

# Turntable Fashion Parade



Gary Koh was the meeting's spin Meister and is shown switching tables on one of the two Burmester phono preamps.

## May 9th Meeting Recap

by Joe Pittman

The May meeting featured turntables from Thorens, a German company that has been in business for 130 years. Thorens was a very popular brand in the early high-end audio days when vinyl ruled. Many of you may remember the popular Thorens TD125 and the TD160 (over a half million sold) which are still much sought-after today. In 1979, the Thorens Reference Turntable set the high-water mark for

reference turntables as much as the Infinity Reference Standard in 1978 set the high-water mark for reference loudspeakers.

The line-up included:

1. The value fully automatic Thorens TD 170-1 incl. arm and Ortofon OMB10 MM cartridge (\$750)
2. The mid-price Thorens TD 295 Mk IV incl. arm and Audio Technica AT95E MM cartridge (\$1,500)
3. The classic Thorens TD 350 suspended sub-chassis turntable including SME M2 arm (\$7,200 w/o cartridge) and Denon DL 103 MC cartridge
4. The club's Rega P5 turntable with RB 700 arm and Audio Technica OC9 MC cartridge was used as the reference.



From L-R, Club's Rega P5, Thorens TD 170-1 entry level automatic, Thorens mid level TD 295 MK IV, and Thorens classic suspended chassis TD 350.

In order for club members to hear the differences between the turntables, they were each placed on identical KOSMIC equipment stands. And two Burmester Ph100 Reference-line Phono Stages (\$24,000 each) with two separate and configurable phono inputs each (MM and MC) allowed level-matching and optimization (impedance loading and capacitance) for each of the four different cartridges used. The club's Genesis

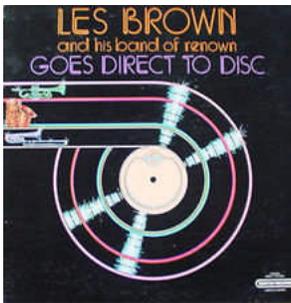
160 amplifier and Genesis 7.2f loudspeakers were used as our members are all familiar with the sound.

To make comparisons simple and rapid-fire, we had a few titles with up to 4 copies each. (see below). Gary Koh was the spin Meister doing blind switching between tables, allowing members to try and guess which table was playing at any particular moment. This was a rare opportunity to hear dif-

ferent tables at the same time with a totally level playing field. I thought it was fairly easy to determine what table was playing most of the time...

I hope you all had fun comparing the tables. And thanks to Gary Koh for supplying the Thorens tables and Burmester phono preamps, it was a lot of work to put together!

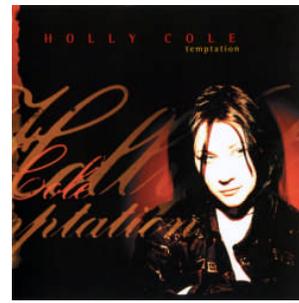
## May 9th Meeting—Playlist



Les Brown and his band of renown  
Goes Direct To Disc  
The Great American Gramophone  
Company  
GADD-1010 from 1977  
(available used on eBay)



Anne Bisson  
Blue Mind  
Fidelio Music Inc.  
FALP025  
Made in Canada  
(currently available)



Holly Cole  
Temptation  
Classic Records (Blue Note)  
33-1/3 RPM version  
(Unobtanium)

As an additional benefit to fully paid-up PNWAS members, the Thorens North American distributor, Rutherford Audio will offer club members a 20% discount off the retail price of any Thorens turntable purchased in the month of May. In addition, when a club member makes such a purchase, Rutherford Audio will contribute 5% of the retail price to the club coffers!! While Rutherford Audio is located in Canada, you will still get local set-up and support for your purchase from club member Joe Pittman and KOSMIC as they are the official Seattle dealer for Thorens. For more information, check out <http://www.kosmic.us/thorens-turntables.html>

# Apple App for Oppo BDP 105 has arrived!

by Joe Pittman



The new Oppo BDP 105 is an amazing universal player, DAC, server, multi-media internet streamer and state-of-the-art video machine. There's not much it can't do.

The one serious problem I have had with it and the BDP 95 before it, was that its graphical user interface (GUI) for navigating large collections of music files sucked. The built in GUI is very primitive and slow. If you have a large collection of music on network attached storage (NAS) or attached USB drive like I have (over 25,000 songs), it's really impractical to use. The GUI works fine for a small quantity of music files like what can be stored on a USB stick for example.

When I first purchased the 105, Oppo's web site indicated that Remote Control Apps running on Android and Apple devices would be available in the future. I have waited patiently.

So in late May, a free Apple App called MediaControlHD was available at the iTunes store. This App finally allows random access to your music library with an iPad. See screen shots below. The program still has bugs, but they are working on them. As of this report, they have issued a software update on June 3rd, version 1.0.1.

