

# The Golden Ear

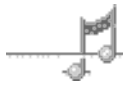
Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

November 2002

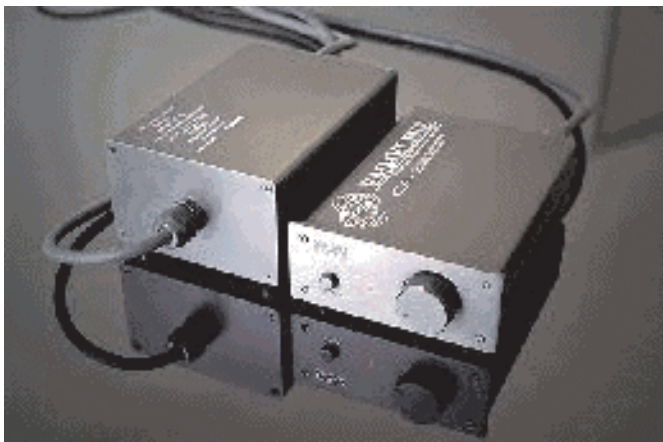
## Meeting Notice

Sunday, November 17th, 2:00 pm

**Ray Samuels Audio**



Local enthusiast and designer Ray Samuels has had his tube line stage preamp, the Emmeline RS-1A, favorably reviewed in *Bound for Sound*. Since that time, he has introduced the solid state (op amp based) line stage preamp, the Emmeline CA-2:



And he has just introduced his phono preamp, the Emmeline XR-2, which accommodates both moving magnet and moving coil cartridges:



It's also worth mentioning that he makes the Emmeline HR-2 headphone amp, which looks similar to the CA-2 line stage preamp.

Details of the products may be found on his website, [www.raysamuelsaudio.com](http://www.raysamuelsaudio.com)

CD and vinyl playback will be featured at this month's meeting.

## Last Month

**Mark Seaton of ServoDrive-Sound Physics Labs** gave an informative presentation and demonstrated the Unity horn speakers and the ContraBass sub-woofer, using **Linn** equipment provided by the local Linn representative. The speakers filled the room with sound and plenty of bass, as you can imagine. Tom Danley, originator and chief designer of the products, visited as well and spoke briefly and answered questions.

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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 Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Heights IL. Nonmembers are welcome (first meeting is free, otherwise \$5 fee or \$40 annual dues). CAS is a volunteer organization of audio and music enthusiasts dedicated to having fun. Our constitution and bylaws are available on our website or in printed form upon request.

One of the more novel uses of ServoDrive subs has been on safari vehicles to create high level low frequencies similar to those used by elephants for communication. The relatively small size made them the logical choice.

## Future Meetings

December 15th - Brian Bowdle of Venus HiFi will present Final Laboratories and perhaps other products.

## The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

Well, it's that time of year when I get to name my five favorite releases from the past twelve months. Please note that I said favorite and not 'best' or some other such designation. To be named it must be a recording that I actually listen to for pleasure.

1. Vaughan Williams - A Sea Symphony  
Spano/Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, Telarc SACD-60588. This one hits the audiophile trifecta of great sound, music, and performance.

2. Atterberg - Symphonies 2 & 5, Rasilainen/Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester Frankfurt, CPO999 565-2.

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Underrated Swedish composer, whose big melodies and grand climaxes make for a great time. Good modern digital sound.

3. Danielpour - An American Requiem, St.Clair/Pacific Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, Reference Recordings RR-97CD. Originally conceived as a tribute to the American Soldier, it took on new meaning after the events of 9/11. Typical sound one expects from Professor Johnson.

4. Kernis - Colored Field; Musica Celestis; Air, Oue/Minnesota Orchestra, Virgin Classics 7243 5 45464 2 6. Probably my favorite contemporary composer. His music can be beautiful as in Musica Celestis and Air or it can be troubling and grotesque as in Colored Field. Good modern digital sound.

5. Japanese Orchestral Favourites - Various Composers, Numajiri/ Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, NAXOS 8.555071. A really fun recording that introduces the listener to a mix of East and West that is totally unique from what we are accustomed. Tony Faulkner engineered this demonstration quality disc.

Until next month - Good listening.