

Member Music Night

Review by David Das

I had the pleasure of attending the **Member Music Night** Event on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at the Faith Lutheran Church.

The equipment used was identical to the **Music & Social** Event held at the Faith Lutheran Church, January 23, 2006 except for two differences:

1.

The Member Music Night Event was held at the **Faith Place**, a smaller hall measuring 32' x 42' next to the Church Office.

2.

Club Secretary **David Snyder** deployed his latest iteration (Version 148) of his Direccion Protocol to enhance the sound quality of the streaming tracks from Qobuz and TIDAL.

Although not the event's main focus, this presented an opportunity to compare SACD and CD playback against Qobuz streaming through the Oppo BDP-205's internal DAC.

To me the difference was night and day.

The Direccion Protocol added a layer of refinement and relaxation to the system that was missing in the January Event held at the **Parish Hall**. Direccion added more definition, instrument separation and emotional engagement to the streaming tracks.

For under \$500, you can elevate your streaming experience to a world-class level. The Direccion protocol serves as a sophisticated bridge to high-end audio, rivaling commercial solutions costing upwards of \$10,000.

Best of all, you do not need to be a programmer or waste any time tinkering with a DIY Kit. David Snyder provides a pre-programmed plug and play working solution complete with a remote.

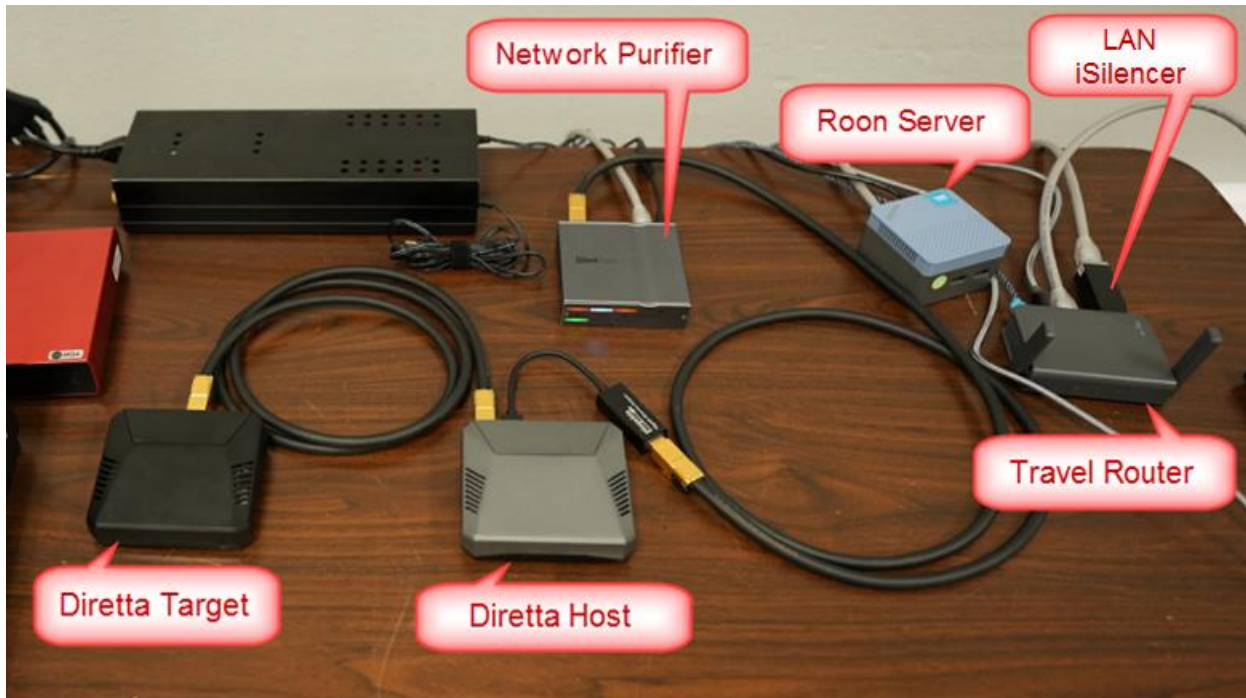
David is also happy to build the kit if you buy the parts and send it to him or bring them to his home where he can help you assemble the parts while he explains what, how and why. Club Member **Paul Zidel** took this route with great results.

