



The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

July 2001

Meeting Notice

Sunday, July 15th, 2:00 pm

"Clearing the Digital Fog"

John Kotches

E-reviewer John Kotches (Secrets of Home Theater and High Fidelity, www.hometheaterhifi.com) will demonstrate and talk about in detail several digital playback formats. Standard 'redbook' 16/44 CD, DSD (SACD), DVD-A, Dolby digital, DTS, multi-channel, and whatever else is out there will be covered, he hopes. Here's a list of the equipment to be demonstrated (hopefully):

Speakers: Soundline Audio SL-2 (front) and SL-6-6 (center), Acoustat Spectra 22 (surrounds), SV 16-46CS subwoofers. John wanted to bring five Bose 901s but cancelled when he found out what they cost.

EMM Labs Switchman II 6-channel preamp

B&K Reference 30 home theater processor

Onkyo DV-5939 DVD-Audio player

Sony SCD-777 SACD player (hopefully)

Perpetual Technologies P-3A DAC with upsampling

John will have some 24 bit/192 kHz DVD-Audio recordings to play.

Bring your questions and recordings!

Last Month

There were two special events. On Tuesday, June 12th, 35 to 40 people showed up for the **ELP laser turntable** demonstration by

Mr. Sanju Chiba at the Marriott O'Hare. He was very happy with the level of interest and participation. Thanks to all who brought records to play! And we'd like to thank the folks at Quintessence Audio for providing and setting up the fine associated equipment (Avalon, BEL, Burmester, Audible Illusions, Wasatch).

And on Sunday, June 24th, nearly as many attended the open house demonstration at **TLG Acoustical Design** in Chicago of their wild looking (and sounding) horn speakers. We saw and heard the Series III speakers that resemble something out of a Batman movie as well as the redesigned Series IV speakers with large subwoofer towers, and a Series II (a "mini" version of their flagship Series I stereo horn system) was on static display. Thanks again to Ken Platz and the other friendly folks at TLG for yet another great time, including an interesting tour of the "lab" upstairs where they try all kinds of things and still have some pieces of the Platinum Air Pulse speaker cabinets they made. Horn aficionados might do well to keep their eyes and ears on this company.

Future Months

August 19 - Music. Bring CDs and vinyl to play, and get to hear new music.

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 7 - Audio Fair. Details below!

October 21 - Frank Van Alstine. A respected veteran of the industry, he will demonstrate his electronics (many of them based upon Dynaco equipment) as well as speakers and other products he sells.

The Classical Corner

No column this month from Len Cronin, but a couple of sources of CDs for lovers of violin music:

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

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.

Borders has EMI and other labels on sale for \$7.99. Itzhak Perlman's Spanish album (his stirring rendition of Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* is enough to bring tears to the eyes) on EMI Studio (63533) is a good one to pick up.

Bein & Fushi, international violin dealers and restorers based in Chicago, offer a single CD with selections from *The Miracle Makers* (a rather fancy book with 3 CDs, for \$200) for \$20 with recordings of Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesù violins played by Elmar Oliveira. www.beinfushi.com or (312)663-0150.

AUDIO FAIR - Sunday Oct. 7th

Location: American Legion Hall, 1291 Oakwood, Des Plaines. A bit bigger than the Dance Building.

Hours to be determined, probably 11:00am to 3:00pm

6 ft. tables available - call or email Brian or Rich for information.

VTA/SRA settings for some labels
David Shreve

Editor's note: This article, written by David Shreve of Shreve/Rabco (linear tracking tonearm) fame, is reproduced with permission. Technical questions may be addressed to him at dcshreve@mindspring.com

In the late '70s I began to develop a "pie chart" with settings for VTA/SRA for different labels. The chart shows the position of the slot in the height adjustment screw at the front of the Rabco arm.

This screw has 32 turns per inch. Several cartridges, with different types of styli, were used. The last cartridge had a van den Hul stylus. No additions have been made to the chart since the early '80s.

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The original "pie chart" has been used as a source of data to calculate the change in height relative to the group containing Flying Fish below. The values here are changes in the height of the Rabco arm to optimize VTA/SRA by listening. The arm has a length of 7 5/8 inches. For an arm of different length, the delta h should be scaled to obtain a new delta h. When a large change is made, it may be advisable to check the overhang. If a pivoted arm with an offset headshell is used, the offset affects the change in VTA/SRA, and changing the height of the back of the arm also changes the azimuth of the cartridge.

When I begin to determine the setting for a new record, I start at the setting for Flying Fish.

There have been visual approximations and the results are rounded to four decimal places. Note that all the labels considered here are within a small range of height adjustment.

Label (delta h in inches)

Nautilus (+0.0058)

RCA,Vanguard (+0.0047)

Columbia pop (+0.0043)

M&K RealTime (+0.0019)

A&M,Arista,Flying Fish,Performance Recordings, Warner Bros. (0.0000)

Telarc (-0.0012)

English Decca, DGG (-0.0028)

Nonesuch (-0.0036)

Mobile Fidelity (-0.0059)

Musical Heritage Society (some)(-0.0085)

Columbia classical (-0.0118)