

Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, November, 2004

Meeting Notice-Sunday, November 21st, 2:00-5:00PM

For directions go to:

<http://www.chicagoaudio.org/directions.htm>

Gregg Straley, one of our members, will be demonstrating a Stan Warren design pre-production model of a standing bass wave cancelling "subwoofer" design, that improves perceived bass definition and soundstage imaging at the listening position. There will be a taped message from Stan Warren describing the product as well as some handouts. Gregg will be using the following equipment to demonstrate:

Reimer Wind River GS Loudspeakers

Stan Warren Folded-Cascode Amplifier

Stan Warren Buffered Line Stage

Stan Warren modified Adcom GCD-750 CD Player

Gregg Straley's speaker wires, interconnects, and power cords

This will be an interesting opportunity to hear a totally new design that works to improve bass perception at the listening position by reducing standing waves at the listening position. Be there!

OPEN HOUSE-Joe Lavrencik, Saturday, November 20th, Noon-7PM

Joe Lavrencik is hosting an Open House at his home for members NOON-7PM on Saturday, November 20th. Joe has developed his own isolation platforms called Critical Mass Systems. He will be demonstrating the following equipment:

Wadia 860SE CD player-Great Northern Sound modifications

Joule-Electra LA150 Preamp

Joule-Electra VZN-220 Rites of Passage Monoblocks

Martin-Logan reQuest Speakers

Elrod Power Systems AC, IC and speaker cables

Critical Mass Systems custom isolation systems

This will be a duplicate of the Joule Electra setup at 2005 CES, except they will be using Vandersteen Model 5 speakers instead of Martin Logan.

ATTENDANCE NEEDS TO BE PLANNED and you need to **CONTACT JOE IN ADVANCE**. Please contact Joe Lavrencik at **630-572-0301** OR **EMAIL** joelavrencik@comcast.net The address is: **69 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523**

Here are directions to get to Joe:

Rt 83 heading South:

Turn left at 22nd street (Cermak Rd).

Continue past Oak Brook Mall and under the freeway

Turn right at York Rd

Turn left at Dover Dr (1st light)

Turn left at Windsor Dr

Go to end of cul-de-sac

69 Windsor Dr

(630)572-0301

Rt 83 heading North:

Exit Rt 83 at 31st street

Turn right onto 31st street

Turn left at York Rd

Turn right at Windsor Dr (1st street on right)

Go to end of cul-de-sac

69 Windsor Dr

(630)572-0301

Rt 294 heading South:

Exit at Cermak Rd./ 22nd Street

Turn left onto Cermak./ 22nd Street

Turn left at York Rd

Turn left at Dover Dr (1st light)

Turn left at Windsor Dr

Go to end of cul-de-sac

69 Windsor Dr

(630)572-0301

Rt 294 heading North:

Exit at Ogden heading West (2nd Ogden exit)

Turn right at York Rd

Cross 31st Street

Turn right at Windsor Dr

Go to end of cul-de-sac

69 Windsor Dr

(630)572-0301

Rt 88 heading East:

Exit at 294 South

Exit at York Rd (1st exit)

Turn left onto York Rd

Cross Cermak Rd/22nd Street

Turn left at Dover Dr (next light)

Turn left at Windsor Dr

Go to end of cul-de-sac

69 Windsor Dr

(630)572-0301

Rt 290 heading West:

Exit at 294 South

See Rt 294 South directions above

October Meeting Recap

Sedrick Harris of Acoustic Partners (<http://www.acousticpartners.com/>) presented Nola (formerly known as Alon) loudspeakers, Berendsen electronics, and Soundstring cables. The following equipment was shown:

Nola (formerly Alon) Lotus Elite Plus's (a new model above the normal Elite and below the Signature model.

Nola Thunderbolt subwoofer.

Nola Li'l Rascal III bookshelf speakers.

Berendsen electronics consisting of:

Control 22 Pre-amp pre-production unit STA-150 SE Stereo power amplifier

CDP-1 CD player

Soundstring cables - lots. (speaker cables, digital power cords, a prototype high level inexpensive power cord +++ and interconnects.

SSC pucks & bases

Sedrick brought his usual enthusiasm and fielded a number of questions on the equipment. Mick Severance from Quintessence Audio was also on hand with analog and we had an opportunity to listen to the SME 10 turntable, SME arm, and Sumiko Celebration cartridge. Analog fans had reason to smile. As Sedrick indicated in advance, there was a lot of interest in the sound of the smaller Li'l Rascal speakers, which projected well into our large room and at

a list of about \$600 if I recall correctly. In addition, a number of items were generously raffled off to members including: 5 Soundstring Digital power cords, Soundstring interconnects, and Soundstring speaker cables.

Our thanks to Sedrick who made his cross-country stop in Chicago en route to Florida for an enjoyable meeting. It was a pleasure to have him back again.

Classical Corner by Len Cronin

Its been a while since the last time I wrote an article, so lets start off with a couple of releases from Telarc. Paavo Jarvi leads the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in recordings of Igor Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring and Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 5, Telarc SACD-60615. Let's begin by saying that the recorded sound is stunning. The Rite of Spring demands a recording with an extended top end that is not harsh or bright, a bottom end that is rock solid and a wide dynamic range. This Telarc scores on all points. There are a lot of Rites out there but this is the only one that the conductor actually conducts the piece like a ballet. Virtuoso performances aren't too difficult to find but one that actually considers that performers had to dance to this music is indeed rare. Some might consider this a rather tame performance, I did at first, but it has grown on me and should be considered as a tonic to most other performances of this work.

The Nielsen 5th Symphony is one of the great works of the 20th Century. Basically it is a study of good versus evil or of the pastoral versus the militaristic. Jarvi gives us a somewhat cool presentation that allows the music to develop at its own pace, This performance is well worth the price of admission. Highly recommended, especially for the Nielsen.

Robert Spano conducts the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Frank Lopardo tenor, in the Berlioz Requiem, Telarc SACD 60627. This is music that cries out for a multichannel recording that can take advantage of the brass choirs that are situated in the back of the hall not to mention the full chorus and tenor soloist. From what I have read Telarc has succeeded brilliantly. Unfortunately, I can only report on the SACD stereo version that fortunately can stand on its own merits. This might be a better recording than the Vaughn Williams Sea Symphony of several years ago. Robert Spano gives us a rather quick but well thought out performance. I like it and I think that most listeners will too. I only wish I could hear in a properly set up multichannel music system.

Future Meetings

December-We will have our usual Holiday meeting, with extra refreshments on hand and invite you to bring along your favorite holiday music, whether it be classical, Miles Davis, the Roches, Bing Crosby or ? Rick Berta is planning to bring his custom designed cylindrical speakers using Heil drivers as well as Exemplar Audio electronics designed by John Tucker. As well as a few more surprises in SET's and vintage tubes.

Please note, as usual, to avoid Holiday conflicts we have moved the meeting up to the 2nd Sunday, December 12th, 2004.