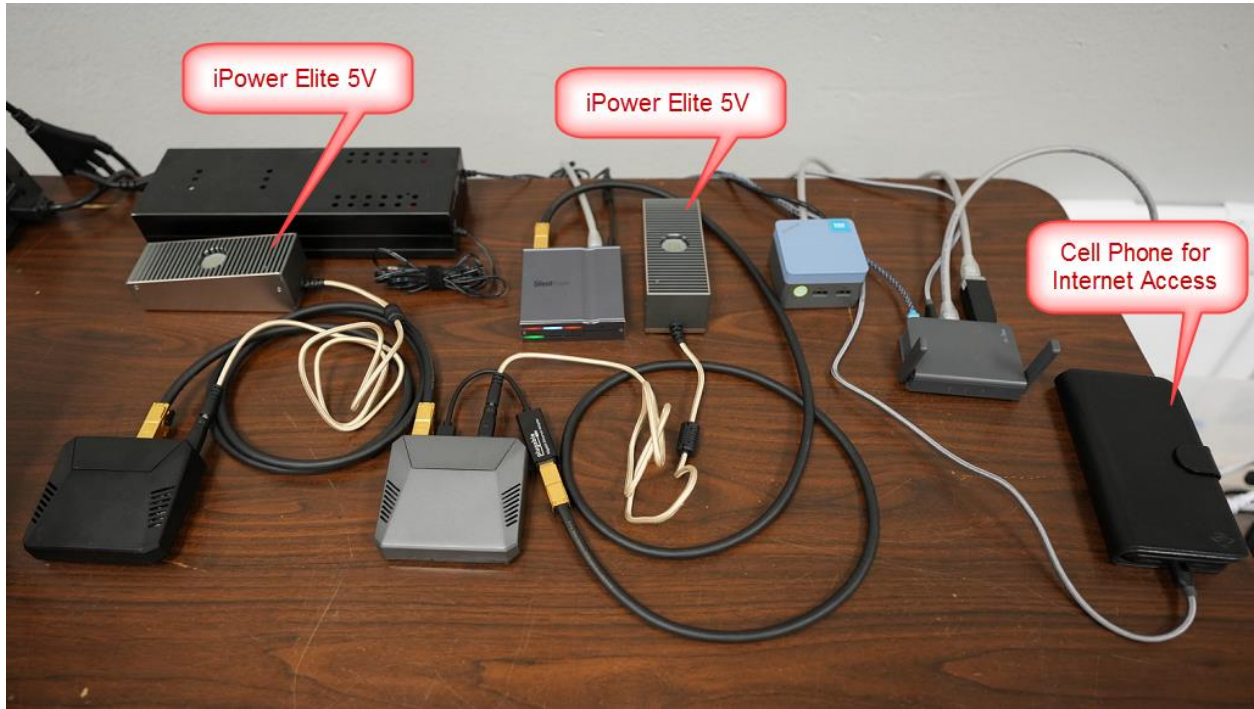
After listening to the difference in sound quality between the January and February Events using the same equipment, I would wholeheartedly recommend the Direccion upgrade.

