

## Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, June, 2005

### Meeting Notice-Sunday, June 26th, 2:00PM - 5:00PM

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

Joe Jurzec of Jam 'n Audio ( <http://www.responseaudio.com/jamnaudio.htm>), a member and previous cohost at the meetings of SP Technologies speakers and Audiopoints products, will be demoing a system of his latest products consisting of:

Dynamic Audio One speakers from Daedalus Audio  
<http://www.daedalusaudio.com/>

Reference 8 100 watt monoblocks from NuForce <http://www.nuforce.com/>

SWL 9.0SE linestage from Modwright <http://www.modwright.com/>

Denon 3910 with Ultimate Truth Modifications <http://www.modwright.com/>

Empirical Design Interconnects and Speaker Cable <http://www.empiricalaudio.com/>

SP-3 and SP-004 Sistrum racks/platforms from Star Sound Technologies  
<http://www.audiopoints.com/>

For A/B comparison Joe is bringing a Mark Levinson No. 39 CD player. This is a great opportunity to hear some of the very latest products in all parts of the audio chain-preamp, amp, disc player source, and speakers. Look to the website links above for additional information. Be sure to bring along your favorite music-also the Denon 3910 plays all formats-CD, SACD, and DVD-Audio. Perhaps we may have a chance to compare the same recording on 2 different formats if someone brings them. Bring yourself, some music and perhaps a friend and enjoy! See you Sunday.

### MAY MEETING RECAP

Brian Bienfang and Rick Ellsworth from Signature Technologies (<http://www.signaturetech.com/>) brought the following system entirely of their own design, except for the Belles amplifier:

- 1 SRp-7g pre-amp
- 2 SRa-9m 200 watt mono block amplifiers
- 1 SRd-25 vacuum tube CD player
- 1 EC-1 electronic crossover
- 2 SRM-.7 loudspeakers
- 2 SRM-5.1 loudspeakers
- 1 BELLES 350 A reference sub-amp

With well over 500 watts per channel driving the dipole dynamic driver bass section load of the loudspeakers and 200 watt per channel tube monoblocks driving the rest of the range this system certainly didn't lack for power or headroom. A number of members commented when first seeing the light cloth covered dipole that they thought it was a Magneplanar-until they heard the bass!

Signature Technologies has been developing these products over the past 15 years as a personal audiophile effort of Brian's, which really came through in his presentation. I was impressed that the transformers in all the Signature Tech amplifiers are hand wound by

Dennis Hoyer, the only individual outside of the McIntosh factory ever authorized to build McIntosh transformers. The sound was powerful, engaging, and enjoyable. It's great to discover someone almost in our own backyard (Milwaukee area) doing all this. Our thanks to Brian and Rick for a great setup and meeting.

### **CLASSICAL CORNER by Len Cronin**

It's been three or four years since Naxos launched its American Classics, over that period I've reviewed many of them. So I thought that this might be a good time to come up with a short list of my favorites. So here goes.

#### **John Alden Carpenter Symphonies 1 & 2 ; Adventures in a Perambulator NSO of Ukraine / John McLaughlin Williams Naxos 8.559065**

Carpenter was a native of Park Ridge, Illinois and today might best be remembered for his Adventures in a Perambulator. Give his symphonies a try, they are well written, that come off as 20th Century romantic works.

#### **David Diamond Symphonies 2 & 4 Seattle SO / Gerard Schwarz Naxos 8.559154**

I have often spoken the praises for this music and recording. Symphony No. 2 may just be the great American symphony and No. 4 is a delight. Great introduction to the music of David Diamond.

#### **Michael Daugherty Philadelphia (Symphony # 3) / UFO / Evelyn Glennie, Percussion Colorado SO / Marin Alsop Naxos 8.559165**

Philadelphia Stories is the reason to purchase this release. Imagine Nelson Riddle, Henry Mancini, and Respighi all mixed together and That might give you an idea of what this music sounds like. This is great fun.

#### **Nicolas Flagello Symphony No. 1; Sea Cliffs; Theme, Variations and Fugue Slovak RSO / David Amos Naxos 8.559148**

Start with the Theme, Variation & Fugue and the other shorter works on this disc, this is music written in the last century that should be more often heard.

