



# The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

November 2001

## Meeting Notice

*Sunday, November 18th, 2:00 pm*

**Audio by Van Alstine**

**Frank Van Alstine**

Quite simply, make every effort to attend this meeting. Frank Van Alstine is a veteran of the industry and will have a lot to say. He will likely talk a bit about their design goals and be open to questions.

He will demonstrate their new OmegaStar equipment, the new FET Valve Ex amplifier, likely a turntable and Longhorn Grado cartridge, and Biro L/1 loudspeakers. Members are invited to bring any equipment to the meeting you would like to compare. Bring your own CDs and records for evaluation.

We'll also have one or more Telarc SACDs to give away.

## Last Month

Ric Berta demonstrated Sophia speakers by World Audio which use SEAS drivers in a D'Appolito (M-T-M) configuration, Gamut C-R2 and Emotive Audio Sira preamps, Audio Matiere Equilibre and World Audio Aerie 2A3 amps, Electrocompaniet EMC-1 CD player used as a transport, and ART DI/O D/A converter. Reports are that that the Emotive Audio preamp sounded very good and that the Electrocompaniet CD player used standalone was preferred.

## Next Month

December 16 - Christmas party and music listening. Good tunes, good cheer!

## The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

If you're scared of new music or complain that today's composers don't know how to write a good tune, Lowell Liebermann's Symphony No. 2 might be your cup of tea. The symphony is in four movements and lasts about 45 minutes. It is scored for a full symphony orchestra and large chorus.

Because of the choral writing I have read reviews that compare it to Beethoven or Mahler. However, such comparisons are entirely misplaced. If you must compare this work to another composers' creation then compare it to either Vaughn Williams First Symphony or Howard Hansen's Seventh Symphony. All three works make use of texts by Walt Whitman, who seems to be a favorite of English speaking composers. Of the four movements only the third is written for orchestra alone. The symphony is well written and full of good music. Delos also provides first class sound.

The recording was made in Dallas's Meyerson Hall by The Dallas Symphony under the direction of Andrew Litton, Delos DE 3256. The disk also contains Liebermann's Flute Concerto.

John Alden Carpenter ( 1876 - 1951 ) was born in Park Ridge, Illinois and spent his entire life in Chicago. Most lovers of classical probably have never

heard of him yet he was very popular in the first half of the 20th century. Such conductors as Frederick Stock, Fritz Reiner, and Bruno Walter championed his music.

This edition of American Classics by Naxos features 'Adventures in a Perambulator' and Symphonies Nos. 1 & 2. The only way I know how to describe this music is delightful. I can't imagine anyone who enjoys classical music not enjoying this. Sonics are first rate as are the performances by John McLaughlin Williams and the National Symphony Orchestra of the Ukraine. Naxos 8.559065

Next month I'll list my five favorite recordings for 2001.

## Headphone Enthusiasts

This just posted on AudioAsylum.com:

We're having headphone hi-fi enthusiast get-togethers in Chicago on December 1, 2001 (Saturday), and in Detroit on December 2, 2001 (Sunday). The Chicago get-together will be held at the Etymotic Research facility in Elk Grove Village.

*[Etymotic Research is at 61 Martin Ln., two blocks west of Lively Blvd. in Elk Grove, off Higgins Rd., phone (847) 228-5620.]*

HeadRoom will be bringing most (if not all) of the gear they brought to the Home Entertainment 2001 show for us to play with. You can bring your own

headphones, gear, and music if you want to try it out with the stuff brought by HeadRoom.

For more information, visit <http://www.head-fi.com> and look under the "Meetings / Get-Togethers" section. If you're interested in attending, please contact me at [jude@head-fi.com](mailto:jude@head-fi.com).

## Society Business

Since our beginning some seven years ago, we have held annual membership dues at \$30. Although postage rates have increased since then, the lower cost of the different meeting location has offset these increases. At the meeting of the executive committee (the Society officers and six other people who enjoy having a more active role), we discussed increasing dues to \$40, which would include the cost of refreshments at meetings (usually \$1 per meeting), eliminating a lot of work for Bill Sweet and being less disruptive. We also discussed making dues quarterly, for those joining. We feel these changes will simplify matters for the Treasurer (Reed Rehorst).

We brought these changes up at last month's meeting for discussion, and everyone seemed agreeable. We would like to take an official vote at this month's meeting on these changes.

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