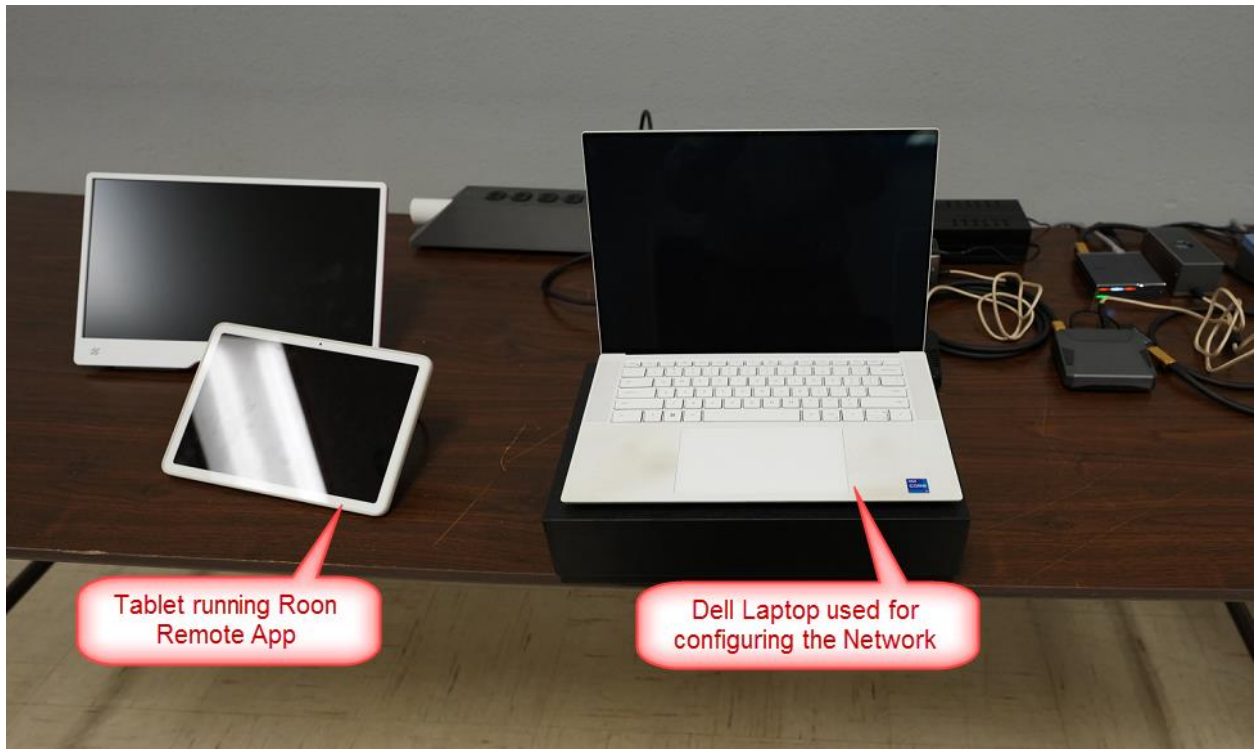
If you are curious about the Direccion upgrade, please read my [55-page review](#) of the event **Beyond the Bits: Taming Your Network for Superior Sound** held on August 28, 2025.

David arrived early around 5pm to set up his Diretta gear. I took photos of every step as he assembled the components.

By 6pm, David had his Roon server configured to stream from Qobuz and TIDAL using his Diretta Target and Host pair running version 148 of his software.







Equipment List for Diredta Setup

David Synder furnished and configured the following components to set up the Diredta Streaming solution.

Travel Router: [GLiNet GL-AR750S-Ext](#) Gigabit Wireless Router

Diredta Host: [Raspberry Pi 4 Model B/4GB](#)

Diredta Host Case: [Argon ONE V2](#)

Diredta Target: [Raspberry Pi 5/2GB](#)

Diredta Target Case: [Argon ONE V3](#)

Network Purifier: iFi SilentPower [LAN iPurifier Pro](#) and [LAN iSilencer](#)

Roon Server: [GMKtec Mini PC](#), G5 N97, 12GB RAM, 256GB SSD

Tablet running the ROON Remote App: [Google Pixel Tablet](#) with 11" screen

Laptop: Dell XPS 15

DAC: [Topping E50 II Hi-Res Audio DAC](#)

Preamp: [Topping Pre90](#)

Power Source:

- iFi SilentPower [PowerStation](#)
- Each Raspberry Pi computer was powered by its own iFi [Elite 5V/5A](#) power supply
- An old Allo [Shanti LPS](#) powered the iFi LAN iPurifier Pro
- The Ethernet cables between the LAN iPurifier Pro and Diredta Host, and between the Host and Target, were [Fidata HFLC Ethernet](#) cables
- An iFi SilentPower [AC iPurifer](#) was plugged into the same ganged receptacle as the PowerStation

Here is the price breakdown of the equipment that was sitting on the table. The total was over \$4.5K

Component	Quantity	Cost	Extended
iFi PowerStation	1	\$749	\$749
iFi AC iPurifier	1	\$129	\$129
Allo Shanti	1	\$159	\$159
iFi Elite 5V	2	\$299	\$598
iFi LAN iPurifier Pro	1	\$299	\$299
iFi LAN iSilencer	1	\$89	\$89
Raspberry Pi Computers	2	\$110	\$220
AudioLinux	1	\$79	\$79
Diretta Unlimited	1	\$117	\$117
Roon Server	1	\$210	\$210
Travel Router	1	\$89	\$89
Fidata HFLC Ethernet cable	2	\$930	\$1,860
Blue Jeans CAT6a Bonded Pairs	2	\$23	\$46
Total			\$4,644.00

This total does not include the analog components downstream, such as the Straight Wire [Virtuoso 2](#) balanced interconnects and the Topping [Pre90](#) analog preamp.

