



The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

June 2001

Special Events Notice

No regular meeting at the Dance Building this month. Instead, we have a special get together planned.

Sunday, June 24th, 1:00 pm

Manufacturer Visit: TLG Acoustical Design

4900 W. Bloomingdale Ave., Chicago

See and hear the unusual horn speakers made right here in Chicagoland. TLG is a division of Advantage Cutting & Gasket, which makes gaskets for speaker driver manufacturers such as Eminence and Pyle. Using the same computer controlled (CNC) machines, they cut layers of MDF (medium density fiberboard) and glue them together to form some unique looking horn speakers. Back in May '99, a week before the HiFi '99 show (aka Stereophile show), a few of us visited their facility and heard their huge (about 9 ft. wide by 5 ft. high by 3 ft. deep, 2500 lbs.) stereo horn speaker, the Model 1. We'll hear some of their "smaller" speakers this time around, and it should be just as much fun!

Ken Platz, a young, enthusiastic, capable designer, continues to create interesting horn loaded speakers, some with conventional cone woofers, of very high efficiency and good sound quality. And being nice guys that they are, they're opening up their facility for us and even are supplying plenty of munchies. It doesn't get much better than that.

A map with directions is enclosed. Bring some CDs. See you there! Visit www.tlgacoustic.com on the web for a sneak peek at their products.

Also, another item of interest coming up soon:

Sunday, June 12th, 7:30 pm sharp

Seminar/Demonstration: ELP Laser Turntable

Marriott O'Hare (map enclosed)

Very few people have seen or heard either the ELP or the Finial (its predecessor) turntable, even though they have been a topic of curiosity by many for years. At the last minute we heard about them holding some demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles, so we sent them an email asking if they'd like to show it here. The result is a unique opportunity to see and hear what it's all about. Mr. Sanju Chiba, president of ELP in Japan, will be doing the demonstration and will answer all questions. Here's the schedule he sent:

7:30 - 8:00 History of Laser Turntable and its basic system

8:00 - 8:15 Functions of Laser Turntable

8:15 - 8:50 Demonstration

1) normal 33 rpm

2) normal 78 rpm

3) broken 78 rpm

4) warped 45 rpm

5) scratched 33 rpm

6) non-standard rpm (88 rpm)

7) big sound of cannon (33 rpm)

8:50 - 9:10 Comparative auditions of CDs transcribed by Needle and Laser

9:10 - 10:00 1) play back records brought by attendees

2) Questions and Answers

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website: 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 (\$5 fee, may be applied to \$30 annual dues, prorata). CAS is a volunteer, nonprofit 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.

Last Month

Mark Schifter and **Peter Madnick** made a memorable visit to demonstrate the **Perpetual Technologies** gear (the P-1A Digital Correction Engine and P-3A Digital to Analog converter, with a \$349 **Monolithic Sound** P3 Power Supply) as well as their **Swans Diva** speakers. And the **NIRO** 1000 Integrated Engine (80 watts per channel integrated amplifier) they used was interesting, to say the least. Here's a picture of it from their web site (www.niro.net):

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The P-3A is their \$799, 24-Bit 96KHz (optional 192KHz/DSD) Digital-to-Analog converter using the Crystal Semiconductor CS 4397 Super DAC along with the Crystal Semiconductor CS8420 sample rate converter chipset. Here's a picture of the P-3A from their web site (www.perpetualtechnologies.com):

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The P-1A is their \$1099 DSP-based resolution enhancement loudspeaker + loudspeaker/room correction system. That's quite a mouthful! What it is stated to do are the following four functions: (taken from their web site)

- Re-clock the input signal to remove jitter and other digital artifacts that harm imaging, stage width, and harmonic signal integrity.
- Utilizing hardware-based upsampling, and our unique DSP-based interpolation algorithm, the P-1A is able to take the current-generation 16-bit/44.1kHz CDs and output a true 24-Bit/96kHz result.
- Perform digital equalization of your loudspeakers.
- Perform complete digital equalization of your room. [When available, this will be a custom equalization code for your room that you download over the web through your computer to the P-1A; cost will be \$699.]

We heard the differences between the digital speaker equalization being on or off, easily switched from the front panel. The differences were obvious, and everyone seemed to prefer the equalized setting.

The P-1A looks almost identical to the P-3A.

The Swans Diva 6.1 speakers used for the demonstration sounded very good, especially when used with the P-1A speaker correction switched in. At \$1299 a pair they could easily be considered to be a bargain. Here's a photo from their web site (www.av123.com), along with their smaller Diva 4.1 (\$699/pr):

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Finally, a hearty thanks to Peter and Mark for a great show, and for giving away a ton of goodies (congratulations, winners!)

Divas 4.1 speakers Roman Cichy

P-1A John Brunner

P-3A

Gregg Straley

Digital cables (2)

Speaker correction measurement kits (5)

They also donated to the club the Diva 6.1 speakers as well as the P-1A and P-3A used for the demo. Very generous and much appreciated! (We couldn't talk them out of the \$9850 integrated amp.) These items are available for members to borrow - contact Rich or Brian if interested.

Future Months

We've got even more excitement on tap:

July 15 - John Kotches - "Clearing the Digital Fog"

September 16 - Sedrick Harris, Immedia (including Audio Physic, Lyra, and Herron). Great guy, a lot of fun. He really knows his classical vinyl, too.

October 21 - Audio Fair. Our fair held last September proved so popular, we're convinced people want to come back to buy and sell records, CDs, components, cables, tubes, speakers, etc. Location to be determined.

The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

What does the term Scandinavian music mean to you? If you are like most people, you will probably think of Sibelius, Carl Nielsen or Abba. There's a lot more to Scandinavian music, and beginning with this column I hope to introduce you to some less well known names from that part of the world.

Kurt Atterberg (1887-1974) was a romantic at heart, and there is no better introduction to his music than his Third Symphony written in 1914. The symphony is written in three movements titled "Sun Smoke," "Storm," and "Summer Night." As you may have guessed, this music is about the sea. The first and third movements are basically lyrical with some great climaxes thrown in for good measure. The second movement is a description of a storm, and this is about as good as it gets. Maybe only Britten and Debussy have caught the power of the sea as well as Atterberg. The performance is top notch, and the sound is spectacular. Throw in a very good recording of the composer's Sixth Symphony and you have a must

have disk. This recording is available on CPO 999 640-2.

While Kurt Atterberg was basically a romantic, Vagn Holmboe (1909-1996) was a modernist. His music was tonal (most of the time) and can be difficult to describe. His music was based on developing themes or motifs and transforms them into new themes or motifs. An excellent disk to serve as an introduction

is The Four Symphonic Metamorphoses (BIS 852). This rugged music and could easily describe the Danish homeland of the composer. Well worth investigating along with his eleven symphonies. Highly recommended.

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