

Coming February 14th: ..Jerry Pomeroy presents the latest Blu-ray Disc sound quality....

Audioletter

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JANUARY 10th MEETING RECAP Text and Photos by Bruce Brown

Since CES fell on the date that our meeting was being held, our own Jazz Journal writer, Dick Mueller, held the meeting.

With the help of Renan, Dick presented us with some great Jazz bands of the past 50 years. It's not often that we just sit and listen to some great music at our meetings, with all the politics and stuff. This was certainly a treat for every jazz lover out there and would encourage everyone to track down some of the music that

Dick and Renan played that evening. I have known Dick for quite a few years and had been trying to open my schedule up to get over to his place. I'm a jazz aficionado and really thought I knew quite a bit about the genre. Hey, I even saw Woody Herman play at my college in '78 and have his autograph! Right before the January meeting I had the opportunity to hang out with Dick for an extended afternoon. To say I was humbled is an understatement. His wealth of knowledge

about ALL genres of music is astounding. He was pulling out all kinds of CD's and LP's of people that I had never heard of.

I sat in the sweet spot and the hairs on the back of my neck and down my arms would stand up like little toy soldiers. How was such great music coming from these big Snell speakers? Dick has done a fine job of tweaking his system to get the last .5% out of it. As the afternoon went on, I tried so hard to remember

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some of the recordings that I had heard. I'm just glad it's Dick that's writing the Jazz Journal and that I'm sure on behalf of the other members would encourage him to keep writing and teaching us about the great musicians of our past and present. There might just be a little Mr. Mueller in all of us.

At the end of the meeting we had a little treat. One of our newest members approached a couple of the officers and asked if he would demonstrate his speakers. Well since most of our meetings have been planned well in advance, the only opportunity we have sometimes is either before or after the meeting.

Peigen Jiang has a startup company (www.eficion.com) developing loudspeakers. The unique feature about these speakers is that they utilize a honeycomb structured ribbon tweeter.

Under less than optimal listening conditions, they actually sounded pretty good. I would encourage Pei-

gen at a later date, if he could give a demonstration of his speakers and tell us more about its design.

The music played for the evening was:

Gerald Wilson

**Out of This World
Everywhere/1969**

Maynard Ferguson

**Round Midnight
MF Horn 3/1973**

Carl Saunders

**Never Always
Bebop Big Band/1999**

Rob Parton

**How Deep is the Ocean
Two Different**

Days/2004 Rob McConnell

**Embraceable You
Brassy &**

Sassy/1992

**One O'Clock Lab Band This
LAB**

2002/2002

**Woody Herman
Park West
Heritage Series/1993**

**Central
Concord**

BREAK

Dave McMurdo

**With A Song in My Heart
Live/1992**

Bob Brookmeyer

**Lovely
Get Well Soon/2003**

Charlie Smith Circle

**Ahead and Behind
Ahead and Behind/2003**

Kim Richmond

**Variations
Refractions/2003**

Kenny Wheeler

**Sweet
Song/1997**

**Winter
Siren's**

Jim Knapp

**On Going Home Desk
On Going Home/1995**



TITLE TRACK

By Jerry Pomeroy

It's the beginning of February, days are considerably longer and animals are starting to lose their winter-coats, sounds like late winter in Seattle. It is time to start planning for summer projects. What will it be? a hot tub, a music Server, paint the house. How about changing the acoustical signature in your listening room, new furnace, water-heater and potentially the best thing will be a new electrical service. Maybe I will go for a new phono cartridge rather than the hot tub it's less maintenance. Now you know what I'll be up to this spring and summer. As much as I have enjoyed serving the club over the last 5 years I think my house remodel will comprise the better part of my time and feel it best to announce I will not be available to serve as an officer over the next year.

We will be having elections for officers in March. Over the last several years a reasonable sized executive committee has been developed to share the load. Comprised of the elected officers, the Editor and heads of committees, the executive committee actually runs the club.

There are three elected offices; President, VP and Treasure. The primary responsibility of the officers are: the President keeps the club going, VP keeps the notes from the meetings and historically has written articles for the newsletter recapping the last meeting, The Treasure is responsible for the club finances and keeps membership records. These people teamed with the committee heads and the Editor set the schedule for upcoming meetings and club activities. If you would like to have more input as to meeting subjects or have a vision for the club you need to convey this to the executive committee member or run for office. If you are interested in running for an office or would like more informa-

tion please let one of the officers know. Members may nominate themselves for any office at the March meeting.

