Meeting Notice

Sunday, August 17th – 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Paul Lacey – Audio Services Corp.

Paul is a dealer based in Mundelein. Here is a list of what he'll be bringing to demonstrate:

- Opera Audio Consonance SACD 1.0 player
- Sophia Electric EL34 integrated amplifier and Baby Amplifier
- Von Schweikert Audio VR-2 Reference Towers
- Audience cabling
- Stillpoints and ERS for tweaking

Some members have good experience with the ERS material for damping, and the VR-2 speakers have been discussed lately on some of the Internet discussion sites. Should be interesting. Please bring some music to play.

Last month

Steve Sammet of SAS Audio Labs demonstrated the following:
- SE7.0DC SET amp
- 25DCT triode, 2 stage DC coupled, push-pull monoblocks
- 10A Line Preamp
- SAS Audio Labs 1 meter interconnects
- SAS Audio Labs speaker wire
- System Audio 1270 loudspeakers

Kevin Novak kindly brought his Klipsch Heresy speakers as well.

Next month: (September 14th – please note second Sunday)

To be announced.

The past couple of weeks have brought me two new SACDs of American music. To fast forward to the chase, let me say that I like both of them and
heartily recommend
them.

**Rainbow Body** on
Telarc SACD-60596
features the Atlanta
Symphony under its new
music director Robert
Spano playing the music
of Barber, Copland,
Higdon, and Theofanidis.
Two older works flanked
by two newer pieces.
The first work is
Christopher Theofanidis' Rainbow Body. Based on
a theme of medieval
composer Hildegard von
Bingen, the main theme
is developed from a quiet
beginning and into a
rousing climax. I really
like this music and hope
to hear more from this
composer in the future.

Next on the menu is
**Samuel Barber's First
Symphony** and **Aaron
Copland's Suite from the Ballet Appalachian
Spring**. The symphony
is in one movement and
about twenty minutes in
length. This is a really
fine performance. This
and the previous piece
are worth the price of
admission. Appalachian
Spring is a good but not
great performance.
Jennifer Higdon's blue
cathedral rounds out the
disc. I haven't made up
my mind about this

**Albany Record**, Troy 591, also contains four compositions by American
composers. Three of whom the average concert goer probably has never
heard of and the fourth is more noted as a music critic than as a composer.
The disc opens with Nikolai Lopatnikoff's Festive Overture. This is
rousing, percussive music. Figures, the music was the automobile industry in America.
Next up is Robert Helps' Second Piano Concerto. This is the most challenging
music on either disc. If you really dislike modern music, this one probably
won't change your mind. Luckily it's less than fourteen minutes long.
Virgil Thomson, the critic and composer mentioned earlier, wrote his ballet Filling
Station in 1937. The ballet is based on an American story, with music that can
only be described as folksy or down home. The ballet was so popular that it
convinced Aaron Copland to write Billy the Kid in 1938. If you are not familiar
with the music of Virgil Thomson, this is a good place to start. My favorite
music on this disc is Robert Kurka's second symphony. Born in 1935 in Cicero,
Illinois, Robert Kurka is primarily known for his opera The Good Soldier
Schweik. We can only speculate on what might have been because he died in
1956. If this symphony is typical of his work, I look forward to the upcoming
release on Cedille Records of his orchestral music. The sound is excellent, the
playing may not up on a par with the best orchestras in the States but the
orchestra plays with an understanding of American music. Good disc.

**For Sale**

Mark Levinson ML-3 power amplifier, 200 watts per channel, asking $1400 or
best offer. Call Walt at (312) 316-1998.

**Announcements**

*Dealers sponsoring manufacturer seminars may send us announcements to include in our newsletters. E-mail only to bpwalsh@speakeasy.net*

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