



# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

August 2001

## Meeting Notice

*Sunday, August 19th, 2:00 pm*

### Music Listening

Bring your CDs and records to play. We will also have several SACDs from Telarc to play and some to give away by free raffle. The discs also can be played in any CD player. There is a link banner on our web site for the Sony SCD-C555ES SACD/CD player to be given away by Telarc.

## Last Month

Resident digital and home theater guru John Kotches spoke about and demonstrated DVD-Audio, Super Audio CD, and several other flavors of higher resolution digital playback including upsampling and surround. The response from those attending was very good, as John focused on audio even for the surround sound portion of the program. Home theater is related but was not really demonstrated. A big thanks to John for bringing all his gear for the demonstration, quite a chore. And congratulations on "Clearing the Digital Fog" and making it interesting and fun.

We would also like to thank Phil Marrow for bringing his Sony SCD-1 SACD player for the demonstration. Phil was president of the old Chicago Audio Society back in the 80s and is listening to lots of jazz on Tannoys and Sun Audio tube gear these days.

## Future Months

September 16 - Sedrick Harris, Immedia (including Audio Physic, Lyra, and Herron). Great guy, a lot of fun. He really knows his classical vinyl, too. Keith Herron (Herron Audio) who did a great demonstration a while ago will also be visiting.

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

In April of 1945 American Lieutenant Charles von Stade was killed when his Jeep hit a land mine in Germany. On June 1, 1945 his daughter Frederica von Stade was born in New Jersey. While growing up she wanted to learn everything she could about her father. She was especially attracted to the letters Charles had written to his wife, Sara. Frederica grew up to become one of the most celebrated singers of her generation but always in the background was the father that she never knew.

During a conversation with conductor Roger Nierenberg, the subject of her father's letters came up and the idea was born to use them as the basis for a symphonic song cycle. New York based composer Richard Danielpour was commissioned to compose the music for this project. Kim Vaeth was given the task of creating a libretto from the letters of Charles. The result of this collaboration is 'Eligies' a song cycle for mezzo soprano, baritone, and orchestra.

The cycle consist of five songs. Baritone Thomas Hampson sings the part of the father, who is trapped in 1945. While Ms. von Stade sings the roll of the daughter, who lives in the present. This is heart felt music concerning a subject that is seldom approached in contemporary music. This music is not an easy listen but I find myself going back to it again and again. This is music about what my parents generation endured and how it can and should affect us today.

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website: [www.chicagoaudio.org](http://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.

## Save a Tree

If you would like to receive our newsletters via email (as Acrobat PDF files), just send an email message to Brian. You'll receive them as soon as they are ready, rather than relying on the postal service which can take a few days. And if you can live without the photocopied one sent by mail, please let us know, too. Doing so will help reduce Bill Sweet's considerable efforts and will save a bit on postage.

## Survey

Jared Johnson continues his fine work gathering information on members' systems and musical interests and making the information available. Please fill out

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the enclosed form if you haven't already or have some updates, and mail it to him.

## AUDIO FAIR - Sunday Oct. 7th

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

Hours: 11:00am to 3:00pm

6 ft. tables available - call or email Brian or Rich for information. NOW is the time to reserve tables.

*Treasurer*

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