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Audio Engineering Society Chicago Section Meeting

AES 2006-2007
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Saturday, November 20, 2008, 7:30pm

The Quest for the World's Oldest Recorded Sounds Presented by Patrick Feaster

Location: Shure Incorporated, 5800 W Touhy Ave, Niles, IL 60714

Directions to Shure:

When arriving by car, approach from the east by heading west on Touhy, then turn right into the parking lot just east of the Shure building, which is on the corner of Touhy and Lehigh. Enter at the employee entrance on the east side of the building and register at the guard desk. A valid driver's license must be presented at the guard desk when registering.

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=5800+W+Touhy+Ave,+Niles,+IL+60714+\(Shure+Incorporated\)](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=5800+W+Touhy+Ave,+Niles,+IL+60714+(Shure+Incorporated))

Dinner (optional) will begin at 6:30pm. Reservations required, contact Treasurer Mike Lester at lester_michael@shure.com by Wednesday November 19th. Jimmy John's sandwiches, chips, etc. will be provided. Price is \$10 for non-members and \$8 for members and students.

About the Presentation:

The Quest for the World's Oldest Recorded Sounds

In March 2008, an initiative called First Sounds pushed back the starting date of the world's audio heritage by recovering the voice of a woman singing "Au Clair de la Lune" from a waveform inscribed on April 9, 1860—over seventeen years before Thomas Edison built his first phonograph. The 148-year-old vocal performance had been captured by the *phonograph* of Parisian typographer Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville, an instrument designed to scratch sound waves onto soot-blackened paper for visual analysis with no thought of playback. First Sounds principal Patrick Feaster will discuss the goals and methods of "pre-phonographic" sound recording—seemingly prescient, and yet startlingly unfamiliar—as well as the technical challenges involved today in converting these primeval squiggles back into recognizable sound.

About the Presenter:

Patrick Feaster is the lead historical researcher for First Sounds, an informal collaborative of experts he and three colleagues founded in 2007 with the aim of making humanity's earliest recorded sounds available to all people for all time. A media historian specializing in the culture and technology of early sound recording, he holds a Ph.D. in folklore and ethnomusicology from Indiana University and is a Grammy-nominated author for his work on *Actionable Offenses: Indecent Phonograph Recordings From the 1890s*. He is currently employed by the Indiana University Archives of Traditional Music, for which he is conducting a preservation survey of audiovisual holdings on the Bloomington campus.

RELATED EVENTS:

An Evening with sE Microphones

sE electronics and their Midwest sales reps, JAMM Distributing, invite you and your engineers to a fun evening featuring Se Electronics new studio microphones, beer, appetizers, and interesting presentations of recent projects using sE Microphones on Tuesday evening, November 18th from 7 pm at StudioChicago, 2443 N. Clybourn Chicago, IL. Bob Reardon, managing director for Sonic Distribution, will be giving a short presentation on the history of sE and some comments about our relationship with Rupert Neve and the new RNR1 ribbon microphone. Bob will also be honoring Bill Dickens for his pioneering efforts with sE. We are very excited about Bill's career and are honored by his continued interest sE products. sE will be cohosting the party with StudioChicago's Al Ursini.

Chicago AES Section

Meeting Report

October 18th, 2008

At the October meeting of the Chicago Section, about twenty members made the trip to Milwaukee to visit Bob Paquette's Microphone Museum. The museum is a private collection that Bob has been growing for 58 years. The museum contains over 1000 microphones, the majority of which are pre-1950. Every nook and cranny is packed with interesting items including ribbon, crystal, condenser and electrets microphones. The tour was very informal, giving the members a chance to chat with Bob and hear many of the fascinating stories he had about each of the microphones.

Also on display were a few wire recorders (pre-tape!), a record cutter, a giant horn which was once used to amplify a movie theater with only 2 watts. Bob also demonstrated a pair of very early Klipsch loudspeakers that contained an 18" woofer and folded horn super tweeter giving them a range of 30 to 43kHz. The museum also had a few large balanced armature motors that can be used to drive paper cones and can be retrofitted with a mouth-piece that can be bitten by the user to allow for bone conduction of audio. On top of all this, Bob has even restored a Model-T Ford which he noted cost about \$500 in the late 20's, the same price as a quality condenser microphone.

The Chicago Section would like to thank Bob Paquette and Select Sound Service, Inc. For information about the museum please visit:

www.sssmilwaukee.com/Microphone%20Museum.html

Employment Opportunities:

Audio Hardware Engineer II, Shure Inc.

The Audio Hardware Engineer II will design and implement low-noise analog and digital circuitry in high-fidelity audio processing equipment. This engineer will be working closely with wireless and digital hardware engineers, PCB Layout, Corporate Quality, Marketing and other members of a cross-functional team to help satisfy the overall requirements of the design. This engineer will be performing audio quality testing on the products being developed, includes bench test and listening test evaluations of prototypes. A BS degree in Electrical Engineering with 2 years of related experience is required. To apply, please visit

<http://www.shure.com/Corporate/Careers/index.htm>

Do you have a job opportunity you would like to publicize? Contact Section Secretary Ryan Scott at chicago.aes@gmail.com for more information.

Do you have an idea for a meeting location for the Chicago AES Section? The section is currently considering alternate meeting spaces for future meetings. If you would like to suggest a specific location, please contact Section Secretary Ryan Scott at chicago.aes@gmail.com.