The iFi iPower Elite 5V unit was connected to the [iFi PowerStation](#) Active Power Conditioner.

An [iFi SilentPower LAN iPurifier Pro](#) and [LAN iSilencer](#) were used to provide optical network isolation between the Roon Server and the Diretta Host.

This is how the Diretta Network looked after David assembled all the components.



Steering Committee Member **Jeffrey Behr** was kind enough to loan his [Eminent Technology LFT-8C Hybrid Dynamic Planar speakers](#).





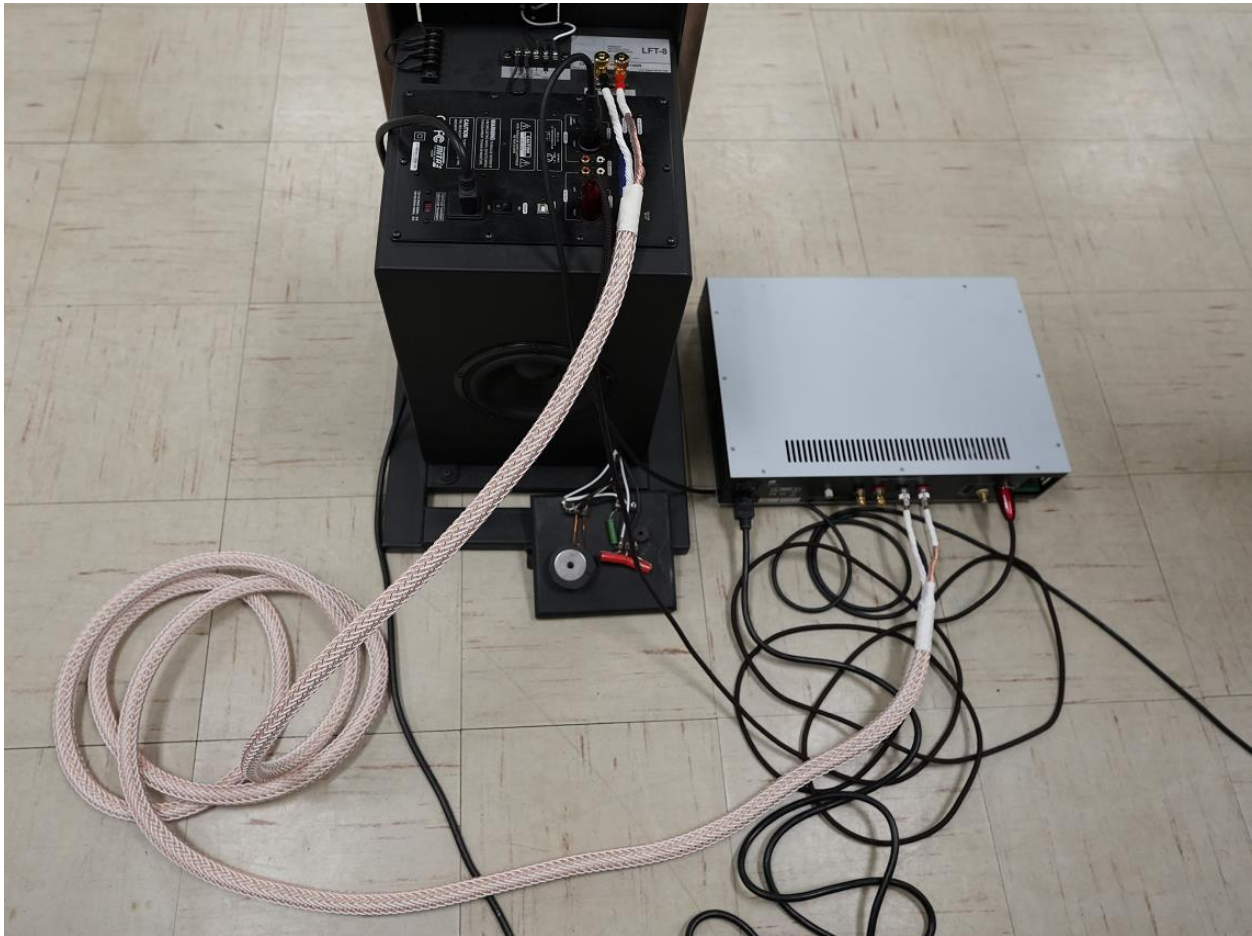


The cross-over is external.



Jeffrey also provided a pair of [PS Audio Stellar M1200](#) Monoblocks rated at 1200W into a 4 ohm load. Since the Eminent Technology LFT-8C speakers have an 8 ohm nominal impedance, these Monoblocks delivered 600W ensuring the planar speakers never ran out of juice.





Jeffrey provided his [Oppo UDP-205](#) Blu-ray player for listening to CD tracks.



Club President **John Harvell** brought two sets of speaker cables for comparison.

The **GR Research** cable built by Steering Committee Member **Joe Roberts** is on the left.
The gray **Canare** cable built by Club Treasurer **Paul Johnson** is on the right.



The **GR Research Cable** is an exact replica of the expensive [Kimber Kable 12TC](#).

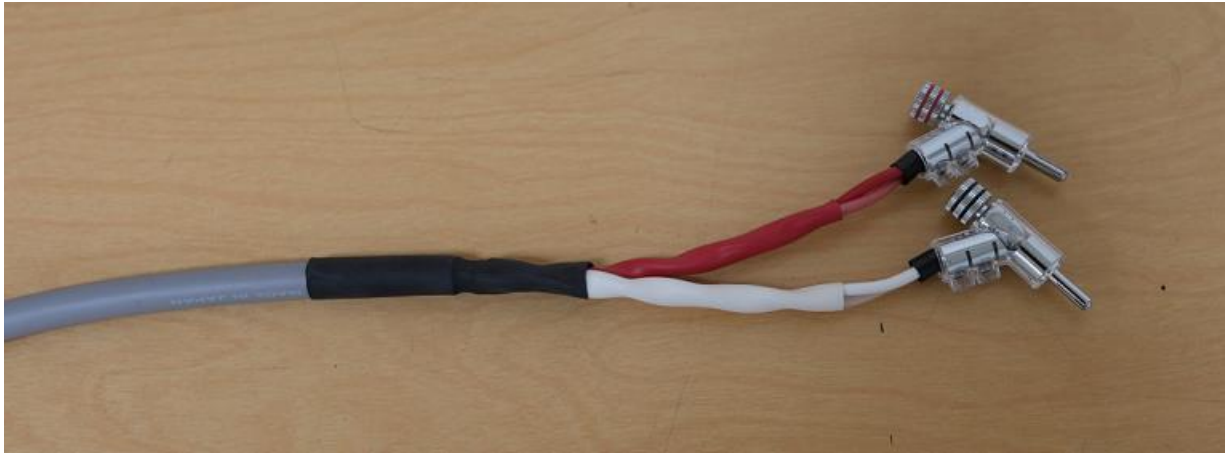
The 24 Strand GR Research Cable costs [\\$13.75 per foot](#).



Please contact **Joe Roberts** obinan@att.net for more details.

These cables were used throughout the entire event.

The **Canare Cable** uses locking banana plugs that provide a secure connection that does not slip.



Please contact **Paul Johnson** tachyon2go@gmail.com for more details.

Due to time constraints we were not able to compare the Canare cables.

Everything was set up by 7pm.



The following 2 photos give you an idea of the size of the room measuring 32' x 42'



Each member was given the opportunity to select a favorite track and say a few words about their choice.

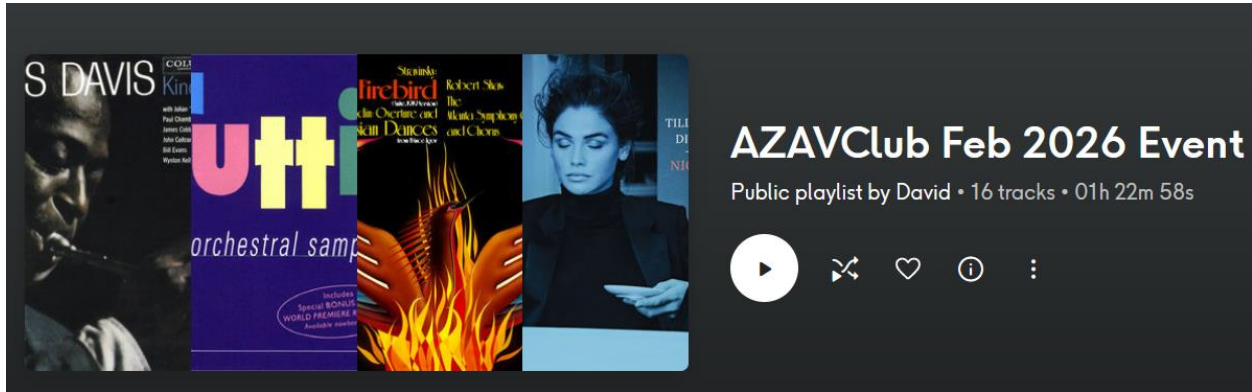
Jeffrey delighted attendees with a selection of orchestral music from his SACD collection, including works by John Williams, Igor Stravinsky, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and others.

