Audio Engineering Society – New York Section

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, June 13, 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

Forensic Audio in the Digital Age

Hosts: **Robert Auld - AuldWorks, NYC**, AuldWorks, NYC
Guest: **Tom Owen -** Owl Investigations, Inc.

Mention "forensic audio" to most people and they think of either of the famous eighteen minute gap in the Nixon White House tapes or of cockpit voice recorders recovered from airplane crashes. While the world of forensic audio does include such headline-making matters, it also includes much else, including the science of voice identification and the authentication of audio materials for use as evidence in the justice system.

The guest for this meeting is Tom Owen. His company, **Owl Investigations, Inc.,** offers one of the most sophisticated digital audio and video processing laboratories presently available for forensic work. He is a nationally known expert who has served for many years on the Board of The International Association for Voice Identification. He currently serves as Chairman of the Audio Engineering Society's Standards Group WG-12 on Forensic Audio, and is the Chairman of the American Board of Recorded Evidence. Tom Owen is also the Head Instructor for the New York Institute of Forensic Audio from 1992 to the present.

AES New York Section Election of officers and committee members.

Ballots will be collected at the June Meeting. Write-in candidates will be allowed. Ballots may also be cast via fax: **212 967-1585 ATT: AES** or email: **vote-ny@aes.org**

Please vote for the following officers as a block:

Vice Chair	Noah Simon	_____
Treasurer	Jonathan Abrams	_____
Secretary	Bill Siegmund	_____

Please vote for any **three** of the following committee members:

Chris Hoffman	_____
Harry Hirsch	_____
Daryl Bornstein	_____
John Chester	_____
Joel Spector	_____
Charlie Post	_____

The following committee members are returning:
Ken Hunold, David Bialik, Bob Auld, Ron Ajemian

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

The Future of MIDI / High Definition MIDI

It's hard to picture music production today without MIDI. The May Section meeting reviewed the history of and speculated on the future of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). Co-hosts Jonathan Abrams and Noah Simon chaired a historical overview and a panel discussion. Noah presented a look back to the 1980's. Manufacturers used proprietary controls which made communication very difficult. Sequential Circuits, Roland, and Yamaha among others worked out a standard for serial communication and in 1983 Sequential Circuits introduced the first MIDI-equipped synthesizer, the Prophet 600. By 1985 virtually every keyboard had MIDI. Jonathan looked at the hardware of MIDI with the 5 pin DIN as standard, the data structure with 7 bits for information and noted the extensions of the standard including MIDI Time Code (MTC) which added positional information and enabled machine transport control via MIDI.

Rick Cohen of the MIDI Manufacturers Association led off the panel discussion by talking about the benefits of enhanced MIDI, primarily speed and resolution. He noted the limitations in range (maximum resolution limited to 128 steps) and speed (31.25 kbps) and discussed the pressures to increase resolution. Prince Charles Alexander and Jason Miles picked up the topic with stories about the initial impact of MIDI on their careers and talked about the excitement that MIDI brought to musicians as they were able to "stack" instruments, play from a single keyboard, and create unique sounds for recording. Dr. Robert Rowe raised the question of whether a new version of MIDI was realistically possible given the need to create a standard which would deliver dramatically increased capabilities but remain backwards compatible to the huge installed base of instruments and programs. He observed that MIDI as we know it is working perfectly well and perhaps the next leap forward would be based on a different and more computer-centric protocol. Audience members contributed observations on working with computers as sound sources rather than MIDI instruments including stacking servers in place of MIDI modules, educating students whose computer literacy exceeds their musical knowledge, and what new technologies will generate excitement similar to the early MIDI instruments. Final thoughts included a reminder from Rich Cohen of how MIDI, started as a way for keyboards to talk, has grown in 25 years to include the worlds of computers, the web, video games, lighting control, and cell phones as a standard for sound a control to the point where it is nearly invisible.

By **David Prentice**

Upcoming AES events:

Saturday, July 8, 2006 will be our Annual Section Picnic – details to follow