



# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

April 2003

## Meeting Notice

*Sunday, April 27th, 2:00 pm*

**Brian Richardson**

**Baroque Music**



Brian is a very active member of the Society and a serious classical music enthusiast, having significant interest in music of the Baroque era. In his refreshingly upbeat way, Brian will present a tour of music of this genre, with something for everyone, whether novice or seasoned enthusiast. It should be a delightful, educational program.

Please invite your friends, and bring some CDs of this genre to play if you wish.

## Last Month

**Eric Heider** demonstrated the eAR Acoustic Reality monoblock amplifiers and the FronT-eAR preamplifier. Gregg Straley's Reimer Wind River GS speakers and modified Philips SACD 1000 player also were used. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the amplifiers use B&O ICEpower digital switching amplifier modules, along with power supplies of eAR's design, in cases of novel triangular and pyramidal shapes.

## Future Meetings

May 18th - to be announced at this month's meeting.

June 22nd - Steve Huntley of Great Northern Sound and Bill Eisen of Creative Cable Concepts, with Jud Barber of Joule Electra and Dr. Roger West of Sound Lab also attending and available to answer questions.

## The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

Some of you might remember me recommending several years ago a Naxos disk of music of the American Composer William Schuman. It contained, among other works, his seldom heard violin concerto as well as two of his most popular works 'New England Triptych' and the 'Variations on 'America''. Well, as much as I liked that disk, Albany Records has just come up with a recording that must be considered in the running for recording of the year.

Troy566 is a hybrid SACD that contains 'Credendum'. the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra and the Symphony No. 4. The recording features David Alan Miller conducting the Albany Symphony Orchestra with John McBabe featured in the the piano concerto. Like most good composers, Schuman did not like to talk about his music, rather he believed the music should speak for itself. Thus there is no program or hidden meanings. Credenum, which means in Latin "that which must be believed", was commissioned by the the Department of State dedicated UNESCO. That was about as close as Schuman ever came to a hidden meaning. Its scored for a large orchestra which Mr.

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

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

We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at the Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Heights 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 or in printed form upon request.

Schuman puts through its paces. The piano concerto contains strong jazz elements and couldn't be farther from the romantic tradition. The Symphony No. 4 was premiered on January 22, 1942 and reflects the period in which it was written. I especially like this piece. These works were recorded in the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, in Troy, New York, which is one of the best halls for recording in the States. Both the CD and the SACD layers are top notch. To be honest I bought this disk for the music; the sound is an added bonus.

Speaking of American music, Naxos has made a licensing agreement to release a number of recordings made by Delos with Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra playing the music of various American composers. These were recordings made in the late 80's and early 90's and were highly regarded, and rightfully so. The first releases in the series will be on April 15th. The disks to be released are Symphonies Nos. 2 & 6 by David Diamond, Symphonies Nos. 2 & 4 by Walter Piston, and The Fifth Symphony by Paul Creston. I highly recommend the Piston and Diamond symphonies, those are two of my all time favorites that I have returned to time and time again. Don't pass up these recordings.

Until next month, good listening.

**Edgar Villchur talks at Etymotic**

*We recently learned of this and thought some members would be interested. To the best of our knowledge there is no cost to attend these events.*

These two talks by well-known audio pioneer Edgar Villchur are open to AES members and others. They should be of interest to anyone who wants to know more about the development of modern high fidelity or of modern hearing aids. Ed Villchur has played a leading role in both those fields.

The April 30th talk will double as the first portion of one session of a continuing class on Hearing Aid Electroacoustics. The May 1 talk is stand-alone, and

*President*  
 Brian Walsh  
 (847) 382-8433  
 bpwalsh@speakeasy.net

*Vice President*  
 Rich Sacks  
 (847) 843-2554  
 richsacks@attbi.com

*Treasurer*  
 Reed Rehorst  
 (847) 913-9336  
 iguana\_love\_you@msn.com

*Secretary*  
 Bill Sweet  
 (847) 593-7790  
 spindrif@xnet.com

is a slightly enhanced version of a recent AES paper by Mr. Villchur.

The Etymotic Research classroom is across the parking lot from Etymotic Research, and also can be entered from the front at the Higgins Road entrance, which can be found about 1/2 mile west of Busse Road.

History of Dynamic Loudspeakers  
 Edgar Villchur

6:00pm May 1, 2003, 30 minutes + Q&A

Etymotic classroom

1012 Higgins Rd., Elk Grove Village

Villchur not only wrote the book on high-fidelity sound reproduction (literally), he himself created much of it: Acoustic Suspension (AR-1), dome tweeter (AR-3 and descendants), the first turntable free of audible rumble. He published some 80 papers on high fidelity before turning his attention to hearing aids. You are welcome to hear his comments on everything including monster cable.

Lecture: High Fidelity in Hearing Aids  
 Edgar Villchur

6:00pm April 30, 2003, 45 minutes + Q&A

Etymotic classroom

1012 Higgins Rd., Elk Grove Village

After a notable career that included the development of the acoustic suspension loudspeaker and the dome tweeter, Villchur turned his attention to hearing aids. The result of his research was the development of the first multiband compression hearing aid, with a demonstration of its improved performance for hearing impaired subjects. His published papers changed a second industry. Come hear his analysis of the whole fidelity problem. Attendees will be given a copy of Villchur's advice on good writing.