Here is a list of the 16 tracks that were streamed over the course of 2 hours.

Album Artist	Album	Disc#	Track#	Title
Miles Davis	Kind of Blue	1	1	So What
Various Artists	Tutti!: Orchestral Sampler	1	1	The Snow Maiden: Dance of the Tumblers
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, Robert Shaw	Stravinsky: The Firebird Suite (1919 Version) - Borodin: Overture & Polovetsian Dances from Prince Igor	1	4	The Firebird Suite: IV. Infernal Dance of King Kastchei (1919 Version)
Till Brönner & Dieter Ilg	Nightfall	1	1	A Thousand Kisses Deep
Father John Misty	I Love You, Honeybear	1	2	Chateau Lobby #4 (in C for Two Virgins)
Lou Reed	Transformer	1	3	Perfect Day
Friend 'n Fellow	Discovered	1	2	Clocks
Anne-Sophie Mutter, Recording Arts Orchestra of Los Angeles & John Williams	Across The Stars	1	9	The Duel (From "The Adventures Of Tintin")
Laufey	Promise	1	1	Promise
The Tibbs	Takin' Over	1	9	The Story Goes
Simon and Garfunkel	Parsley, Sage, Rosemary And Thyme	1	10	For Emily, Whenever I May Find Her
Lucy Thomas	Portrait	1	1	Woman in Love
Natalie Merchant	Leave Your Sleep	1	12	The Peppery Man
Nils Lofgren	Nils Lofgren Band Live	2	9	Bass & Drum Intro
O-Zone Percussion Group	O-Zone Percussion Group: Bamba (La)	1	10	Jazz Variants
Erich Kunzel	Tchaikovsky: 1812; Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue; An American in Paris	1	1	1812 -- Festival Overture, for orchestra in E flat major, Op. 49

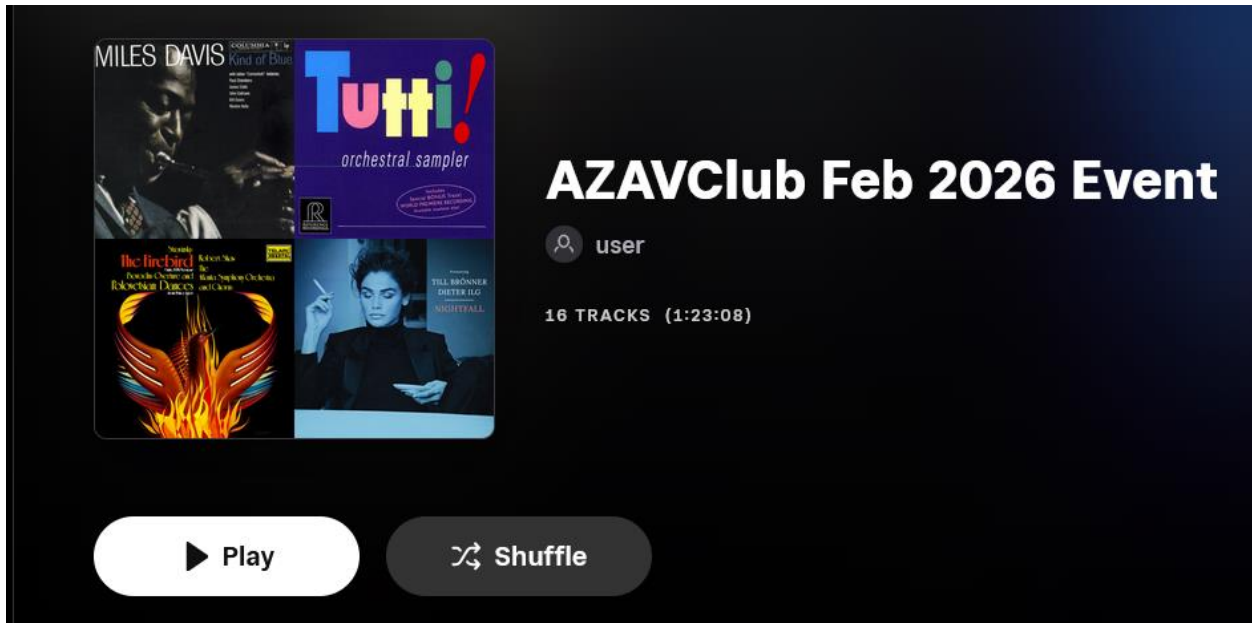
Here is the **Qobuz Playlist**:

