

## Chicago Audio Society Newsletter, November, 2006

### Meeting Notice-Sunday, November 19th, 2:00PM-5:00PM

Arlington Heights Historical Society  
110 W. Fremont, Arlington Room  
Arlington Heights, IL

For directions go to:

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

#### NOVEMBER MEETING-BRIAN BOWDLE/VENUS HIFI

The November meeting will be hosted by Brian Bowdle from Venus Hifi ([www.venushifi.com](http://www.venushifi.com)). Venus Hifi and Brian hosted our December 2002 meeting and we're very happy to have him back. At that time they were located in Indianapolis and have now relocated to East Lansing, Michigan. By the way, you can always go to [www.chicagoaudio.org](http://www.chicagoaudio.org) then click on newsletters and review past newsletters organized by month and date to review previous meetings-thanks Dennis!

Brian will be bringing the following equipment:

Almarro M3A Loudspeakers ([www.almarro.com](http://www.almarro.com))

Almarro A318B Integrated SET Amplifier ([www.almarro.com](http://www.almarro.com))

Lektor CDP-7T Mk II Tube CD Player (<http://www.docet-lector.com/>)

Soundstring Interconnects, Speaker Wires, and Power Cords  
(<http://www.soundstringcable.com/>)

Blue Circle Audio Music Bar (<http://www.bluecircle.com/>)

Almarro has received much favorable press as can be seen on their website and is moderately priced. Anyone who reads the Absolute Sound should recall Harry Pearson's rave review of the Lektor CDP-7T CD player. The new MkII version retains the same design with parts improvements.

**PLEASE** be sure to bring along your favorite music. See you Sunday!

#### OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

##### ELP LASER TURNTABLE and MONARCHY M-24 TUBE DAC PLUS TUBE LINE STAGE

Bill Stuebe, a Chicago area owner rep of the ELP Laser Turntable (<http://www.elpj.com>) brought his personal player. In June 2001, Mr. Sanju Chiba, the President of ELP in Japan did a very impressive demo at the Chicago Marriott.

We were delighted to have Bill Stuebe, an early adopter and strong supporter of this unique audio product here with us. Please review the website for more details. Note that even though the grooves are read by lasers the audio signal remains in the analog domain!

Also featured was the new Monarchy M-24 Tube DAC/Tube Linestage (<http://www.monarchyaudio.com>) on loan from the manufacturer. Our thanks to Mr. C.C.Poon

for accommodating us. Note that both a tube DAC and a tube linestage are contained in one unit. Because the unit included a line input, we used the linestage for both the digital and the ELP turntable. The Monarchy website has more details including very positive recent reviews from Bound for Sound and Positive Feedback.

Bill brought the following recordings which include original British pressings, Japanese audiophile pressings, and UHQR:

1. Michael Jackson - Thriller - LP & CD
2. Grand Funk - Closer to home - LP ,CD and to show them how the turntable transcribes I will be bringing a CD of this LP that I made direct from the laser turntable
3. Glenn Miller - Collection LP
4. Styx - Best of LP
5. Beatles - Please Please Me LP
6. Pink Floyd - Dark Side of the Moon
7. Nat King Cole - Anatomy of a Jam Session
8. Tavares - Greatest Hits
9. Paula Abdul - Forever Your Girl
10. Benny Goodman - The King
11. 1812 Overture
12. Theme from Arthur - 45rpm
12. Paul McCartney - All the Best 45rpm

We had the opportunity to hear many of the above recordings. Particularly on the Japanese pressings there was a musicality that justifies the long-term appreciation for vinyl that continues strongly today.

We did have a few challenges with phono hum, which we were able to improve, if not cure. Despite that, the fine qualities of the vinyl were obvious. I think nearly everyone was struck by the openness and fidelity of the British pressing of Please Please Me, the Beatles very first album-in mono of course! Bill demonstrated how the ELP could adjust to various groove depths with the best point being fairly easy to set by ear on the fly. Bill was truly an audiophile's audiophile with an enthusiasm and knowledge of vinyl that was a pleasure to hear, ranging from his meeting with Mr. Chiba at the factory in Japan to his searches for the best Japanese vinyl at bargain prices in Japan. Our thanks to Bill for putting on a great presentation of this unique product.

The Monarchy Audio M-24 is both a tube DAC and tube linestage (with one additional input) in one box. It is extremely well made and is a bargain at the introductory price of \$995.

The equipment for this meeting was a real team effort-the supplying members are listed below and a big thank you to all for getting this to come together.

ELP Laser Turntable (Bill Stuebe)

Tube DAC/Tube Line Stage-Monarchy M-24 (Manufacturer loan-Monarchy Audio)

Digital Transport-Philips 963 Stan Warren Mod (Gregg Straley)

Phono Stage-Pass Labs X-Ono (Bill Stuebe)

Amplifiers-Herron Audio M-150 Mono Blocks (Bill Sweet)

Speakers-Audio Physic Tempo III (Gregg Straley)

Subwoofer-Velodyne (Brina Richardson)

Cables-Reality Cables (Gregg Straley)

VPI 16.5 Record Cleaner (Frank Putnam)

Acapella Fondato Silenzio Isolation Base  
SK Research Platform with Thorp Audio Group Cones (Brian Walsh)

ANNOUNCEMENT (just in advance of the Sunday, December 10th Meeting)

Analog expert Scot Markwell of Elite AV Distribution and TheMusic.com will be at Essential Audio in Barrington ( [www.essentialaudio.com](http://www.essentialaudio.com) ) on Saturday, December 9 from 1 to 5pm to talk about analog playback and demonstrate Kuzma turntables!  
Please call 847-382-8433-space is limited.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2006 (2nd Sunday)** - Mike Hobson from Classic Records (<http://www.classicrecords.com>) will be demonstrating their recordings both on vinyl and DAD (24/96 resolution CD). Mike hosted our June 2002 meeting. Mark your calendar-you don't want to miss this one! **PLEASE NOTE-THIS IS THE 2ND SUNDAY IN DECEMBER!**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 2007** - We kick off 2007 in a big way with David Penrod from Martin Logan ( <http://www.martinlogan.com> ) presenting their new top of the line Summit model.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>** - Paul Hilgeman from Nomad Audio, a new Chicago area company ([www.nomad-audio.com](http://www.nomad-audio.com)) will demonstrate both the active and passive versions of his new loudspeaker (made with bamboo) as well as their new Class D amplifiers.