

The Golden Ear

Newsletter of the
Chicago Audio Society
November 2003

Meeting Notice

Sunday, November 16th – 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Amplifier Demo and Music Listening
VSAC 2003 Report

Gregg Straley will demonstrate a chip based amplifier he purchased from Stan Warren, rated at 60 watts per channel. A new Ah! Tjoeb CD player will be used as source, and the same speaker system by G&D Transforms used last month will be demonstrated. Gregg will provide cabling.

We'll listen to as many music selections as members care to bring, including some exciting new releases on SACD from Telarc.

Reed Rehorst attended the Vacuum State of the Art Conference held in Silverdale, Washington and will have pictures to show and stories to tell.

Last month

A Django transformer volume control and line stage was used, loaned by Kevin Haskins of DIYcable.com. We tried both gain settings of 0 and 6 dB and eventually preferred the 0 dB setting, although differences were small. Speakers used were some small prototype 2-way satellite monitors using Scanspeak tweeters and Peerless 5" midwoofers in sealed enclosures, along with a powered subwoofer with active and passive drivers. Parasound JC-1 monoblocks (400 W into 8 ohms) were used, along with power cords and cabling by TG Audio Lab and Gregg Straley. Brian Richardson's modified Philips SACD1000 player and Dennis Gulino's Ah! Tjoeb CD player were used as sources.

Next month:

To be announced.

The Classical Corner

Len Cronin

It's that time of year that I get a chance to come up with a want list for 2003. American music of the 20th Century makes up four of my choices along with Latvian composer Peteris Vasks.

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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 (\$5 fee per meeting, or join - \$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.

Nicolas Flagello is an almost forgotten American composer. If you are familiar with the musical essays of Samuel Barber then you should have a good idea of whether or not you will enjoy the music of Flagello. Thank you, Naxos, for introducing me to a neglected American master.

Ned Rorem wrote three symphonies during the fifties that flew in the face of the prevailing modernism of that period. Get to know this music, it's some of the best music that you will never hear in Symphony Center.

Telarc's Rainbow Body combines two works from the first half of the 20th Century with two contemporary works. Well played and recorded, one of my favorite discs of the past year.

The final American selection is also a complication featuring Virgil Thomson's ballet 'Filling Station' and

Robert Kurka's Second Symphony, along with works by Nikolai Lopatnikoff and Robert Helps. Albany Records continues to give us unusual repertoire that the major labels seem to avoid in an effort to give us another Brahms cycle.

Peteris Vasks' Second Symphony is a major work filled with drama and emotion. This may be the best new symphony that I have heard in the past several years. A real winner both for sonics and artistic merit.

- ◆ Flagello Symphony No. 1; Sea Cliffs; Theme, Variations & Fugue; Amos/Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra/ Naxos 8.559148
- ◆ Rorem Three Symphonies; Serebrier/ Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/ Naxos 8.559149
- ◆ Theofanidis Rainbow Body; Barber Symphony No. 1; Copland Appalachian Spring; Higdon Blue Cathedral/ Spano/Atlanta S.O./ Telarc SACD-60596 (hybrid multichannel SACD)
- ◆ Lopatnikoff Festive Overture; Helps Concerto No. 2 for Paian & Orchestra; Thomson Filling Station; Kurka Symphony No. 2/ Miller/Albany S.O./ Albany Troy591 (hybrid stereo SACD)
- ◆ Vasks Symphony No. 2; Violin Concerto 'Distant Light'/ Storgards/Tampere P.O., Kangas/ Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra/ Ondine ODE 1005-2

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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