

On Sunday, March 21, the March monthly meeting of the Audio-Video Club of Atlanta was held in the training room of the Virtual Properties Realty offices in Duluth, Georgia. There were easily over 30 members and guests attending to hear a presentation by Chris Sommovigo, local distributor of high end electronics and speakers, then a violin recital by his wife Mayo which was recorded by three different recording setups, and then the playback of those newly made recordings for all to critique.

There was an important business meeting of the club before the presentations and recital because this is the time of year when nominations for five officer positions are done, in preparation for our annual elections next month. Before getting to the nominations, John Morrison introduced a couple of special visitors including William Hall and Bob Levy. Bob is president of the Los Angeles and Orange County Audio Society. He briefly addressed the members present, and told us that any member of the A-V Club of Atlanta is automatically a member of the LAOC Audio Society. He mentioned that they have a weekly newsletter which we can subscribe to by sending the LAOC an email with our address. They meet 14 times per year, and have grown from 20 members to over 700 members in the past few years. He also presented John Morrison and Chuck Bruce lifetime memberships to the LAOC Audio Society.

John then opened the floor for nominations for the five officer positions. Nominated were John Morrison as president (Bob Prager seconded), Dennis Juranek as vice president (Tom Horner seconded), Chuck Bruce as VP of Industry Relations (Dennis Juranek seconded), Thomas Horner as secretary (Mark Chaffin seconded), and Paul Tarver as treasurer (Dwana Horner seconded). John asked again for any other nominations, and none were given. By unanimous vote, the nominations were closed. The election will be held at the April monthly meeting.

Chris was up next, and he described the Lansche 4.1, a 3-way, 99 dB speaker made in Germany costing about \$55,000 per pair. This loudspeaker has a plasma tweeter which uses superheated gas that allows it to go up to 150 KHz. It uses electrodes to excite the gas to create sound. The midrange is driven by the external amplifier, and the two woofers are powered. The tweeter requires weekly maintenance (kit included with purchase), and has a lifespan of about 8,000 hours. The front end in use was an Eera DL2 CD player (formerly Helios from France), with StereoLab "Reference" interconnects, the "I-700 RX" - \$3,700.00 for 1.0 meter (+/- \$950 per ½ meter). The amplifier was the BelCanto S300iu (integrated amp) model (\$1900), with the speaker cable being the "LS-700" - \$6,600.00 for 3.0 meters (+/- \$950.00 per ½ meter). We listened to some solo singer recordings and later on other CD selections supplied by club members, and everything sounded excellent. Highs were especially clear, with members commenting on hearing clarity in their recordings they had never heard before.

Next was the recital, but before Mayo played, three recording setups were done. One by Nick and Lee included the SoundDevices 722 recording at 24 by 176.4, using AKG cardioid mikes. Another was set up by John with a Tascam HD-P2 recording at 24 by 96 with Sceph Omni mikes. A third by Randall used an Edirol by Roland recording at 24 by 96, using its built in microphones. This unit is not much larger than an iPhone. Mayo then played several pieces, including a Weinaski concerto, all played beautifully.

Everyone was then able to hear two of the three recordings briefly using the electronics and speakers we had been listening too earlier. Randall was unable to play back on the equipment. We then discussed the merits and shortcomings of the recordings, and how different setups, microphones, and recorders can make a big difference in what a recording can sound like.

The club again thanks Chris and Mayo for their presentation and musicianship, and to John Morrison for supplying the meeting space.

Thomas Horner  
Secretary, A-V Club of Atlanta