

The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

July 1999

Meeting Notice

Sunday, July 18th - 2:00pm

Keith Herron - Herron Audio

Herron Audio is a name not widely known until recently, when Keith Herron, who had been building equipment for people in his hometown of St. Louis for several years, decided to make his gear available on a larger scale. The results speak for themselves. Receiving a high recommendation in a review by *The Absolute Sound*, the sonic results achieved with his tube line stage and phono stage preamps are not overpriced yet deliver exceedingly musical results, as you may have noticed at his room at the Hi-Fi '99 show. Now Keith has shown his new monoblock amplifiers, first shown at WCES '99, and recently at Hi-Fi '99, and they must be heard. When he's not busy designing and building audio electronics, Keith has a consulting engineering practice which enabled him to continue to pursue his audio hobby in the first place.

Keith is into good music and recordings, so we *encourage* you to bring some fine records and CDs to play. You won't be disappointed!

Last Month

Jack Shafton spoke about and demonstrated products in the **Paradigm Reference** line of loudspeakers and the **Anthem** line of electronics by **Sonic Frontiers**. The system consisted of Paradigm Reference Studio/40 speakers (\$1100/pr.) with Premier J-50 stands (\$189/pr.), Anthem CD-1 six-disc CD player (\$1699), Anthem Pre-2L line stage preamp (\$1299), Anthem Pre-1P phono stage preamp (\$899), Anthem AMP 2 (\$1799), and Tara Labs cabling throughout.

Also used was a SOTA Cosmos turntable with SME V tonearm and Koetsu Rosewood Signature cartridge.

In his fourth presentation to our group (the first two were when he was president of SOTA), Jack described many of the features of the Paradigm speaker line, including the fact that Paradigm makes virtually everything in them except the screws, suggesting that cost efficiency and consistency of manufacture and quality control are very high, giving the consumer excellent value. He also mentioned Paradigm's acoustic testing chamber for speakers which is very large compared to others. Jack also discussed the Sonic Frontiers electronics some, describing some of the features and tubes used in the components under demonstration, all which used tubes. The AMP 2 amplifier was a very recent addition to the Anthem line, with (solid state) output transistors.

The sound was good and musical by any standards, excellent when considering cost. The speakers produced relatively deep, well controlled bass, with a wide listening window and good time response. Several members remarked later that they found the sound to be superior to what they heard at Hi-Fi '99. In any event, these folks make nice sounding gear which apparently work well together and offer very good value.

Some of the music people played at the meeting included the following:

(CD) Ray Montford, *Shed Your Skin*, Orange Cap Music 9801 CD. www.surpher.com

(CD) Ralph Vaughan Williams, *A Pastoral Symphony (Symphonies No. 3 and 4)*, Bernard Haitink, London Symphony Orchestra, EMI Classics 7243 5 56564 2 1

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We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at The Dance Building, 1330 Webford Ave., Des Plaines IL, nonmembers welcome (\$5 fee, may be applied to \$30 annual dues). CAS is a volunteer, not for profit, *fun* group of audiophiles and music lovers.

(CD) *Contemporary Concert Band Music*, Danish Concert Band, Rondo Grammophon RCD 8340

(LP) Tchaikovsky *1812 Overture* (finale), Telarc.

(LP) The Boston Pops Plays Best-Loved Songs of 25 Years, March Theme from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Readers' Digest RDA-068/D.

(LP) *The Moscow Sessions: The Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra*, Glinka: Russlan and Ludmilla overture, Sheffield Lab TLP-25.

(CD) Mary Black, *No Frontiers*, Gifhorse D2-77308.

(LP) Patricia Barber, *Cafe Blue*, Premonition.

Future Meetings

August 15th - Art Audio (Joe Fratus), Rosinante (Ric Cummins), Argent (Todd Laudeman), and Gill Audio. Amplification, speakers, room tuning devices, and source components, respectively.

September 19th - Jud Barber of Joule Electra and Bobby Palkovic of Merlin Music Systems.

October 17th - Tact Audio.

Recording companies are coming later, including Chicago's own Cedille Records.

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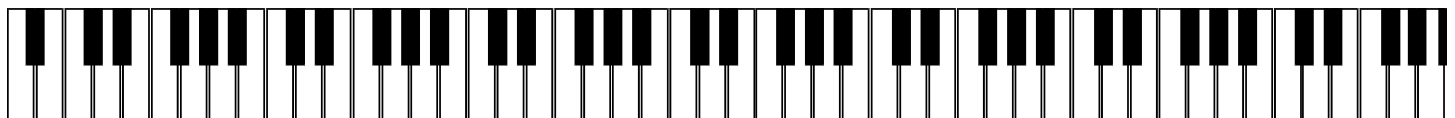
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Society Business

Welcome to the several people who joined at the last meeting! We hope you enjoy the CAS and participate in our discussions and activities--the Society is a volunteer driven organization and is entirely what you make it. If there is something you want, let us know, and let us know what you can do to make it happen.

Due to other commitments, Terri Novak is no longer able to continue to fulfill the duties as Secretary. Meanwhile, Bill Sweet is helping with the distribution of the newsletters, a contribution all can appreciate.

For Sale/Wanted/Trade

Nothing this month.

As a service, members may advertise their own personal items here at no charge.

By popular request, we will also have an area on our web site for this purpose. Check it in a week or two for further news.