



Todd Garfinkle on the left sets the distance and height of his microphones in the church sanctuary while Shaina Rae plays the guitar. Club member Cal Lewin video taped everything.

## June 14th Meeting Recap by Gary Koh

The club was honored to have Mr Todd Garfinkle not only give a talk, but also a demonstration of his recording technique. It was the first time we had tried to compare “live” vs recorded sound during the Pacific Northwest Audio Society meeting, and the excitement was palpable. A record 47 members,

guests and friends turned up.

Mr Garfinkle is the Owner and Chief Recording Engineer of MA Recordings. The MA label issues provocatively creative music the vast majority of which are produced with only two microphones (as shown above). All MA Recordings are produced in strictly

acoustic settings, often in large, acoustically significant environments such as churches, classical concert halls, and galleries.



Mr Garfinkle first shared a track from three albums, and also told the members how some of those recordings were done.

One of the hallmarks of the MA recordings is that the ambience of the acoustic space in which the musicians perform is preserved in the recording, and with only two mics. The mics that he uses are usually highly modified, as his recording chain.

Following the demo of some of his recordings, Todd invited all members up to the church sanctuary upstairs to witness his recording of two guest performers. However, instead of heading upstairs, most of the members thronged over to the back of the room where Todd had his CD's and high-rez DVD-ROM's for sale! We had to herd everybody upstairs to take their seats as time was tight. As Todd did not bring very

many titles for sale, he made an extraordinary offer to members to buy off his website at the same price he sold the CD's for that night, and with free shipping! Thanks, Todd.

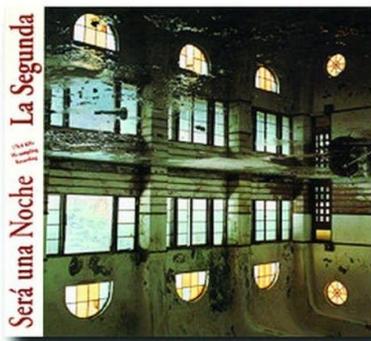
### The Demo Discs:

M025A Salterio/Begoña Olavide:  
[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=24&products\\_id=54](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=24&products_id=54) <[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=24&products\\_id=54](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=24&products_id=54)>



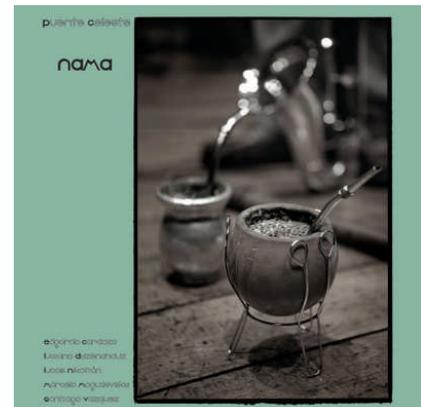
In this recording, Todd explained that he had the performers arrayed in a circle around the two microphones he used.

M062A La Segunda/Sera una Noche (one of my personal favorites):  
[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=35&products\\_id=145](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=35&products_id=145) <[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=35&products\\_id=145](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=35&products_id=145)>



As with the first Sera una Noche album, this follow-up recording captures the space of the small church in Buenos Aires.

M084A Nama/Punte Celeste:  
[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=35&products\\_id=152](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=35&products_id=152) <[http://www.marecordings.com/main/product\\_info.php?cPath=35&products\\_id=152](http://www.marecordings.com/main/product_info.php?cPath=35&products_id=152)>



This last recording was done in a much "drier" acoustic space, and the performers came across much more



Set-up in the Sanctuary.



Then, singer/songwriter/guitarist Shaina Rae, lead singer of Seattle band Alabaster, performed two pieces accompanying herself on acoustic guitar.



Once the audience was seated upstairs and turned off all their cellphones, we could start the recording session. First, Benjamin Zobel, Gold Medalist at the 2012 Seattle Young Artists Festival play two jazz improvisation solos on his tenor saxophone.



Recording done, we trooped downstairs, with Todd bringing the highly-modified Korg MR2000S that he used to make the recordings with him, plugged it into the club's system and re-played the performances that we had just heard.

For members who missed the meeting, the entire evening's proceedings was recorded on video by member Cal Lewin. Thanks Cal! The video can be seen at YouTube:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLZObZ53YmY>

# Road Trip to Silverdale

by John Stone

On Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Joe Pittman and I visited the showrooms of Nuts About Hi Fi (NAHF; [www.nutsaboutthifi.com](http://www.nutsaboutthifi.com)) in Silverdale WA. The occasion was NAHF's annual open house. Having been to similar events in the past, I was familiar with NAHF's commitment to good sound and warm hospitality, both of which were once again prominently on display.

