

## Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, October, 2005

### Meeting Notice - Sunday, October 16th, 2005 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>

We will be featuring Zu Cable ( [www.zucable.com](http://www.zucable.com) ), with their cables and speakers. The top of the line Definition 1.5 received a very favorable review in the August 2005 6moons Audio ( <http://www.6moons.com/audioreviews/zu2/definition.html> ). We will also have the Druid speaker on hand. Both are 101db efficiency. Associated electronics will include Atma-Sphere A-1 Mk II.3 amplifiers and MP-3 preamp ( [www.atma-sphere.com](http://www.atma-sphere.com) ) . We will also have on hand a new DAC on loan to us from Lithuania-the LessLoss DAC 2004 ( [www.lessloss.com](http://www.lessloss.com) ) . It will be driven with a Stello CDT200 transport ( [www.stello.com.au](http://www.stello.com.au) ) . We will also be listening to a Harmonix Reimyo CDP-777 CD player ( [www.combak.net](http://www.combak.net) ). Sean Casey and Adam Decaria just back from the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest will be presenting from Zu Cable. This is a great chance to hear some great equipment-be there!

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Van L Speakerworks with John Van Leishout presented the latest revision of his Quartet speaker system. We had John and designer Chuck McShane present this speaker at our old Dance Building location several years ago. It features a unique crossfeed design that uses an additional speaker wire between the two speakers to capture ambience. The circuit in the speaker has evolved from a similiar MARS circuit that was used in some Fried speakers about 10 years back. This is the only production speaker at this time that I am aware of that utilizes an ambience circuit. The speaker has been through a number of design changes and tweaks by John over the years.

A number of people who have heard it over the years commented very favorably on the sound of this latest version. It was rather amazing to hear the fullness of sound generated in our room with just a 5.25" woofer driver (intended to be the mid-woofer in the complete system) in a mini-monitor sized cabinet. John had not yet completed the new woofer modules to his satisfaction. The associated electronics included: Cary Audio Rocket 88 amp, custom tube line stage designed and built by Larry Harasim, Cary 303/300 CD player, and Cary SLI-80 integrated amp. The amp/preamp combination sounded nice, but was running out of gas in our room, so the Cary SLI-80 was listened to for most of the meeting in the consensus preferred triode mode (for this amp).

John demoed the speaker any number of times with the crossfeed wire installed or removed and I believe it was unanimous that the soundstage, depth, and image was far better with the wire/circuit in place. Our thanks to John for a very involving speaker and a great meeting. We plan to have John back next year when the woofer modules are complete-should be very interesting! For more information go to: <http://www.vanlspeakerworks.com/>

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN AUDIO FEST/FUTURE MEETINGS

With 113 exhibit rooms and over 250 companies the RMAF actually exceeded my expectations. The Chicago Audio Society was well represented with about 8 members attending. Response was positive beyond expectations-it's the first time I was ever given

positive feedback like "Oh Chicago, that's a great place!" We may think so, but don't hear it very often. There will be more to come from my experiences and others in emails to come and the December meeting. We have generated significant interest in future meetings and next year is filling up-more details to follow. Just one example: the setup at the Herron Audio room was perhaps my personal favorite. It featured Keith Herron's electronics of course and large 6+ ft tall tower speakers with stereo 18" acoustic suspension subs. This system will be featured at our May 2006 meeting.

Here is our evolving lineup of future meetings:

**November** - Lowther America

**December** - Holiday meeting with some additional surprises in the works

**January** -Larry Musial and his redesigned 30hz Klipsh La Scalas, along with Tube Audio Design electronics

**February** - Eastern Electric and unconfirmed-maybe a pair of Tannoy Churchills

**March** - Teres Turntable (tentative)

**April** - Sound Lab

**May** - Herron Audio

Above all, we need your continued support. Please get any of your friends involved who you think would enjoy what we do.

### **CLASSICAL CORNER by Len Cronin**

When I heard the news that Telarc was going to release the Dvorak Ninth, my first reaction was do we really need another ninth? I became somewhat more enthusiastic when it was revealed that it would be teamed with Bohuslav Martinu's Second Symphony. What a pleasant surprise, this is a terrific Ninth. It seems to me that Paavo Jarvi is not a showman. His conducting always tries to serve the music rather than some musical effect. Such effects may be spectacular but often fail to serve the long run of the music. The best way to describe his music making is that it is almost organic in nature. The music seems to develop on its own. In this case it is very successful music making that is well supported by Telarc's SACD sound. Telarc seems to be getting better with every release from Cincinnati. This one has great bass, lots of air, and a very natural stereo spread. I almost forgot to mention the Martinu Second Symphony. Martinu is one of my favorite 20th Century composers. Teaming these two Czech masters seems so natural. Both composers lived in the States, were influenced by jazz, and made use of folk and folk-like materials. I don't want you to think that Martinu is warmed over Dvorak, rather he is a master that deserves to be heard. His Second Symphony is a wonderful introduction to those unfamiliar with this composer. This Symphony contains jazz influences, rhythms, and dance-like episodes. See the Dvorak for a description of the sound. This is want list material. **Telarc SACD-60616** Paavo Jarvi conducting the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Next Month I will be exploring one of the most adventurous classical labels in the world today, CPO.