<https://play.qobuz.com/playlist/58888887>



Here is the **TIDAL Playlist**:

<https://tidal.com/playlist/d898da8a-bd7d-4d8c-83aa-d3e7e8e497a2>



David Snyder was kind enough to create these playlists for quick reference.

Of all these 16 tracks, the absolute best one that revealed the full capability of this system was **Jazz Variants** by the O-Zone Percussion Group. If you are constrained by time to listen to just 1 song while evaluating audio gear, this is the track you need to hear. This was David Snyder's choice.

The 2nd best track that tested the dynamics of the system was **Bass & Drum Intro** by Nils Lofgren. The speakers effortlessly reproduced the deep notes of the bass drum and energized the entire room. This track was suggested by Joe Roberts. He mentioned that audiophiles play music to listen to their gear. This is the track he uses for critical evaluation.

Jeffrey Behr selected **The Snow Maiden: Dance of the Tumbers**. Orchestral scores come alive on this system. It felt expansive and dynamic.

When my turn came to make a selection, I chose **Woman in Love** by Lucy Thomas. She holds the iconic note for 10 seconds at the 2:25 minute mark while maintaining a steady vibrato. I was curious to hear how well this setup could capture the power and emotion in Lucy's angelic voice. It sounded very good.

However, Lucy's voice was not as refined or focused relative to what I had experienced with [John Harvell's modified audio system](#). This was to be expected. John's setup costs a magnitude more.

I wanted to hear a comparison between the HR-Research Cables and the cheaper Canare Cables. We decided to skip this since we were past 10pm and needed time to tear down and pack up all the gear.

Out of curiosity, I have tried 3 different sets of speaker cables on my modest setup with Tekton MOAB speakers and eventually settled on a set using the Mogami W3104 Quad High Definition Speaker Cables. Here is my [Speaker Cable Build Guide](#) showing all the steps.

Closing thoughts

The Eminent Technology LFT-8C Hybrid Dynamic Planar speakers sounded significantly more dynamic, refined and relaxed at the Members Music Night event compared to my recollection of how they performed at Music & Social Event in January.

The inclusion of the Diretta Target & Host devices in the audio chain had a positive impact on the streaming tracks from Qobuz and TIDAL. I would call this event was an unqualified success, reinforced by the unanimous feedback we received from the members who attended both these events.

Adding the [Diretta Kit](#) for \$486 that includes the \$117 Diretta High-Res license should be a no-brainer for any music streaming setup. We are fortunate to have **David Snyder** provide us with a hassle free turn-key solution. This has worked out very well on my system as well as Steering Committee Member **Ravi Velnati's** system using Final Electrostatic speakers. Ravi cannot stop talking about the perceived higher resolution he experiences with his Diretta/Roon combo.

Listening to the various speaker cables built by **Paul Johnson** and **Joe Roberts** inspired me to build my own cables with surprisingly good results. This \$142 speaker cable upgrade was worth the time and money.

I hope the steps I outlined for building a set of [Mogami W3104 Quad Speaker Cables](#) would motivate someone to give this a try. If you do not have the tools you can always have **Paul Johnson** build you a set of audiophile grade speaker cables cut to custom lengths and terminated with your choice of spade or locking banana connectors at each end.

Being a member of the Arizona Audio Video Club gives us the unique opportunity to audition and compare a wide range of Hi-Fi gear at scheduled events and homes of club members in a relaxed setting with no sales pressure. We all get to benefit from our shared expertise and experiences.

All photos in this review were taken on a [Sony A7C II](#) Full Frame Mirrorless Camera using a [Sony FE 20mm F1.8 G](#) Lens.

Best regards,

David Das