Upon arrival, we were informed that there had been a mixup with the event announcement and that the event would formally start a couple of hours later than publicized. This explained why so few people were there and why the caterers were still setting up. For Joe and I, this turned out to be a fortuitous error, as we had the main listening room practically to ourselves for almost an hour. And what an hour it was. Our DJ during this time was none other than the illustrious Garth Leerer, the president of Musical Surroundings out of Oakland CA

([www.musicalsurroundings.com](http://www.musicalsurroundings.com)). Musical Surroundings is the U.S. distributor for Clearaudio turntables and cartridges, Aesthetix electronics, and several other lines of audio gear. Garth, pulling choice tracks from his own vinyl collection, was demonstrating one of the world's finest audio rigs consisting of the Clearaudio Statement turntable with the Clearaudio Goldfinger Statement cartridge. Amplification was provided by Aesthetix with their Io phono stage, Callisto line stage, and Atlas monoblocks. The speakers were the Focal Diablo Utopia's connected with Nordost Odin wires(!)

Without a doubt, the Clearaudio Statement was the star of the show. Besides being a beautiful-sounding turntable, this piece is really a work of



Clearaudio's Statement Turntable  
\$170,000 + Goldfinger Statement  
phono cartridge \$15,000

industrial art and sculpture that captures the essence the word "Statement" in that it provides, at least for the here and now, its manufacturer's best, cost-no-object, state of the art product. Driven by a belt-driven sub-platter connected

magnetically to a massive acrylic platter, self-leveling top platform with an 80 kg pendulum counterweight, processor-controlled motor-drive, oil-damped chassis, linear-tracking tonearm with provisions for up to four different tonearms, dedicated/integral stand which not only provides resonance control but is pretty to look at; the list of features is much longer than I can detail here. The Goldfinger Statement MC cartridge contains 18 grams of solid gold! Not sure that all this gold is functionally necessary, but it looks good and sounds really really good.

Two albums of note: Rodrigo y Gabriella (ATO Records) Stairway to Heaven (yeah, that Stairway), and Orion (Metallica cover) were excellent demo tracks – available on CD, vinyl is out of print but Joe is on the hunt. From the Heart movie soundtrack also excellent. Thanks Garth.

While I was standing by the delicious hors d'oeuvres table, I had a friendly conversation with super-nice guy Jim White, the principle at Aesthetix. Turns out Jim has Washington connections in that he spent time in Pullman and Kirkland as a child before moving to California, and still has some family in eastern Washington. While the event was open to the public, it was clear as the evening progressed that the invitees were mostly friends and customers of NAHF as evidenced by the smiles, laughter, and genuine warmth being shown by all, especially the ownership and staff of NAFH. Many thanks to all of the folks at Nuts About Hi Fi, Garth Leerer from Musical Surroundings, and Jim White from Aesthetix for a wonderful event and some great music.

## Coming Attractions

### July 12 PNWAS Meeting Summer Social

of the University of Washington  
School of Music.

through USB and all things DSD  
(tentative).

### August 9 PNWAS Meeting

After several years of development, club members Gary Gesellchen and Rick Kernan are unveiling their Vanatoo powered loudspeaker. It's a giant killer.

### October 11 PNWAS Meeting

The winners, and other contestants from The Puget Sound DIY speaker contest will demonstrate (show off) their speakers.

### December 13 PNWAS Meeting

Annual Christmas party and Best and Funniest Holiday music competition. We may also have a Home Theater demo (tentative).

### September 8 The Puget Sound

Our world famous semiannual (every 2 years) DIY speaker building contest.



### October 12-14 RMAF

Annual Rocky Mountain Audio Fest. Hi-ho hi-ho, it's off to Denver we go.

### September 13 PNWAS Meeting

We'll hear brilliant tonearm designs from Joel Durand, Professor of Composition and Associate Director

### November 8 PNWAS Meeting

Andreas Koch will talk about DSD

## July 12th Meeting Notice

by Jerry Pomeroy

The Summer Social is heating up. We will be having a swap meet in the basement that evening so dig up some of those audio related antiques around your house and trade them for cash or other items you just can't live without. The club has a few things to sell like speaker cables and butcher blocks: this could be your chance to score some great deals, who knows what equipment other people will bring in from out of the "Back Room". Arrive early to score

the best deals. We aren't going to set up the normal club system; expect to see and hear allot of classic audio equipment demonstrated. Undoubtedly there will be equipment, LPs, CDs, butcher, "T" shirts and magazines to look at, try and buy.

The executive committee decided to offer a short list of high quality menu items free of charge so people will have more money to spend at the swap meet. These are Cobey Beef Bur-

gers or try the veggie burgers with extra bacon or you can just have a hot dog, chips and water (MM GOOD).

You are welcome and encouraged to bring consumables and stuff for trade to make this a fun and enjoyable evening. The more people bring to sell, trade or eat the better this event will be. Be there or you will miss out.

### 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-philes 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](http://www.audiosociety.org)

### E-mail

[info@audiosociety.org](mailto: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: Darin Forkenbrock  
[forkenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:forkenbrock@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Jay Hope  
[jayhope@hotmail.com](mailto:jayhope@hotmail.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Brown  
[pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:pugetsoundstudios@yahoo.com)

### Committee Chairs

Editor: Joe Pittman  
[joe@kosmic.us](mailto:joe@kosmic.us)

Equipment: Jerry Pomeroy  
[enhancedsystems@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

### Disclaimer

Opinions in this Audioletter are those of their authors; the Pacific Northwest Audio Society itself does not endorse or criticize products. Copyright 2012 by the Pacific Northwest Audio Society except as noted; all rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the written permission of the:



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