

On Sunday, December 10, 2017, the monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held at the Audio Company audio salon in Marietta, Georgia. This meeting featured presentations by two manufacturer representatives, listening to some great gear, and a brief talk by a mastering engineer. There were over 35 members and guests present.

John Morrison was out, so vice president Mark Chaffin welcomed everyone to the meeting. The next meeting (in January) will be at the Dunwoody location and will feature Bryston and Wolfsong Audio for a return visit to the club. We may also have a club dinner (pay as you go) in January. He then handed the meeting over to our Audio Company hosts, Jim Ferguson, along with Keith and Gordon Waters. Jim first introduced Ivy Gross of Constellation Audio, who gave us a brief history of the company. They were founded 8 years ago by the creators of the Continuum turntable. The company name is based on the idea of a "collection of stars". They have five series of products, Reference, Performance, Revelation, Inspiration, and Dominion. We then listened various music selections using the Centaur II mono-block amplifiers (\$80K) through Stella Utopia Focal Speakers (about \$95K per pair), with Esoteric DAC and CD transport as the source, and a Constellation preamp. While I did not get all the model numbers, the source components were also very high end. This was a very revealing and excellent sounding system!

Up next was Joseph Lavernick of Critical Mass Systems, which specializes in audio component support systems. He said the support systems they build give "blackness" (very quiet background) to the music by addressing vibrations from the floor and the loudspeakers. Their products were initially designed for turntables, but they now build stands for electronics as well.

We then had a presentation by mastering engineer Kenny "Mixx" Daniels, along with Curtis Daniel, from the locally based Patchwerk Studios, 23 years in business, located near Georgia Tech. They master about 1000 songs per year from local artists to nationally known artists. Kenny says he spends about 3 to 4 hours per song to master it correctly, and he does create different masters for different audiences depending on what the customer and/or artist has requested. We then listened to some of his work through the system, great recordings! He announced that beginning next year he may offer "Engineer's" cuts of music Patchwerk has in its files through stores like the Audio Company. There will be 9 to 11 songs on a thumb drive at high resolution. He also offered the club a tour of their facilities which we are really looking forward to!

The final presentation was by Joseph Lavernick, who introduced us to a new product that will improve the sound of your components. They are from a company called Pitch Perfect Sound, and the product is Center Stage support feet. They reduce vibrations using entropy (second law of Thermodynamics), and after a break-in period should make your component's sound improve. We had a brief demonstration using a Constellation integrated amplifier and Esoteric CD player with Focal speakers. He played the same music selection without the feet, then with the feet, under the integrated amp. For more information on this product, go to their web site, <http://pitchperfectsound.com/>.

The club gives many thanks to our gracious hosts from the Audio Company, enabling us to have a very informative and enjoyable time together. Thanks also to Dan Wittmayer, Chuck, and the Audio Company for the refreshments.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta