

The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the
Chicago Audio Society
April 2004

Meeting Notice

Sunday, April 18th – 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Rusty Taub of Von Schweikert

Rusty is East Coast sales manager for Von Schweikert and will bring the following:

VR-4 jr Reference Monitor \$3995, a smaller version of the VR-4 SE.
Db-99 MkII High Sensitivity Speaker \$7500

Designed for low wattage SET amps. Sensitivity of 98 to 99 dB measured in room, using one watt at one meter, 8 ohms nominal impedance, frequency response of 21Hz to 25kHz +/- 3dB.

Associated equipment brought by dealer Paul Lacey will include: Consonance SACD 1.0 tube CD player, Consonance Opera T-1 tube preamp, Consonance M500 300B monoblocks, Marsh a400s power amp, and Acoustic Zen Cable.

Bring music to play.

The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

Jennifer Higdon

Concerto for Orchestra; City Scape

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Robert Spano, Conductor

Telarc SACD 80620

Gramophone magazine describes Jennifer Higdon as an American populist composer in the tradition of Barber, Copland, Diamond, Hanson, and Piston (you should know that I wouldn't forget Piston) and any number of American composers that had fallen out of favor with the powers that be in the fifties, sixties, and seventies. It appears that the tide is turning, and Jennifer Higdon is one of the leading proponents of the new populism.

What you get with this release from Telarc is music that is big, often splashy, rhythmic, and full of invention. Oh, don't worry, there are actually melodies that you can sink your teeth into.

The Concerto for Orchestra opens the disc and like Bartok's concerto it too is in

five movements. This is a wonderfully virtuosic piece that gives the Atlanta players a chance to show off their metal. As good as this piece is City Scapes, a three part musical description of Atlanta, may even be better. The middle movement at times can remind one of the music of Takemitsu or Vaughan Williams (and you wonder why I like this composer) and yet it is never an imitation of other composers music. The outer movements of City Scape are more up tempo and will give your system a proper workout. Telarc gives us a very good recording but you may want to turn up the volume a little higher than normal in order to hear this recording at its best. By the way, Jared is the one who told me to play a Telarc a little higher than normal.

In closing this is a beautiful recording of new music that one does not usually hear from a major label. Thank you, Telarc and Robert Spano, for a job well done.

Last month

Albert Schippits and Alan Kimmel of

Grommes-Precision spoke and demonstrated their Model 360 60 watt monoblock amplifiers driving Joseph Audio RM 25si MKII speakers, along with a Revox E-426 standard redbook CD player and Nordost Valkyrie balanced interconnect and speaker wire. Amp stands from May Audio (carbon fiber) were used.

Next month

May 16, 2004 – to be announced.

Society Business

At last month's meeting we discussed possibly holding get togethers at people's homes during July and August, instead of holding regular meetings. We will take a vote on it at this month's meeting.

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