

On Sunday, October 18, 2015, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held from 2 to 5 pm at the new home of HiFi Buys in Buckhead (Atlanta). We were the guests of Alan Jones and his fine staff at this store recently opened by Alan after closing his Audio Alternative store in Lawrenceville after many years at that location. In addition to all the gear Alan had to show us, we also were able to see and hear terrific tubed gear from Prima Luna. This equipment was introduced and questions answered by Anthony Chiarella from Specialty Sound and Vision, the Prima Luna sales representative who came from the New York City area just for this event. There were more than 30 folks in attendance. These minutes are based on notes taken by Richard Monastesse since this secretary was again out of town for this meeting. I and the club thank Richard for volunteering to take notes!

After some announcements from the club's president, the attendees were divided into two groups. The first group went on a tour of the new HiFi Buys store with owner Alan Jones. The second group was treated to a listening session with Anthony Chiarella, representative for Prima Luna products. After the listening session, the groups switched with the listening group enjoying a tour of the store while the first group got to enjoy a listening session.

For the listening session Mr. Chiarella featured the following setup:

- Prima Luna Dialogue Premium Preamp \$3199 suggested retail price
- Prima Luna Dialogue Premium HP power amp with a stereo to mono switch \$3899
- A Well-Tempered Labs Turntable with Dynavector DB20X2 cartridge
- A pair of Vienna Acoustics Mozart Grand speakers \$3988

Mr. Chiarella stated that all Prima Luna products have "Adaptive Auto Bias" which varies the tube bias automatically with changes in volume. This is accomplished via a small circuit board regulator inside the chassis. The Adaptive Auto Bias circuit was designed by Goldmund engineers and feature an LED next to each tube which warns the listener when the tubes are getting weaker and starting to wear out. According to Mr. Chiarella this allows the tubes to be driven more gently which increases the life of the tube. Consequently, the output tubes should last for between 5 to 10 years. The HP model amps have L34 & KT150 tubes, and the power amp has 35 watts per channel. Also on display was the ProLogue Premium Integrated amplifier (\$2,399 retail).

All Prima Luna products feature Swiss made, point to point wiring and (except for the Adaptive Auto Bias circuit) do not have any circuit boards inside. This adds to the durability and life of each product. All Prima Luna products are hand made in China with a Prima Luna company representative present during all product runs to ensure quality control. In addition, the Dialogue Premium amps feature Alps Blue Velvet volume controls.

The club would like to thank Alan Jones for opening the new HiFi Buys in Buckhead to the club and allowing us the pleasure of sampling all of the products the new store carries. For those of you who have not made the trip to HiFi Buys, a tour of the store is an absolute must. The store simply looks fantastic, is very well laid out, and provides an opportunity to hear and see some of the best audio and video components anywhere, all in one relatively easy to reach location. Atlanta is blessed to have a store such as this in the area, since "brick and mortar" stores are rare to have, and are really necessary to audition equipment you may want to buy. The store is located at 3157 Peachtree Rd. NE at Grandview Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30305. Their website is www.hifibuys.com, which lists all the manufacturers they represent – an extensive list.

The club also gives many thanks Mr. Chiarella for coming to Atlanta and giving us an opportunity hear the Prima Luna product line!

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta