

The Golden Ear

November 1997

Newsletter of the *Chicago Audio Society*

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This Month's Meeting

November 16th

Have You Heard This? Music Listening Session

You have some records and/or CDs you particularly enjoy. Whether it's the recording that's superb, the performance thrilling, or just the music that is especially relaxing or involving (or more than one of the above), there's something about them that you like.

Here's a great opportunity to play some of the music you like for others to enjoy. If you'd like to say a few words about the recordings, by all means please do so. We'll list all which are played in the next newsletter in detail, with pertinent notes.

Musical tastes of members are wide ranging, including jazz, symphonic, rock, blues, choral, country, world music, new age, show tunes, and just about anything else which comes to mind. Let's spin some good vinyl and CDs to share interests, to discover recordings which we might otherwise miss. Isn't this a lot of what the Society is all about?

We'll have an excellent system on hand to play LPs and CDs, to reveal all of the nuances and dynamics of the music. So bring your music, and if you like, bring a friend to introduce him or her to fine audio and music.

Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month in the Pinehurst Room at Nordic Hills Resort in Itasca. The meeting begins at 2pm, doors open at 1. Nordic Hills phone number is (630) 773-2750. Newcomers are always welcome to attend a meeting without cost or obligation.

Last Month

It's hard to tell whether **Harry Paller's** stunning **Technik Avant Garde Model One** Signature preamplifier or his **Vulcan 280** power amplifier got more attention, but my guess would be the preamp. It is in a class by itself, although various technical obstacles made such a conclusion a bit difficult. The rest of the system consisted of a **Theta Data DS Pro Basic II** CD transport, **Analog Research D/A** converter, **Linn Sondek/Ittok/Asak** turntable, **XLO Signature** and other interconnects, biwired **Kimber 8TC** speaker cables, **ProAc Response 2.5** speakers, and **Custom Power Cord Company** power cords (thanks to **David Blair** for the digital front end, **XLO** interconnects, and power cords). **Shakti** stones were placed atop the preamp power supply and the amplifier power transformer for most of the meeting, but near the end they were removed (unfortunately, many people had left), removing the hardness (incorrectly) attributed to the CD playback system and making a significantly more musical, realistic sound. Clearly the CD playback system was excellent. Aural memory being what it is, the sound late in the day was similar to what was so enjoyable at the **WCES** last January in the **Luxor Group's** exhibit room.

The latest issue (#111) of *the abso!ute sound* includes some comments about the TAG preamp, rating it 3 out of 4 stars. **Harry Paller** and **David**

Blair are enthused, anticipating even higher praise once Harry Pearson receives another unit, complete with phono stage. By the way, Harry's first article for *Fi* appears in the current issue. What a pleasure to read.

Future Meetings

December 21 - Sedrick Harris of Melos Audio.

Sedrick will tell of recent changes at Melos as well as cover a variety of facets of their components which have a reputation for enjoyable, high fidelity sound. We'll have a good demonstration of a variety of their fine gear. Bring your records and CDs.

For the vinyl addicts, Sedrick will also be prepared to discuss a broad range of topics related to fine recordings. What are some of the currently undervalued classical, jazz, etc. records which are worth searching for? Do you or someone you know collect multiple pressings of some records and enjoy comparing them?

Society Business

We will have copies of the updated member list (that some of you have been clamoring for) next month, to be mailed with the next newsletter.

It's almost that time of year...dues will be payable by January.

For Sale

Jim Kreiser has several things:
Marantz 8B tube cage, asking \$75. Headshell connectors for phono cartridges, can also be used on open reel tape heads, some gold plated, best offer. Ten old Allied Radio catalogs, ranging from 1960 to 1972, best offer. Marantz 1150 solid state integrated amp, best offer. (847) 251-0275.

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