#### **Alan Hovhaness Symphony No. 22; Cello Concerto Janos Starker, cello Seattle SO / Alan Hovhaness & Dennis Russell Davis Naxos 8.559158**

All I can tell you is that if you are unfamiliar with the cello concert then go out and buy this disc, you will not regret it.

#### **George Frederick McKay Symphony for Seattle; Harbor Narrative NSO of Ukraine / John McLaughlin Williams Naxos 8.559052**

Wonderfully descriptive music, romantic at heart and well worth becoming familiar with.

#### **Walter Piston Symphonies Nos. 2 & 6 Seattle SO / Gerard Schwarz Naxos 8.559161**

One of my favorite composers. His 2nd Symphony is a masterpiece and receives a wonderful performance on this disc. This is on my desert island list.

**Ned Rorem Three Symphonies**  
**Bournemouth SO / Jose Serebrier Naxos 8.559149**

Best known for his songs this recording shows that Rorem could write orchestral music. Well written and a lot of fun.

William Schuman Violin Concerto; New England Triptych Philip Quint, violin / Bournemouth SO / Jose Serebrier Naxos 8.559083 Maybe the most percussive violin concerto that you will ever hear, along with a great Triptych. 'Chester' will give your system a workout.

**BEYOND THE MOZART EFFECT submitted by Len Cronin**

I recently saw this on the Audio Asylum and thought that you might get a kick out of it, Basically it takes the Mozart Effect and applies it to other composers:

**LISZT EFFECT:** Child speaks rapidly and extravagantly, but never really says anything important.

**RAFF EFFECT:** Child becomes a bore.

**BRUCKNER EFFECT:** Child speaks very slowly and repeats himself frequently. Gains reputation for profundity.

**WAGNER EFFECT:** Child becomes a megalomaniac. May eventually marry his sister.

**MAHLER EFFECT:** Child continually screams - at great length and volume - that he's dying.

**SCHOENBERG EFFECT:** Child never repeats a word until he's used all the other words in his vocabulary. Sometimes talks backwards. Eventually, people stop listening to him. Child blames them for their inability to understand him.

**BABBITT EFFECT:** Child gibbers nonsense all the time. Eventually, people stop listening to him. Child doesn't care because all his playmates think he's cool.

**DEBUSSY EFFECT:** Child murmurs and mumbles in a sensuous vocabulary that seems to go nowhere, with occasional spouts of fireworks and jazz puppetry.

**BACH EFFECT:** Child speaks in structurally perfect multiple voices, forwards, backwards, upside-down, augmented and diminished, solely for the glory of God.

**BERLIOZ EFFECT:** Child becomes a brilliant colorist, a drug addict, a stalker, and a worthless spouse.

**BRAHMS EFFECT:** Child develops extraordinary attachment to mother or mother surrogate.

**SHAW EFFECT:** Child compulsively counts, and cannot pronounce 'th's.

**IVES EFFECT:** the child develops a remarkable ability to carry on several separate conversations at once.

**GLASS EFFECT:** the child tends to repeat himself over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over again.

STRAVINSKY EFFECT: the child is prone to savage, guttural and profane outbursts that often lead to fighting and pandemonium in the preschool.

BRAHMS EFFECT II: the child is able to speak beautifully as long as his sentences contain a multiple of three words (3, 6, 9, 12, etc). However, his sentences containing 4 or 8 words are strangely uninspired.

ORFF EFFECT: the child delights in saying naughty things that no one notices because they are too busy arguing about the real middle high German Latin pronunciation.

(Courtesy J. Scull)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**!!!NOTE!!! BOTH THE JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS ARE AT MEMBERS' HOMES, NOT AT THE REGULAR ARLINGTON ROOM.** In September we resume meeting monthly at the Arlington Room at the Arlington Heights Historical Society.

**July** - Rick Berta Orland Park, IL At least 2 high-efficiency systems including a Lambda/PHY-HP setup.

**August** - Brian Richardson Arlington Heights, IL A multi-channel all-tube Magnepan SACD setup.

Specifics on these two meetings (dates, addresses, etc.) to follow soon.