



INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

The State of the Music Industry: where has it been and where is it going?

A Special Post-AES Convention Event at the Hotel de la Paix, Via Guise Cattori 18, Lugano

Friday, 3rd. of June 2005, at 17H00

SPEAKER: Professor Richard McIlvery – USC Music Industry Programme

ORGANISER: Patrick Greppi / Terry Nelson

LANGUAGE: English

Introduction

The Swiss AES Section is continuing with its policy of producing 'Special Events'. When Patrick Greppi of Delta Loudspeakers presented us with the following opportunity, we more than welcomed it. It also gives the chance to meet up with fellow AES members from Ticino.

Professor Richard McIlvery is chairman of the Music Industry programme at USC in California and has a wide experience of both the practical and business sides of the music industry.

It is no secret that the music industry is in a state of flux – some would say crisis – and this is due to various factors, many of them involving modern technology and Internet accessibility. Professor McIlvery will discuss the industry over the last 15 years or so and provide some thoughts as to where it might be heading and what future this holds for both studios and record production.

A practical workshop with a selection of current 'budget' equipment will also be organised for both recording and live applications.

For further information, please visit the site:
www.usc.edu/dept/publications/cat2004/schools/music/courses/muin.html

Schedule:

Doors open	17H00
Start of presentation	17H30
Refreshments – aperitif	19H00
Practical session with Q&A	19H30
Optional dinner	20H30

The Swiss AES wishes to thank Patrick Greppi for organizing this event at such short notice!

The presentation will also be open to non-members of the AES for a small entrance fee of Fr.15.-- adults, 10.-- students and retired. Non-members subscribing to AES membership before the event will be exempted. We look forward to welcoming you on the 3rd. of June!

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

The History and Future of Surround

Saturday, 26th of March 2005 at SDS Sound Design Studios AG, Ostermundigen

SPEAKER: Tomlinson Holman – TMH Corporation

REPORTER: Terry Nelson

Over 40 attendees braved family wrath and sacrificed Easter weekend holidays in order to attend the first of what we hope will be a series of Swiss AES 'Special Events' - an afternoon with Tomlinson Holman of TMH Corporation in the main auditorium of SDS Sound Design Studios in Ostermundigen/Bern. This event had been planned over a long period of time and we were glad that efforts finally came to fruition.

Tom gave a presentation that covered the history and future of surround sound and this included both early music and film soundtrack recordings, all of which being in his own inimitable style!

Disney's "Fantasia" of the late 30's and "Fantasound" is often cited as the prime example of the beginnings of surround sound but Tom was able to give the audience some more background as to where the Disney concept came from. Bell Labs in conjunction with RCA were making experimental recordings (and live events!) in the thirties using an L-C-R (or left-centre-right) microphone configuration and these were for the most part, very successful. However, Disney wanted the audience to be 'surrounded' or 'enveloped' in the sound – terms very familiar to us today when talking about surround sound – and the sound team developed stereo ambience or surround channels to create the effect. Well, well, 5.0!

In many ways, the history of surround sound is also the technical history of film and following the short-lived career of "Fantasound" due to the Second World War, it is in the 50's with the emergence of Cinemascope, Todd Ao and the other large screen formats that 4.0 and 6.0 soundtracks made their appearance using magnetic stripes on the film for 4 and 6 track audio. The former comprised 3 screen channels with a mono effects channel and the latter used 5 screen channels (as used in SDDS today).

Once again cost and reliability factors reared their heads and surround virtually disappeared from all but major presentation screens. The re-birth came when Dolby Laboratories re-worked the Sansui 4:2:4 matrix system from the defunct Quad music system and Dolby Stereo was born. Though not the first film in the new surround format, Lucas' "Star Wars" gave it the impetus that was needed and the rest, as they say, is history! Tom then took us up to the traditional AES aperitif with an overview of current formats.

The presentation concluded with an overview of surround systems currently under development and experimentation and in particular, the 10.2 system from TMH Labs, which is receiving critical acclaim and systems have already been installed in performance venues, cinemas and private screening rooms.

The Swiss AES would like to thank Tomlinson Holman, Frederic Koenig and the staff of SDS Studios for making this Special Event such a success. The evening concluded with a buffet dinner and lively discussion at the Bären Hotel, Ostermundigen.