

On Sunday, June 25, 2023, the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held at the Oak Grove Methodist Church classroom. It ran from 2 pm through about 5 pm. There were over 20 attendees at this meeting. Dan Wittmayer and Paul Tarver presented the biographies and music history of two well-known "sidemen" (session players). These players are very important for the bands they performed with, but usually not officially part of the bands. We listened to their music on the club system, and Steve handled the laptop that contained the music (video) clips.

Steve Gooding, president of the club, opened the meeting by introducing our two speakers. Up first was Dan whose presentation was on Nicky Hopkins, keyboard player. Dan gave the audience a musical history of Nicky showing us audio and video clips of his playing with various bands. Nicky had classical piano training, and later in his career put out several albums including one named "Tin Man was a Dreamer". Nicky died at age 50 in 1994 from Crohn's disease. The clips Dan showed us included Nicky playing with the Who, the Rolling Stones, the Jeff Beck Group, Purple Sage, Art Garfunkel, Jerry Garcia, and the Jefferson Airplane. During some clips, Dan pointed out what Nicky was doing for that particular song.

Next up after a break was Paul Tarver. He discussed the ongoing career of Chuck Leavell, also a keyboard player. Unlike Nicky, Chuck had no classical piano training. At age 20 he joined the Allman Brothers, and the song "Jessica" took his young career to the next level. Paul (like Dan) showed the audience various clips of Chuck playing with many bands and stars, including the Allman Brothers, the Rolling Stones, George Harrison, Erik Clapton, and his own band Sea Level. Chuck has been with the Rolling Stones since 1982 and serves as their principal touring keyboardist and musical director.

The playlists and videos used by Dan and Paul are on the Audio Club's web site.

The club sincerely thanks both Dan and Paul for their carefully created and excellent presentations and demonstrations. The club also thanks Dan Wittmayer and his assistant David Mansfield for setting up some excellent snacks and drinks.

Appendix:

This secretary was not able to attend the April nor May meetings of the club. In the April meeting, several club members gave us some "hot off the press" rundowns on the latest audio gear from the Chicago AXPONA show from these members who were there. There was also an opportunity for folks to bring interesting music that most members may not be familiar with, to listen to on the club system. There are no official minutes of this meeting.

The May meeting had members bring in their favorite small, stand mount speakers. Seven different speaker systems were demoed. Those minutes were written by Steve Gooding and are available on the club's web site.

Minutes written by Thomas Horner, Secretary, Atlanta Audio Club.