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Audio Engineering Society – New York Section

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, February 7, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

Please come to the “Meet and Greet” at 6:30 P.M.

Jazz Performance Space

The New School University

55 West 13th Street (bet. 5th & 6th Avenues), 5th floor, New York City

A Brief History of Stereo

(Part 2 of 2)

Presented by members of the AES Historical Committee - <http://aes.org/aeshc>

Robert Auld, Audio Engineer/Sound Designer - www.auldworks.com

Jerry Bruck, Audio Engineer/Pro-Audio sales - jbruck@posthorn.com

Irving Joel, Audio Engineer/Sound Consultant - irv-joel@juno.com

Hosted by: **Malcolm Addey**

This is the continuation of our January meeting, highlighting some of the significant developments and events that have transpired since Bell and Blumlein's seminal work of 75 years ago. As before, it will be replete with audio excerpts, visuals, and commentary by our three presenters. They will pick up the story around 1954, which was a watershed year for the fledgling technology. By then the decades of experimentation had yielded results that allowed stereo to take its first faltering steps into the world of commerce. Relishing the prospect of soaring equipment sales, audio retailers and hi-fi manufacturers were eager to embrace this new entertainment medium. Record companies large and small took on the job of selling the public on re-arranging budgets and furniture to make way for a new experience of reproduced music in living and recreation rooms.

Starting off with the first commercial two-track stereo tapes, which capitalized on the burgeoning interest in “hi-fi” reproduction, the inevitable next step was to scribe the two tracks into a single record groove. With the appearance of the 45-45 disk, the floodgates opened as stereo reproduction became practical in the home. The Dolby B cassette gave it legs. Then, just when things had about settled down, along came digital.

With the advent of CD (“there goes the neighborhood,” some will say), we have now arrived at a sort of plateau, at least for the moment. Despite insistent urgings to go “surround” or “hi-def,” our priorities have shifted markedly. We seem caught up in some science-fiction scenario, an “Invasion of the Bit-Snatchers” populated by the i-Pod People, beings with strange appurtenances on their ears and a disturbingly vacant look. Our once-revered goal of technology in service to better sound has apparently slipped sync. Might the past hold some lessons for us? We'll have to see.

The AES NY Section is pleased to thank our underwriters for their continued support, **NHT** and **Studio Consultants, Inc.**

We also appreciate the support and assistance of **Christopher Hoffman** and the **New School University**.

Remember to check our web site for the latest updates and information <http://www.aes.org/sections/ny/>

PLEASE POST... This is an open meeting ... EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Host: **Malcolm Addey** with **Robert Auld, Jerry Bruck** and **Irving Joel** - January 10, 2006 at The New School University, NYC.

The title of the evening's presentation was "A Brief History of Stereo, Part 1". (Part 2 will occur next month.) The objective of the presenters was nothing less than a survey of the development of stereo, from the first experimentation in the late 1920's and 1930's to the immediate post-war period.

Robert Auld spoke about and played examples of the initial work at Bell Telephone Labs that included the stereo recordings they made of Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1932. He also covered the recording of the "Fantasia" soundtrack in 1939. Jerry Bruck covered Alan Blumlein's early 1930's experiments and followed that with the stereo tapes made in the Berlin Radio studios in 1943 and 1944. Irving Joel reminisced about his work with Dr. Dutton of EMI and spoke about stereo pioneer Emory Cook. An excerpt was played from Cook's double groove stereo LP set of the Brahms Symphony No. 1, issued in 1954.

A near-capacity crowd packed the New School's jazz performance space. A lively question and answer session followed the presentations.

By **Robert Auld**

Upcoming AES events:

New Fiber Optic Connections & AES Audio Connectors Standards with Ron Ajemian & Irv Joel - March 14th at the New School

Pret-a-coustics with David Prentice - April 11th at the New School