

the March meeting

Theophany from the Greek, theophaneia (meaning “appearance/ showing of God”), refers to the appearance of a deity to a human, or to a divine disclosure.

This term has been used to refer to appearances of the gods in the ancient Greek and Near Eastern religions. While the Iliad is our earliest source for descriptions of theophanies in the Classical tradition (and they occur throughout Greek mythology), probably the earliest description of a theophany is in the Epic of Gilgamesh.

The above is a definition according to Wikipedia and of course would have little to do - I assume - as to why this name was chosen for a range of quality loudspeakers made here in New Zealand. Or has it? On the other hand “appearance” / “divine disclosure” could of course be a fitting name for a sound transducer, err, couldn't it? Maybe Don could tell us one evening where / how this ‘unusual’ name came about?



NEXT CLUBNIGHT

**Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 April
7.30pm - to ??pm**

NOTE change of venue and times etc ...

At Colin Smith's home, Wilton, to hear his hand made sub-woofer.

As many of us know, Colin has been building this sub for some time. It's now finally ready for audition, and due to its coffin-like size and weight - you can see from the pic below - its simply not possible to bring it to our usual venue, with or without bronze(?) handles. Colin has therefore kindly offered to allow us to see it - and listen of course - BUT over 2 nights ... reason being one large group cannot easily be catered for ... so Colin has suggested 2 smaller groups over successive evenings as the best option. Colin also welcomes your DEEP bass contributions, CD's or LP's.

Please call Colin soonest to arrange which evening you'll attend, refer to the accompanying email for his address etc

Numbers are limited, so don't delay! ● Rory



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Now the evening: - Don brought his 'newish' M3 models for us coupled to Craig's Hafler amp via WilsonWire bi-wire cables, and driven by my Raysonic 168, running balanced directly to the Hafler. A pretty good front end, overall, to test them out.

The result you ask? Well, very good! The M3's surprisingly acquitted themselves with quite some panache, and I quote "*clean, uncluttered, good depth, imaging*" - at least as deciphered from my cryptic shorthand notes taken on the night. Also "*well finished, excellent rimu woodwork and an interesting off-square design with its anti resonance curved surfaces*".

Don spoke for about 10 minutes or so to kick off, firstly with some words about the company ... who are based in Weedons RD5, outside Christchurch. Theophany make several speaker models ... ranging from bookshelf size to the bigger floorstander M5's plus 5.1 surround models as well. Don's M3's have 2 x 5" drivers (but is there another passive down-firing one invisibly buried in the bottom of the cabinet or just a covered port?) and 1 soft-dome tweeter. The 3 drivers are revealed, cloth baffles not being part of the design. He also joked briefly about running them in for quite a time before twiggging that they required bi-wiring, meaning for the first and initial burning in period of a few weeks the tweeters were not running at all. This was quickly cured. Doh!

My impressions of the M3's from the hour long programme of music Don chose were all positive. Follows the programme:-

1. Julian Bream - guitar - an RCA DDD recording of c1983 & 1994 vintage. Bream's finger slide "*squeaks*" (naughty naughty) clearly heard. "*Clean, distinct, and "roomy"*"
2. A jazz track; "Samba de Orfeo" from a Chesky CD "Non Stop to Brazil"
3. "The Song is You" from the same Chesky CD as above.
4. First movement from Symphony No 27, "The Philosopher", Haydn, from my notes "*clean, fast, and convincing sound stage*".
5. A 1982 EMI vintage of Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony - tail end of the last movement, Riccardo Muti with the



Philharmonia orchestra. Noted "*edgy strings*" - more the recording however.

6. Prokofiev "Romeo and Juliet" (the sword fight, death of Tybalt and funeral procession bit) with our own Sir William conducting the Christchurch Symphony. I noted something about "*where's the bottom end*"? Not sure now what my note meant.

7. Anna Moffo - on an EMI Encore disc, "Una Voce Poco" from the "Barber of Seville" again with the Philharmonia and this time with Colin Davis doing the arm waving. Noted "*little or no sibilance*", "*little voice highs edge - apart from the few end bars*".

8. Then a woofer-buster, being Jean Guillou playing the Great Organ of Tonhalle, Zurich, in an organ transcription extract of Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition". A 1989 Dorian disc, and I noted "*no soggy lows, nor slows*".

Don's disc selection being complete, three other pieces were played from discs others had brought along, including an RR disc of Berlioz' "Symphonie Fantastique" - the march to the scaffold movement/bit; then an extract from Wagner's "Meistersingers" overture, conducted by our patron Sir William (I think from the same CD as noted earlier). Finally a bit of pop-jazz from a sonically demanding Telarc CD by Maria Muldaur of 2004 vintage. Sadly this was not heard as intended, as whoever had the remote volume control in their mitts, turned it down so low as to null. No matter, no more was really needed.

So the prognosis? Excellent. For their size the M3's batted very well, created a palpable sound stage even at the levels necessary to shine in our acoustically and notoriously difficult venue, ie: Room B209. Actually I thought they saw off our Club Thiel's in many respects. Our grateful thanks Don for a most engaging and enjoyable evening. We look forward to your next one (hint, nudge), as I hear a new disc spinner is in the pipeline too? ● **Rory**

Over page, Don's Theophany M3's being setup.

At left the bi-wires, and also being hooked up (see earlier in the story)!

Coming later in the year ...load up your car boot for -

the Great WAC BRING/BUY/SWAP evening

An opportunity to sell, swap - whatever - your surplus audio and related gear, ie: cables, players, portable gadgets, especially your unwanted CD's, DVD's, or LP's.

More on this in an upcoming issue, and if popular may become an annual event.