

December 8th Meeting Recap by Jerry Pomeroy

Club members were introduced to one of the hot products in the audio world: the *April Music Eximus DP1*. The DP1 is a high quality up-sampling 24/192 DAC with AES/EBU, Coax and USB digital inputs, Preamp with an analog input and a headphone amp all in one. Not only does this piece sound great; it looks really cool as well

The Christmas Music Contest contained some winners and some not so well received songs. We started off with the Comedy section containing: *We*

Wish You a Merry X-Mas, *Lets have a Seattle Christmas* (Polka), *You're a Mean one Mr. Grinch*, and *Grandma's Killer Fruit Cake*. It was a decisive victory on the first and final round of voting for *Rudy the Redneck Reindeer*.

There were no Zydeco entrees in the Audiophile section this year but pushing the edge of the category was the dance mix of *Joy to the World*. Along the more traditional Christmas music was *Little Drummer Boy* by Tori Amos, *Angles we Have Heard on High*

by Andrea Bocelli. Jazz versions of *We Three Kings* and *Christmas Time is Here* were entered along with *Christmas Tears* by Eric Clapton. The people's choice was the choral SACD *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, Artist unknown.

We spent the rest of the evening doing the CD/Audio stuff exchange. There were a few leftovers including a Polka Collection LP and some fine CDs that will probably show up as door prizes thru-out the year.

President's Message by John Stone

First of all, Happy New Year to all of you. I'm happy that the hectic holidays are behind us, but the long and forbidding Pacific Northwest winter is not something I look forward to. Good thing there's good music, wine, and friends to share both.

The January meeting, as described elsewhere in this newsletter, will once again look at a couple of options the club has for its digital playback system. Part of the difficulty in choosing a playback system is the large number of options both in hardware configurations and in the many manufacturers now producing excellent products. At recent meetings, we've auditioned DAC/Servers and standalone disc players. Both configurations can produce good music and besides their playback abilities, have their own advantages and disadvantages.

The advantage of a DAC/Server is that in addition to simple music playback, it also serves as a musical organization, listing, and archival system. The downside is that such a system is usually more expensive and complicated to configure, set up, and disassemble for each meeting. Another disadvantage is that the DAC/Server is not capable of SACD playback. The ad-

vantages of a standalone player such as the Oppo BDP-95, is that it is relatively inexpensive, plays all disc formats, does not require any configuration (settings), and is easier to set up and disassemble. The disadvantages are that the organization, listing, and archival capabilities for digital files is limited relative to that of a server. There are other advantages and disadvantages to both setups, but you get the drift.

Having heard several examples of both setups, as well as having heard the stock and modified versions of the Oppo, I'm going to go out on a limb here and state that in my opinion, the stock Oppo BDP-95 represents a singular value to the club, and should be the club's digital playback solution for the near term. I have heard better sounding DAC/Server setups, but they all cost a lot more than the Oppo, none can play SACDs, and all would be more complex to operate in our usual meeting environment. This is not to say that some magical DAC/server won't come along next month or next year and sound so wonderful that we'll have to buy that rig as well. So much good gear is being brought to market so quickly, that I would be surprised if something better didn't come to market in the next

year. Nonetheless, although the club's Sony SCD777es still sounds good despite its age, its not as good as the Oppo for CD or SACD playback, and won't play music files of any type. For these reasons, I'd like to propose that the club immediately sell the SCD777es and buy the Oppo within a couple of months. Why wait a couple of months? Simple; the club's meeting agenda for the next couple of months (after the January meeting) doesn't require the use of a club-provided playback device. If a new magical DAC/server suddenly presents itself, the club can always reconsider, but if not, the Oppo BDP-95 is a great rig which is available right now. We will discuss this topic further at the January meeting.

Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't paid for your 2012 club membership, please bring a check to the January meeting or mail it to the club's PO box.

Next month, the club will host co-presentations by Pacific Northwest manufacturer's ModWright Instruments (Amboy WA) and Daedalus Audio (Ferndale WA). Don't miss this great event.

Coming Attractions

January 12 PNWAS Meeting

We will demonstrate the Exemplar modified Oppo BDP-95 universal player and show it's quazi-server capability.

January 21 Head-Fi Meet

At Front Panel Express
5959 Corson Ave South, Suite I
Seattle, WA 98108

See: <http://www.head-fi.org/t/576440/seattle-meet-front-panel-express-1-21-2012> for details

February 9 PNWAS Meeting

Dan Wright from ModWright will demonstrate his latest electronics.

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.

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

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US Mail

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Annual Dues

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

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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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