



INFORMATION ON NEXT MEETING

AUDIO & SDI

Thursday 29th of March 2001, at 18h30 at the Hotel Alfa, Leupanstrasse 15, Bern (5 minutes from main railway station)

SPEAKERS: Markus Gaechter, Sony Broadcast

Patrick Boehm, TVSR

ORGANIZER: Patrick Boehm, TVSR

LANGUAGE: German/English

The next meeting will be held on the Thursday 29th of March at 18h30 at the Hotel Alfa in Bern on the topic "Audio and SDI".

The great majority of television stations that are working with digital video have adopted the 270 Mbit/s SDI norm in accordance with the CCIR Standard 601. This digital signal allows audio data to be added (embedded audio). Markus Gaechter, of Sony Broadcast, will show what form of audio signal can be embedded and disembedded and present other aspects of SDI including the number of available channels.

Patrick Boehm of the French-Speaking Swiss National Television, (TVSR) will present the News studio "Studio d'Actualité 2000" which has been set up to operate entirely in the digital domain. He will discuss how the signals are handled, switched etc. The studio is operational and is due to go on air in August 2001.

An optional dinner will be held at the Hotel Alfa after the meeting (around 20h15).

Biographical Notes

Markus Gaechter, a 43 year old married man with one son, was with Panasonic (John Lay Electronics) for 16 years, where he held different jobs. For two years he was training manager, responsible for all the technical training for all products. For the last 9 years he was responsible for service and support for the professional video products.

Two years ago he moved to Sony Broadcast where he is in broadcast systems support and training. He is looking after large systems projects, such as television studios etc. Part of his job is also training. Over the last ten years, he was also with Radio DRS in Luzern as an operator. He is currently a teacher at ZEPRA and PROFEVI (a video operator school in Schlieren).

Patrick Boehm who was born in 1957, has been working 19 years at the French-speaking Swiss National Television in Geneva as a member of the technical staff. He is looking after everything relating to audio post-production, including virtual editing systems, sound reinforcement systems, audio-video synchronisation in the technical domain. Since August 2000, he has been responsible for the technical maintenance (video) of the News studio "Studio d'Actualité 2000".

SWISS SECTION PROGRAMME FOR 2001

An Evening with George Massenburg (still to be confirmed), Bern, in May just after AES Convention,
The Use of Digital Signal Processing in Loudspeaker Technology, Ulrich Horbach, Studer Professional Audio AG, and Alain Roux, PSI-Relec, Regensdorf, 14th of June 2001

Sound Reinforcement Going Digital ?, Pierre-André Aebischer, Hyperson, September 2001

REPORT ON PREVIOUS MEETING

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: POINT OF VIEW OF A VIOLIN-MAKER

Thursday 25th of January 2001, at 17h30 at the “Musée Historique” of Lausanne (situated right next to Lausanne Cathedral)

SPEAKER: Luc Breton

REPORTER: Walter Köller

LANGUAGE: French

About 30 participants gathered at the History Museum of Lausanne for a conference on the more unusual subject of musicology.

Luc Breton took us on a impassioned two-hour tour through his vast knowledge on the subject. Based on different versions of the Old Testament (Hebrew, Greek and Latin) he described the theological and philosophical importance of music. Numerous iconographic examples powerfully illustrated the place taken by string instruments and the instruments which are part of the religious hierarchy. Mr Breton then gave details of the various theological interpretations of the working of string instruments which has led, over the ages, to the fundamental humanistic knowledge and understanding of physical phenomena.

Far away from scientific theory and laborious calculations of natural modes, it was through this fascinating musicological analysis that the audience was able to get an accessible and intuitive insight into the art of manufacturing resonance tables for lutes and violin-family instruments whilst understanding the way shape and supports favour certain harmonics of the instrument.

The last part of the presentation focused on the evolution of musical interpretation from Baroque to

contemporary classical music. Mr. Breton clearly illustrated the difference between a tempered scale based on perfect octaves and one based on perfect fifths. He compared the inevitable difference in pitch between the two, to the impossible squaring of the circle, which is due according to the ancient tradition, to the difference between a perfect divine world and the world moulded by man since the original sin.

Contemporary classical music is also characterised by a partial absence of articulation, that is to say, interpretation in which modulations resembling “fat” and “thin” consonants are integrated into the rhythm indicated on the sheet music. Different examples played skilfully by Luc Breton on the Horn, lute, violin and bagpipes gave a perfect and colourful illustration of the concept.

As a conclusion, he played several rare recordings to the audience, one of which was an extract of a double bass player who had taken this form of articulation to the extreme of being able to “talk” intelligible words with his instrument.

This was a fitting end to the most fascinating of cultural excursions where science meets art. This led quite naturally to the nearby restaurant where many a merry debate was launched.

SWISS SECTION PROGRAMME FOR 2001 (continued)

VIRUS: A Radio Broadcasting Facility for the Multimedia Age, François Mürner, Wolfgang Voigts and Lucius Müller, Schweizer Radio DRS and Martin Lachmann, Applied Acoustics, Radio Virus in Basel, 11th of October 2001

Joint Meeting with Swiss Acoustics Society:

Surround Sound in Control Room Design, Dirk Noy, WSDG, Christopher Anet, Genelec, Bern, 15th of November 2001