The position of editor is not an elected position but is recognized as committee head, so the person holding this position is also a member of the Executive committee. Joe Pittman has served faithfully as Editor for the last couple of years. His business occupies more and more of his time and would like to pass this position on to someone else wanting to develop their desktop publishing skills.

Deal with the administrative ramblings, without it the club wouldn't continue to present its all-star meeting line up. If you haven't looked at the calendar yet the February meeting falls on Valentines day. Dr Bottlehead was available to do the February meeting but we decided it best to slide till April 10th allowing for PR and better attendance, this will probably be one of the best sounding meetings this year. If you think this last statement to be bold, try a Google search and see what people say that have heard the tapes. More info <http://www.tapeproject.com/>

The Feb 14 meeting will center around video, material will be sourced from DVD and Blu-ray Disc. I also plan to demonstrate the difference between a compressed Dolby digital soundtrack and the 24/48 linear PCM soundtrack available on several HD disc. We will be using 3-channel audio this meeting. The March 13th meeting we'll have several sets of speakers for you to evaluate, all under \$3K, you be the judge. See Ya. ■

P.s. I just found out Holly Cole will be at Jazz Alley March 3rd.

Tech Stuff

by Jerry Pomeroy

Tech Stuff from CES

Panasonic: unveiled a 11' x 6.25' plasma TV, that is 150" diagonal. One of the best things about this display is the resolution 4,096 x 2,160 known as 4K, that is twice as many vertical and horizontal lines as 1920x1080. Sony also displayed a 4K set, just not as big.

HD disc

The HD disc format war isn't over yet but it looks like the Sony's Blu-ray Disc (BD) may win this round. Toshiba, Microsoft and the DVD Forum have not thrown in the towel yet. In the wake of Warner's announcement that in May they would no longer support HD-DVD and will exclusively release on BD the HD-DVD promotions group canceled their press conference at CES. The spokesman for Warner sited lower than expect sales in both HD formats and that having two HD formats has compounded the fear/reluctance of consumers not wanting to end up with the next generation of a Betamax machine. Warner claimed sales of HD disc 60/40 BluRay/HD-DVD.

There is a rumor that Warner received a large chunk of cash for this exclusive offering but both parties deny such deal. In the Fall of 2007 Viacom (parent Co. of Paramount) signed an exclusive deal with the HD-DVD group and they stopped releasing movies on BD. The exact details of the contract weren't released but both parties acknowledge there was about \$150 million in cash and promotion going to Viacom. Sales of Paramount HD disc had been almost 2:1, BD to HD-

DVD.

Major studios in the different camps are:

HD-DVD Camp

- ◆ Universal,
- ◆ DreamWorks,
- ◆ Paramount
- ◆ Nickelodeon
- ◆ MTV

Blu-ray Disc Camp

- ◆ Buena Vista (Disney, Touchstone, Miramax, Pixar)
- ◆ Fox
- ◆ Warner
- ◆ New Line Cinema
- ◆ Sony (Columbia/Tristar, MGM)
- ◆ Lionsgate

BD Players

Denon is shipping a BD transport DVD2500BCTI, and by March 1st we should see a BD player DVD-3800BDCl; MSRP \$999 & \$1,999 respectively. Before you rush out and purchase a transport you should know it is designed to work with a Denon processor, I am not sure what is proprietary about it's data stream. The other part of D&M marketing; Marantz will release their BD player in April for \$2K. These are the first HD-Disc players targeted for Videophiles, At 4 times the cost of current BD players, the Consumer Electronics industry will await sales figures.

HD-DVD Xbox 360

Microsoft lowered the price on the accessory HD-DVD transport for the Xbox360 by \$50 to \$130. As far as I know the 5 movies with the purchase

offer is still available.

Kaleidescape; manufacture of the high-end video server system announced it will bring to market a BD capable machine in 2009.

3D TV at CES

Over the last 4 years at CES I have seen numerous versions of 3D video displays. Like usual most mfg have claimed their system would make it to market. Samsung showed their polarized plasma display requiring glasses. Source for the system were 2 games, Need for speed Pro-street and NFL Madden 2008.

Mitsubishi demonstrated a version of 3D that doesn't require any glasses, to acquire the video they used 16 cameras, during playback projectors were mounted in the same configuration. This system utilizes a special lenticular screen. This system is obviously cost prohibitive for home use but may be feasible in commercial displays. A really boring video on the Mitsu system; <http://www.engadgethd.com/2008/01/04/mitsubishi-shows-off-3d-tv-technology-no-glasses-needed/>

Miscellaneous News

Pass Lab has new integrated amp the INT-150. It is based on the X-150.5.

Shanling MC-30 3 watt SET integrated with AM/FM/CD player.

Adire Audio has closed its' doors there is a short note on there web site <http://www.adireaudio.com/> ■

Coming Attractions

February 6, 2008

MUSIC MATTERS

Definitive Audio will host this event, it will be held at the 6206 Roosevelt Way NE showroom in Seattle as in the past. The event will consist of numerous demos in different rooms with the focus on music.

February 8, 2008

PNWAS Meeting

Jerry Pomeroy presents the latest Blu-ray Disc sound quality.

March 15, 2008

Nuts About HiFi in Silverdale is hosting a presentation by Dominic Baker from France. Dominic is the creative mind behind Focal's Utopia speakers. The

presentation is Saturday, March 15 at 4:00 pm. There will also be wine tasting. See www.nutsabouthifi.com for more info.

May 24-26, 2008

VSAC

Looks like VSAC (Vacuum State of the Art Convention) is back! It will still be in the Northwest but it may not be in Silverdale. There isn't a web site yet but we will post more details as they become available.

Classified Ads

Ads are free to members and will run for three consecutive issues unless renewed. Please limit ads to make, model, short description, condition, MSRP, asking price, contact information.

I have been remodeling my Theater/listening room and have some things for sale and will pass on a even better deal to any club member. I have 60" x 80" wall mounted Stewart Studio Tech 1.30 screen. The studio tech 1.30 was developed for Joe Kane as a color neutral reference screen to evaluate projectors on, it still is the standard in the industry and Joe Kanes favorite screen for evaluation. This is 1.33:1 aspect ratio screen not a 1.78:1 widescreen. The screen material is in excellent condition, the frame has a rub spot in the black felt. The screen is still on the wall but have all the original packaging. \$325 non club members. I have a matched set of Target B series five shelf steel equipment racks, current model is HF-570 MSRP of \$399 each. These are very solid the shelf frames are welded to the corner post with carpet spikes on the bottom and black wooden shelves. These are in good shape with a few abrasion marks but none go through the black powder coating. None member price \$300 for the set. I also have a Target Pro turntable wall shelf, this has a 22 x 24" shelf, it has never been installed \$100 non member price. Denon DVD-3910 with silver finish, like new aprox 100 hours on it, I was going to modify this but bought another exemplar already modified so it has been setting in the box. This is a highly rated DVD player with very good scaling and audio DACs, Non members \$550.

Jerry Pomeroy 253-350-3916
enhancedsystems@earthlink.net

Echo Buster's Room Treatment

1 pr. Absorption Panels 18x48 List \$390, Sell \$185
1 pr. Absorption Panels 24x48 List \$470, Sell \$225
1 pr. Diffusion Panels 18x48 List \$530, Sell \$250
All in excellent condition. No other improvement compares with the bargain of treating your room. Buy these and I'll help you plan it out.

Dick Mueller - dickm@HomeloanNW.com
425-450-4070

Club Discounts

Northwest Sinfonietta

The Northwest Sinfonietta (classical chamber orchestra) provides discounts to members of our club for performances of the 2007-2008 season. The regular single ticket price of \$38 will be only \$20 per person per performance at the door (or by phone or mail). Just tell them or note on your order that you are a member of the Pacific Northwest Audio Society. Information and order forms are also available at their website: www.nwsinfonietta.org.

First Impression Music

www.firstimpression.com
order through club president Jerry Pomeroy.

KOSMIC

www.kosmic.us
Contact Joe Pittman
206-878-3833

Pro Sound and Vision

Contact George H. Pro
425-889-9499
425-445-3308 (cell)

Visitors Welcome!

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

PNWAS Mission Statement

- > To bring together people with a common interest in hearing 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 audiophiles and exchanging information on musical recordings and audio equipment.
2. Demonstrate and compare such 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 membership deems appropriate.

Club website

www.audiosociety.org

E-mail

info@audiosociety.org

U.S. Mail

Pacific Northwest Audio Society, P.O. Box 435, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Annual dues

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

Executive Committee

President: Jerry Pomeroy 253-350-3916

Vice-President: Bruce Brown

Treasurer: Andrew Kosobutsky

Editor: Joe Pittman

Equipment Committee Chair: Dick Mueller

Music Committee Chair: Renan Jeffereis

Volunteer: Leo Hrechanyk

Editorial

Editorial submissions are welcome.

Content must be audio-related or of general interest to the club. 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.

Editor: Joe Pittman 206-878-3833
email: joe@audiosociety.org

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**Pacific Northwest
Audio Society**

Bringing Audio Enthusiasts Together Since 1978

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