

On Sunday, November 23, 2014, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse, in the Dunwoody North subdivision. This meeting featured loudspeakers from Legacy Audio presented by Bill Dudleston, their chief designer, who brought his brand new model "V" speakers (just introduced at the Rocky Mountain Audio show), and the "Focus SE". Also on the program was special guest and Jazz international recording artist Lyn Stanley.

The purpose of the minutes of our club is to describe what happens at each meeting, and hence I strive to keep them objective. Well, this time I cannot do that because this meeting was probably the best this club has ever had. We had excellent equipment to audition, a live performance by a great singer, our largest crowd ever (over 60 present), and to top it off the ultimate karaoke experience!

Up first was John, president, at 2 pm. He thanked Bill and Victoria Dudleston, along with Operations Manager, Tom Kulavic, for coming to show us their equipment, and of course Lyn Stanley who flew in from LA just for us. We had seven first time visitors and two new members present who were acknowledged, including one who drove several hours from South Carolina. John thanked Chuck for setting this all up and those members who furnished equipment including Sam Papadas, Bill McCulloch, and Chuck Bruce. John then introduced Bill Dudleston.

Bill first described some thoughts on listening and explained terms like "warmth", "tizzy", "hot", etc. He said that at any one instant there is only a single pressure on the ear drum. He designs his speakers with crosstalk in mind since that is how we hear. He strives to accurately recreate sounds so that one can tell the difference in wood types falling on the floor, or castanets versus finger snaps in a song.

We then listened to various tracks of CD's that Bill had chosen (including one of our favorites "Keith Don't Go"). The first system we heard included the V Loudspeaker (about \$45K per pair) which has 2800 watts of ICEpower for the woofers. Their companion was the Wavelet Processor, which is a preamp with analog and digital inputs that has a four-way processor with time alignment. This is a complete speaker and room resonance correction system and a high end DAC with apodizing ability (cost is about \$5K), which has to be set up using a computer that creates PSA files for each driver in the speaker. Also driving the speakers (other than the woofers) were two CODA TS Stereo amplifiers (\$5200 each). Everyone seemed to agree that the sound was excellent. These are very large full-range floor-standing systems that represent some of the most current thought and implementation in loudspeaker design!

Lyn was then introduced by Bill. Lyn gave us a brief history of her singing career, which actually started only a few years ago. Her previous careers included marketing, information technology, and being a professor at Georgia Tech. Lyn has received accolades from around the globe for her authentic artistry and preservation of the great Jazz vocals from the golden years of the art form. Backed by some of the finest Jazz instrumentalists on the east and west coasts, she recorded at the famed Capitol Studio 'A'. Her latest album "Potions, Songs of the 50's" is available on SACD/CD and a special edition dual disc 45 rpm LP which were available for audition and sale at the meeting. Lyn autographed many copies for purchasers (including your secretary who got the dual disc 45 version).

She described how they recorded her albums, which are definitely geared toward the critical listener. She played cuts from her latest CD, including one that used "Pro-Tools" in its recording process, and another that was all analog, so we could listen to the difference. We also listened to the vinyl version of her "Potions" album. Songs she sang live for us included "The Still of the Night", "Fever" and "Cry me a River". We then experienced the ultimate karaoke as she literally sang along with the recording as we listened to it on this great equipment (in perfect pitch and time, which is not easy to do). She also gave us stories about celebrities and recordings, and how she dedicated one song ("The Man I Love") to one of her accompanists, notable Jazz pianist Paul Smith, who recently passed away.

We then auditioned the second system Bill had brought, which included the Focus SE speakers which retail for \$10K to \$11.5K depending on finish. Rounding out the system was a CODA CP preamp (\$3500) and one of the CODA TS stereo amplifiers (\$5200). Also used was an Oppo BDP-95 player to spin CD's and with the club's turntable the EAR 912 phono preamp. Again, excellent sound!

The club gives many, many thanks to Bill and Lyn, both who did a lot of work and travel to be with us, and to Chuck for arranging this. Also, our thanks to everyone who brought the refreshments and other equipment!

Thomas Horner
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta