

Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, June, 2006

Meeting Notice-Sunday, June 25th, 2:00PM-5:00PM

Arlington Heights Historical Society
Arlington Room
110 W. Fremont
Arlington Heights, IL

For directions go to: <http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

JUNE MEETING

Our member Gregg Straley will be hosting the June meeting demonstrating electronics from Dodd Audio (<http://www.doddaudio.biz/>) and speakers from GR Research (<http://www.gr-research.com/>). This system will be similar to one demoed by the two companies at last fall's Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. However, the new Dodd Audio tube preamp has not been shown before and we are among the first to hear it. The Dodd Audio electronics will consist of the new tube preamp which is battery powered with remote control and the 120 watt tube mono block amplifiers. Some features of the amplifiers include:

- Bandwidth from 13hz-40khz @ 1 db
- input imp. is 100k
- Gain is 26 db
- 1.5 volts input for full output
- 4 and 8 ohm taps
- All Cardas terminations
- Tube compliment: matched quad of EL-34 JJ's and 3- 5687's or variants of it.

There has been a lot of discussion about the Dodd Audio tube battery-powered preamp at AudioCircle that can be accessed at:

<http://www.audiocircle.com/circles/viewforum.php?f=17>

then scroll down the page to the Dodd Audio preamp link.

The GR Research speakers will feature an open baffle multiple woofer design and is available in kit form with all drivers and crossovers minus cabinets for \$900/pr. This is a great opportunity to hear new products from two fine independent companies that have developed loyal followings. See you there!

MAY MEETING RECAP

We were delighted to have Keith Herron from Herron Audio (<http://www.herronaudio.com/>) for the third time over the years. Those of you who had not met Keith before had the opportunity to find out what you had missed. Keith discussed his latest products and the design philosophy that goes into them both from an engineering and musical point of view. His website details much information.

We had both analog and digital sources on hand, as well as Keith Herron's wonderful on-site recordings. Joe Jurzec from Jam'n Audio (<http://www.jamnaudio.com/>) a local Herron dealer supplied the Audiopoints rack.

Keith Herron presented a similar system to the one demonstrated at the last Rocky Mountain Audio Fest consisting of the following:

- Herron Audio VTSP-2 Vacuum Tube Line Stage Preamplifier
- Herron Audio HL-1 Solid State Preamplifier
- Herron Audio M1 Solid State Monaural Power Amplifiers (150 watts each at 8 ohms, 275 watts each at 4 ohms)
- Herron Audio Interconnect Cables:
- Herron Audio VTPH-2 Vacuum Tube Phono Stage (prototype)
- Herron ESP-1 Speakers (latest prototype version)
- 3-1/2 way, infinite baffle, phase coherent design
- VPI Aries Turntable with JMW 12.5 arm
- Herron Modified Phillips 727 and 963SA CD Players
- DiMarzio Super M-Path Speaker Cables
- Equipment Rack: Audiopoints Sistrum Equipment Stand

The Herron speakers are an evolving version of his new Reference speaker which will probably go on the market next year. As is, the towers have 20Hz capability. Logistically we did not have the 18" sealed subwoofers on hand which augment the very low bass when the main speakers are moved into the room for best imaging and soundstage. Not that we were missing much!

A unique feature of the electronics we had the opportunity to compare was the built-in AC polarity switch on the amps and preamps. With a very full house on hand we had nice room treatment to go with a very fine system! A testimony to the great sound was the very low noise floor of people not talking during the presentation (thank you!).

Keith was very thorough in going through the engineering and musical criteria of the equipment and recordings, and I think it's safe to say we got to hear a lot of great music and no audio questions were left behind! Our thanks to Keith Herron, his wife, and Joe Jurzec for putting together a great meeting for us.

FUTURE MEETINGS

JULY - Sunday, July 16th Home meeting hosted by Lou Edelman. Audiophile ambience reproduction will be one of the main points at the meeting. More details to follow.

AUGUST - Details to follow soon.

SEPTEMBER - Sunday, September 24th (4th Sunday in September) Martin Logan. Yes, Martin Logan will be on hand demonstrating their latest top-end products. More details to follow!