

On Sunday, September 19, 2021, the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This was our first in-person meeting at the Driving Club since the Covid-19 onset. This meeting featured a presentation by Paul Tarver, Beatles aficionado, followed by an extended listening session of the new club equipment (system). There were about 25 members and guests present. It started at 2 pm and lasted until 5 pm.

First up was Steve Gooding, president of the club. He described the “new” club system which consists of:

- Club built 2-way speakers with soft dome tweeters.
- Speaker stands and equipment stand which are easily disassembled for transport.
- Soundsmith Carmen MKII phono cartridge for the Denon direct drive turntable.
 - This replaced the Grado which picked up hum from the Denon’s motor.
- Soundsmith MMP4 phono preamplifier.
- PS Audio Stellar Strata integrated amplifier/DAC/streaming module.
- AudioQuest Hurricane Power Cord (on loan).
- Furutech e-TP80 power filter and distributor.
- Club built RG316/Cardas Silver RCA interconnects.

Steve announced that the new club equipment manager will be Kyle Stephens, who will store all the club equipment (at one central location). The equipment can be borrowed by any club member for audition by contacting Kyle. The previous club equipment that was replaced (the integrated tube amplifier and the Grado cartridge) was sold to club members. During the presentation and the listening session that followed, we also used Chuck Bruce’s Oppo Universal player (105D model).

Tom Horner announced that he had brought several boxes of classical and non-classical CDs for anyone to pick up and keep, as many as they wanted. During the meeting many were taken by the members present for their collection. The classical CDs were from the collection of Dr. Phil Muse (our classical reviewer) which he had reviewed in the past.

Steve then introduced Paul Tarver who split his presentation into two parts, how the Beatles harmonized their songs, and how the Beatles evolved a particular song from the first version through the finished version. For the first part, Paul showed us a video of an Italian vocal coach teaching two singers from a Beatles tribute band how to exactly match the harmony and vocal techniques used by the Beatles in the song “If I Fell (in Love with You).” The coach really went into details on how to sing this song just as the Beatles had. A second video showed all the elements that go into making a song (lyrics, instruments, and vocals), again using the “If I Fell” song. Finally, we looked at a DVD (from the “A Hard Day’s Night” movie) showing the Beatles recording a song in the studio.

For part two, Paul showed us how the song “All my Love” evolved from the first cut when Paul and John introduced it to the other two band members, to the 21st (yes 21) version which was the one released. This demonstrated the creative process of making a song sound really good. During this process, the electric guitars were replaced by acoustic guitar, then a nylon string acoustic (classical) guitar was used (in the introduction of the song) which really made it what it is today.

After a break, the listening session began of the club system. Many selections were played until about 5 pm when the meeting ended.

The club sincerely thanks Paul for an excellent presentation, and all the others who helped set up and run this meeting including Steve Gooding, Bob Prager, and the Refreshment Director, Dan Wittmayer.

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

Addendum:

This secretary missed a couple of meetings and gatherings, at which no minutes were taken.

- May 15, zoom meeting with Charles Whitener of Western Electric.
- June 27, in-person meeting (with demonstrations) at Hi-Fi Buys.
- July 31, summer social at the Flying Machine restaurant.
- August, listening sessions at members' homes at various dates.