

AES Boston Section Newsletter

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1998

Looking Ahead

• On **November 11**, the BAES joins forces with Parsons Audio for a discussion of mastering with guest Bob Ludwig. See Page 2 for more details.

• Reserve **Monday, December 7**, on your calendar for the traditional feast and white-elephant sale, this year held at the Needham Masonic Lodge.

• In a joint meeting with the Acoustical Society of America, we'll make a multi-channel classical (surround) recording at Faneuil Hall on **Sunday, January 10**.

Details and location information for all meetings will appear in future newsletters and on the web.

Boston Section—Audio Engineering Society: online at www.aes.org

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Audio on display: What's next? We've come a long way already

By **JOHN J. BUBBERS**

(Editor's Note: John J. Bubbers served as guest editor for the January/February 1998 issue of the *AES Journal*, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Society. This column, written for the Boston section, offers some perspective on audio trade shows of the not-so-distant past. For information about Parsons Audio's Expo 98, an upcoming regional trade show of the present, see Page 2.)

My first exposure to the Audio Engineering Society was in the early 1950s. In conjunction with an AES convention, a group of manufacturers organized a "high fidelity" show at the New York trade center just south of the garment district.

Innovative audio equipment of various kinds was on display: speakers, amplifiers, turntables and a few FM tuners—all products of an infant industry. But at the time, industry was probably a misnomer.

Although there were some professionally-trained engineers in the business, it struck me more like a collection of amateurs attempting to eke out a living by doing those things they liked best. It was an odd cross-section of individuals, many of whom came from totally unrelated, non-electronic backgrounds.

In those years, I was working in AM broadcasting. Since my office was just a few blocks to the east of the trade center, I decided to take an afternoon to look and listen. The trade center building had been designed originally for clothing displays from the neighboring garment industry. Inside was a series of small, hard-walled, gray painted rooms, which were connected by a long

interior corridor. Although acoustically less than ideal, each exhibitor was isolated from its neighbor, and the rooms could be set up to simulate home listening environments.

Most impressive to me was the exhibit by Cook Laboratories of Stamford, Connecticut. The Cook demonstration room had been draped, floor to ceiling, with purple material and was illuminated with low-level, indirect lighting. It was ethereal and very dramatic!

Emory Cook had previously produced a line of high fidelity recordings entitled *Sounds of Our Times*. Of particular note was a collection of realistic railroad sounds on the new long-playing records. Now, to introduce magnetic stereophonic recording, Cook had modified his Magnecord tape recorder, fitting it with two half-track heads (staggered longitudinally) and adding a second set of record and playback electronics. For stereophonic demonstration materials, he had come to Boston and recorded some Haydn choral music performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. This was grandiose material, designed to showcase the dramatic possibilities of stereo recording.

For loudspeakers, Cook used large Bozak speaker systems, another innovation of the time. The entire effect was overwhelming. For those of us who experienced stereophonic sound for the first time, it was a turning point in what the future of recorded sound could present.

Full day of products and presentations at Expo 98

Sponsored by Parsons Audio (Wellesley, MA), the eighth annual audio Expo offers an exhibition of professional gear and a series of workshops on surround sound production. In addition, David Moulton will be conducting double-blind, subjective listening tests with attendees through the day.

For complete details, visit www.paudio.com. Here are some of the highlights:

- Noon-6:45 p.m.: Product displays.
- 11-11:45 a.m.: Jim Hilson, Dolby Labs.
- 11:45-12:30 p.m.: David Griesinger, Lexicon.
- 2-2:45 p.m.: Interactive mixing session with Tom Bates.
- 2:45-3:30 p.m.: Recording engineer Yves Feder.
- 3:30-4:15 p.m.: Recording engineer Curt Wittig.
- 4:45-5:30 p.m.: Bob Ludwig, Gateway Mastering. (Also from 7-9 p.m.)
- 5:30-6 p.m.: David Moulton, DMPS.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 11**

By **MARK PARSONS**

Listening to Bob Ludwig (Gateway Mastering) talk about his techniques, thoughts, tools and clients is a pleasure for anyone who works with recorded sound.

Bob is one of the world's leading mastering engineers and winner of many awards. Last year, for example, Gateway mastered sixteen Grammy nominated albums, including three of the five Record

Mastering for the future

of the Year nominees.

In addition to stereo mastering, Bob has been working increasingly with surround and DVD audio. He will address questions on those and other prime topics at this meeting, which is the final event of the day-long Expo 98 at the Wellesley Community Center.

Join us for high-end pizza and beverages at 6 p.m. Bob will speak from 7-9 p.m.

PARSONS AUDIO's
Expo98 *Wed., Nov. 11*
11am-9pm

at the
Wellesley Community Center
219 Washington St. (Rte. 16)
Wellesley Hills, MA
781/235-4172

Route 9 < 2 miles > Parsons Audio

BAES Meeting
6-9 p.m.

The Wellesley Community Center is on Route 16 just north of Route 9. Its driveway is across from where the Route 9 West exit ramp meets Route 16. There's plenty of parking around the building and the church next door.



Boston Section
Audio Engineering Society
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Dated Material
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