

Dan Wright from ModWright Instruments in Amboy (Vancouver) Washington tells us about the electronics that will be demonstrated.

photos by Joe Pittman

February 9th Meeting Recap by John Stone

Our February meeting brought together two Washington audio manufacturers, Daedalus Audio and ModWright Instruments. Although neither company has any formal busi-

ness ties with the other, it was evident from the onset that Lou Hinkley from Daedalus and Dan Wright from ModWright share a professional respect and personal friendship. This relationship

was in evidence as they comfortably took turns demonstrating system components and playing musical selections. On center stage for this meeting was the Daedalus Audio Athena speakers.

These speakers, displaying the cabinet work of a master craftsman (Do a Wiki search on the word Daedalus for some insight on the company name), utilize solid hardwood (walnut in this case) for the cabinet, and proprietary drivers, integrated with an advanced crossover. These speakers are 96 dB efficient with a near-constant 6.5 ohm impedance, making them very amp friendly.

While we achieved good sound on some tracks, I felt that the speakers overall, were not a good match with the room. Both manufacturers agreed that Daedalus' larger speaker, the Ulysses, would have performed better in our large room. The sound quality varied by track and by seating position. As I wandered around the room, the sound would go from strained and a little harsh-sounding at the back of the room, to a much better sound when sitting in the center of the first row (nearfield). Music selections provided by members and presenters were consistently excellent. Thanks to all who brought music. See the playlist that follows.



Lou Hinkley from Daedalus in Bellingham Washington tells us about loudspeakers, especially their wonderful woodwork and finish.



Sharing the stage was the ModWright 150SE amp, LS100 preamp with onboard DAC, and tube-modified Oppo BDP-95. The new KWI200 Integrated amp was on static display for most of the evening, but was briefly played at the very end of the meeting. Note: ModWright is offering a 15% discount to all club members in good standing, who wish to obtain a tube-modified Oppo BDP-95 and mention that they heard it at the February meeting. Please contact ModWright directly for further details.

February 9th Meeting Playlist

Artist	Track Title	Album	Format
Rebecca Pidgeon	Spanish Harlem	Raven (Chesky)	16 Bit 44 KHz FLAC file played through DAC in ModWright LS100
Beethoven's 9 th Symphony	Movement III excerpt (?)	?	16 Bit 44 KHz FLAC file played through DAC in ModWright LS100
Hugh Masekela	Stimela	Hope	16 Bit 44 KHz FLAC file played through DAC in ModWright LS100
Dave Brubeck Quartet	Take Five	Take Five	16 Bit 44 KHz FLAC file played through DAC in ModWright LS100
Cat Power	House of the Rising Sun	Live Sessions	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Blue Chamber Quarter	La Fiesta	FIM	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Diana Krall	?	?	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Annie Lennox	A Thousand Beautiful Things	Bare	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
The Pretty Things	Death of a Socialite	Emotions	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
The Who	Underture	Tommy	SACD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Rachael Yamagata and Ray LaMontagne	Duet	Elephants... Teeth Sinking Into Heart	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Stevie Ray Vaughn	Mary Had a Little Lamb	Texas Flood	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Muddy Waters	My Home Is In the Delta	Folk Singer	?
Nora Jones and Ray Charles	Here We Go Again	Genius Loves Company	16 Bit 44 KHz FLAC file played through DAC in ModWright LS100
The Mavericks	Blue Moon	Music For All Occasions, Apollo 13 Soundtrack	CD played on ModWright Oppo BDP-95
Mazzy Star	?	?	

After the meeting had officially ended, Dan switched over to play the KWI200 Integrated amp with its integral DAC, using music files from his server. Sorry to say, I was starting the cleanup and didn't write down the tracks he played during this time.

President's Message

by John Stone

The February meeting marks my last as President of PNWAS. As mentioned during that meeting, I will be out of the country on a temporary work assignment during the next two meetings, including the March meeting when election of officers is accomplished. I would like to thank my fellow officers

Darin Forkenbrock and Bruce Brown, along with the rest of the club's Executive Committee, for helping with the enjoyable task of running our club. I would encourage any of you who might be interested in participating with the organization of club events, to strongly consider volunteering for one of the

officer positions or in the club's music or equipment committees. It does involve some work, but the work is usually fun and done with the support of the exceptional people we have on our Executive Committee.

Musical Ramblings

by John Stone

For those of you who watched the Grammy presentations on TV, this year's Best Rock Album went to the Foo Fighters for their album "Wasting Light." During his acceptance speech, lead guitarist/singer Dave Grohl stated "To me this award means a lot because it shows that the human element of music is what's important. Singing into a microphone and learning to play an instrument and learning to do your craft, that's the most important thing for people to do... It's not about being perfect, it's not about sounding absolutely correct, it's not about what goes on in a computer. It's about what goes on in here [your heart] and what goes on in here [your head]." Dave's statement touched off a small controversy regarding the pros/cons of electronic/computer-processed music which is mildly amusing in its own right, but you can read about that yourself (<http://www.hitfix.com/blogs/the-beat-goes-on/posts/read-dave-grohls-clarification-of-his-grammy-acceptance-speech>). Dave's point was that the human element, from his point of view, has been reduced in recent years by the music industry. This point was also raised in the February 2012 issue of *Stereophile* by Steve Guttenberg in the March *Stereophile* (As We See It) tells of artists who record hundreds of takes and then let the engineers

sort things out and create the "perfect" performance. Robert Harley brings up a related point in the January 2012 issue of *The Absolute Sound* "As recording technology became more powerful, the record producer's role was transformed from coach and business liaison between the artist and record company to full-fledged *autuer*. In fact, some pop records can be considered creations of the producer..." In essence, it boils down to some form of acceptable compromise between the two extremes, commercial success (doing whatever it takes to sell product and make money)



and personal success (doing what I like to do, being creative, and interacting with other performers in the creative process whether I make money or not). On a different tact, what percentage of a performers commercial success is linked to their stage appearance (Beyonce, Ricky Martin, Lady Gaga) vs their musical ability (Adele, Lyle Lovett), but I digress. John Valin and Harry Pearson in the *Absolute Sound* has mused about the three camps of audiophiles; the fidelity to the master tape or disc group, the fidelity to acous-

tic instruments in real space group, and fidelity to a persons own musical tastes (it sounds good to me). Is there a comparison to be made between what, as Dave Grohl puts it "...its about what goes on in your heart" and one of the three categories of audiophiles? I'm never sure how much new music we as audiophiles actually purchase. In my view, we seem to focus on the illusive collectable, remastered, or hi-rez version of older music vs new music (any genre). My data set is small, so I could easily be way off base here. Is this counterproductive to our own cause, that of listening to good music, in that it does not promote the generation of "new" good music? I know, we're a small group and we probably don't matter to the mainstream music industry, but even so, shouldn't we be willing to support our musical preferences with our wallets? Each month, *Stereophile* and *The Absolute Sound* reviews several new albums and CDs, many of which are recommended by the reviewers. In the last year, have you purchased any of these reviewed selections? If not, why not? As always, forward your comments and opinions to Joe Pittman for inclusion in next month's newsletter. Due to my out-of-town work assignment, I'll not be ranting in this space for at least a couple of months, so please, consider providing

March 8th Meeting Announcement

by Gary Koh

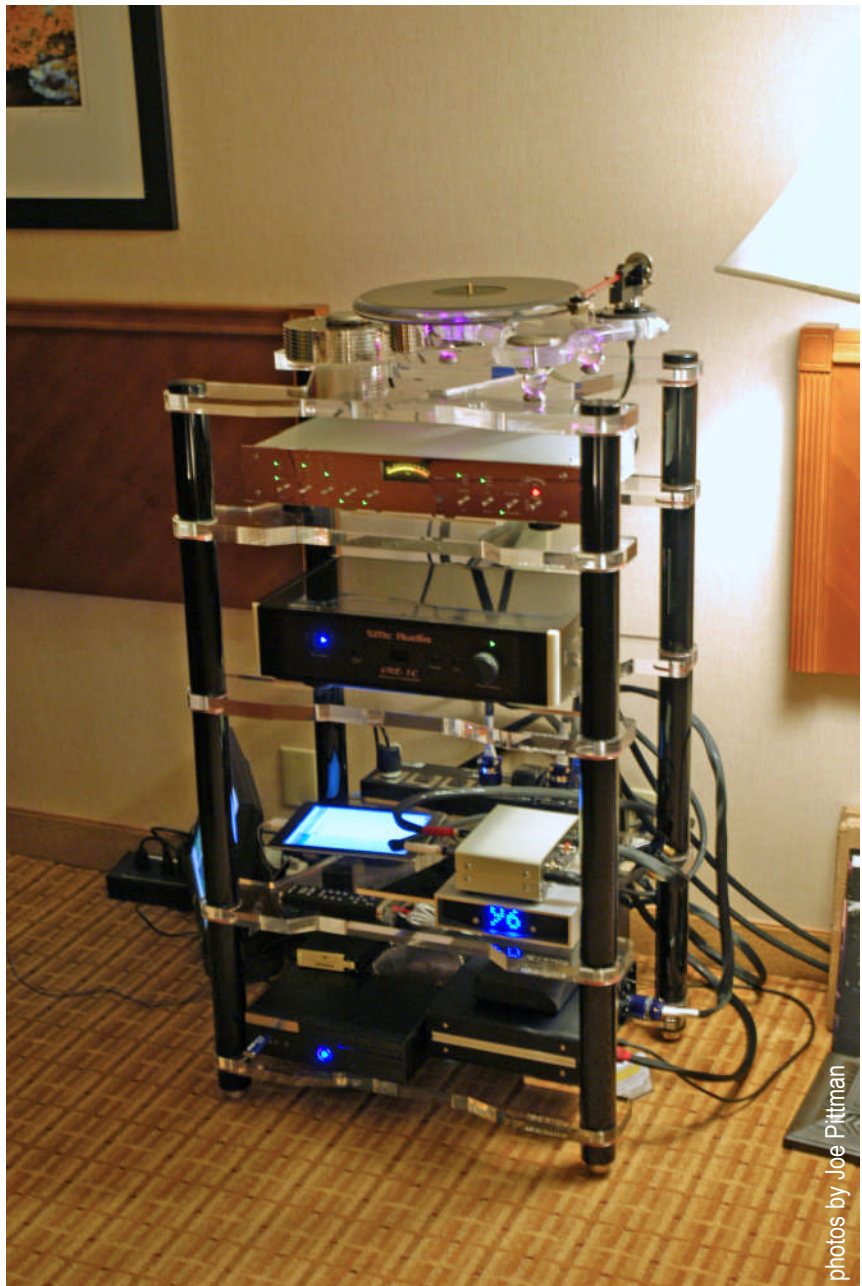
The next meeting will unveil the upgraded CLUB LOUDSPEAKERS. We approved an upgrade of the club's donated Genesis 7.1f loudspeakers to the G7.2f level at last August's meeting. The upgrade is finally completed, and they will be unveiled with the presentation by Steve McCormack at the next meeting Thursday, March 8th.

Mark this into your calendar now.

Many members still remember the magical evening of music we had more than two years ago when Steve McCormack presented his Virtual Reality Engine-1 preamp to the club and pretty much blew everyone away. By the end of the meeting, some members were proposing to spend entire treasury of the club to buy the VRE-1 from Steve! Good thing that cooler heads prevailed.... but we still long for that magical moment again. Our President, John Stone, would like to remind us (since he won't be at the meeting) that we still don't have enough in the club treasury to buy the new VRE-1C.

Here's the chance. Steve is bringing his latest version, the VRE-1C for yet another presentation. This is the first time ever that a remote-controlled version of a preamp sounds better than the manual version using a stepped, discrete-resistor attenuator. Steve will tell us how he managed to do it at the Pacific Northwest Audio Society meeting, Thursday, March 8th.

In case you don't know who Steve McCormack is, he was the founder of McCormack Audio (since sold to Conrad Johnson), recorded and engineered some of the most sought after Direct Disc LPs ever made with M&K Real Time, founded the Mod Squad, and invented the Tiptoes.



This is a photo of the system which was demonstrated at the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest in Denver last October. Steve's new preamp is shown on the middle shelf. We intend to play some vinyl which will include the very rare and famous M&K LP's like "FOR DUKE" and "Earl "Fatha" Hines"!!!

Coming Attractions

March 8 PNWAS Meeting

Steve McCormack from SMC Audio will demonstrate his new VRE-1c preamp.

April 12 PNWAS Meeting

Kara Chaffee with DeHavilland from Vancouver, WA will demonstrate her 50A triode push-pull amps.

NOTICES by John Stone

The club's SCD-777 for sale

If any club members are interested contact fork@audiosociety.org ASAP. These SACD players have state of the art Transports in them, they are getting rare so this won't last long.

Proposed Oppo Purchase

Based on recent meetings The executive committee feels the best course of action for the club is to purchase a stock Oppo BDP-95. We will be voting on the motion below at the March 2012 meeting:

“The Executive committee moves that the club use previously-approved money from the \$2000 allocated for a digital playback system to purchase a stock Oppo BDP-95. The cost of the Oppo will be between \$950 and \$1100.

Proposed Rack Purchase

The Club has been presented with an incredible offer to purchase an acrylic equipment rack similar to those we have had at club meetings in the past for \$1600 +tax. This is a five shelf unit (MSRP \$6550) that can be expanded and/or reconfigured as needed to support club functions.

In a two rack configuration it will fit in our current cabinet replacing our existing rolling equipment rack. The old rack can be sold via silent auction. The executive committee recommends moving on this purchase immediately.

We will be voting on the motion below at the March 2012 meeting:

“The Executive Committee moves the club use \$1800 from our general purpose checking account to purchase an acrylic equipment racks from Kosmic.

Classified Ads

Linn LP12 with Ekos tonearm and Lingo motor power supply. Excellent sound quality with minor cosmetic flaws. Clear dust cover in very good condition, no noticeable scratches. Original plinth from the early 80's has been upgraded to circus bearing/subplatter, original trampolin, silver interconnect and silver headshell wire. Does not include cartridge. I don't have the box. \$3,000 for cash. This is a personal sale and not subject to WSST. Contact Joe Pittman email joe@kosmic.us



Disclaimer: The Pacific Northwest Audio Society does not endorse nor is liable for any advertisement in any way. Everyone is cautioned to proceed at their own risk.

Visitors Welcome!

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

PNWAS Mission Statement

- ◆ To bring people with a common interest in music reproduced at its best, for their mutual edification and pleasure.
- ◆ To facilitate the exchange and dissemination of accurate data concerning audio equipment and musical recordings.
- ◆ To promote, sponsor, and cultivate the highest quality reproduction of music in the home.
- ◆ To encourage maintenance of high standards in the performance, recording and transmission of music.

PNWAS Objectives

1. Provide a forum for meeting other audio-phililes and exchanging information on musical recordings and audio equipment.
2. Demonstrate and compare equipment and recordings.
3. Give members opportunities to become familiar with the techniques of audio manufacturing, testing, repair, recording, broadcasting, etc.
4. Explore related avenues as the member-

ship deems appropriate.

Club Website

www.audiosociety.org

E-mail

info@audiosociety.org

US Mail

Pacific Northwest Audio Society, PO Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Annual Dues

\$60 due each January. New members pay a prorated \$5 per month for remainder of year.

Elected Officers

President: John Stone

John.W.Stone4@boeing.com

Vice-President: Darin Forkenbrock

forkenbrock@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Brown

pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Editor: Joe Pittman

joe@kosmic.us

Equipment: Jerry Pomeroy

enhancedsystems@earthlink.net

Music: Vacant– Volunteers?

Refreshment: Vacant– Volunteers?

Editorial

Editorial submissions are welcome.

Content must be audio-related or of general interest to the club in plain text or Word document format without automation (macros and scripts). We reserve the right to edit for style, content, and length.

Editorial Deadline: two weeks before meeting date.

Publishing any editorial material is contingent upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

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Bringing Audio Enthusiasts Together Since 1978

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