tight.

Rather than limit the number of members, we have looked into alternate meeting locations. Rich Sacks did an extensive investigation and found one in particular which meets our needs. The CAS executive committee met last Sunday to discuss this, among other things, and we visited the facility after our get together. We were unanimously impressed and think you'll like it.

The venue is the Arlington Heights Historical Society, specifically the Arlington Room in the building at 110 W. Fremont St. in downtown Arlington Heights. You can see more information at <http://www.ahmuseum.org/AboutTheMuseum/Buildings/Buildings.htm>

Here is a layout of the grounds:



The link "Old Soda Pop Factory" shows a photo of the front of the building, also shown here:



The building is just west of the Arlington Heights Library, about two blocks north of the train station. By car you can get to it either via the Arlington Hts. Rd. exit off I-90 (go north about 3 miles or so) or via the Euclid Ave. exit off Rt. 53 (go east, also about 3 miles or so).

The room is quite a bit larger, 45 ft. by 24 ft. with about a 10 ft. ceiling, with carpet over concrete slab. Acoustics appear to be excellent.

Cost will be a bit more than we're paying now, but the group size allows this.

We anticipate starting to meet there in September and need to vote on it at this month's meeting.

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