You can now use the 105 as a single box solution and don't have to have a separate computer with software like J River Media Center as a GUI to access large music collections. However, the

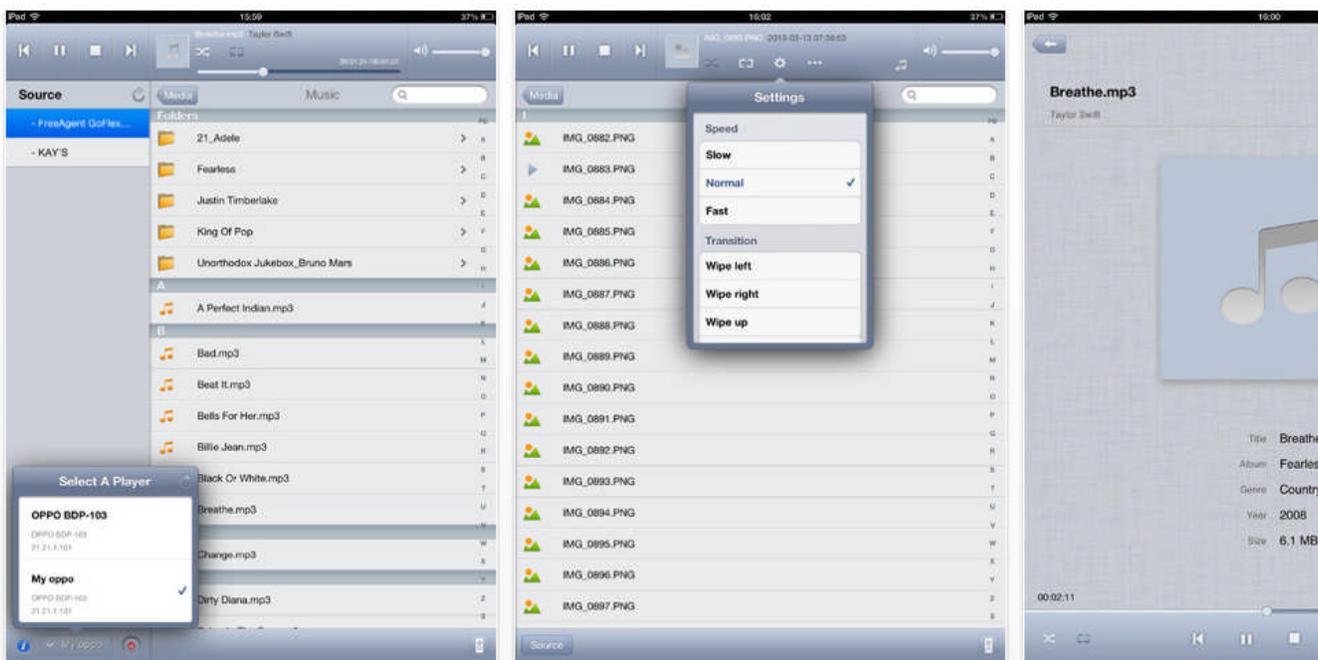
new App is no where near as nice and feature-rich as JRMC.

You can even use the 105 to directly drive an amplifier (single-ended or balanced) and control the volume with the included remote control (with 100 step digital volume control). Direct amp drive doesn't suck, but a great pre-amp is better.

I don't know if the MediaControlHD App will work with the 95, but if you have one, give it a try.

Currently, you have to use a USB drive attached to the 105, the App doesn't work with a NAS (yet?). Also, the App requires an iPad running iOS 6.0 or greater, so an original iPad won't work, you need an iPad2 or Retna... Such is life.

## iPad Screenshots



# Coming Up! June 13th

## The 2nd Annual PNWAS "Live vs. Recorded" Event

by Darin Forkenbrock



Featuring Seattle Opera Soprano *Kimberly Giordano*  
<http://www.kimberlygiordano.com>

After the fantastic success of last year's "Live vs. Recorded" meeting we decided to make this an annual June event for the Audio Society. It's hard to beat the energy and excitement that goes along with a live performance and recording and playing back the performance is our way of putting our own audiophile spin on the evening.

This year we have two musical artists you won't want to miss. We're fortunate to have partnered with the Seattle Opera to find soprano Kimberly Giordano. Kimberly appeared most recently at the Seattle Opera as Suor Osmina in Suor Angelica. She also joined the Seattle Mariners last summer on Safeco Field to perform the National Anthem. In addition, we have Seattle violin soloist Marie' Rossano. Marie has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle Symphony and is also the winner of the 2012 Classical KING FM Young Artist Award. She'll be performing at the Julliard School before our event and with the Salt Lake Symphony after.

Phillip Chance, Recording Engineer for the Seattle Wind Symphony, will join us to capture the performances of these two amazing women.

<http://www.seattlewindsymphony.org>



Seattle Violin Soloist Marie' Rossano  
<http://www.marierossano.com>

<http://www.seattleopera.org>

Please RSVP to this email address, in order to assist us with planning. [pacificnorthwestaudiosociety@gmail.com](mailto:pacificnorthwestaudiosociety@gmail.com)

# Coming Up! July 11th

## Summer Social

by Jerry Pomeroy

We will be having our second summer social /swap meet at our regular meeting time and place so bring those CDs, LPs and related audio gear. Instead of just letting it set around the house collecting dust while getting older, put a price on it or “best offer” then tote it to the 7:30 meeting. You can trade it for money or barter for that certain something you just cant live without.

A grill, hamburgers, hotdogs and water will be provided. There will be a signup sheet at the June meeting for a few necessities: all are welcome to bring a favorite summer snack and or audio stuff to sell. People bringing items for sale will be responsible for selling (and watching) their own stuff.

We will have the Vanatoo speakers driven by a Oppo BDP 105 modified by Exemplar to make music.



### 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 audiophiles 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  
[fork@audiosociety.org](mailto:fork@audiosociety.org)

Vice-President: Jay Hope  
[jay@audiosociety.org](mailto:jay@audiosociety.org)

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Brown  
[bruce@audiosociety.org](mailto:bruce@audiosociety.org)

### Committee Chairs

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[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.

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