

The monthly news for stereo types.



No. 48, December 2016

Hello Brian

We have reinstated the [Xmas Gift Suggestions](#) category on both websites. I hope it might be helpful to someone pondering what to buy a hi fi enthusiast.

One of our major suppliers is running a Xmas Giveaway whereby if you purchase more than \$1000 of their products you can choose a free gift of either a turntable or radio (both worth \$299). More info below.

And we are getting into the xmas spirit by giving away an Airtry with selected products and any order over \$400.

Last month I talked about a free download of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and asked for comments. There's a couple of responses below.

Thanks to all those readers who have said they enjoy reading these monthly newsletters, I hope you continue to find them useful.

Seasons greetings to you and your family.

Happy listening.

Brian Maddern

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Xmas Giveaway



Purchase a [Rotel A10 amplifier](#) and Pro-Ject [SpeakerBox 5](#) speakers (total \$1048) and get a FREE [Elemental turntable](#) (worth \$299). That represents a whopping 22% discount off RRP. And we can sweeten the deal even further with a bonus spare stylus (worth \$59.95).



Or buy any Pro-Ject or Rotel product over \$1000 and get a free Tivoli Audio Model One AM/FM radio in Classic Walnut (worth \$299).

Purchases must be made before December 31st. The gift is redeemed by completing an online form and sending a copy of the receipt to the supplier. A \$15.00 postage charge is payable at the time of claiming the gift.



Bonus Airtry

The Airtry WiFi music receiver is a useful little device that enables you to stream music from your PC, tablet, or phone to your stereo system via your home wi fi network.

Selling for \$49.95 we are giving one away with every purchase of the following products.

- Graham Slee phono preamplifiers, models GSPGA2C, GSPA2SE3, GSPGA3F3, GSPEGV, GSPRM1, GSPA.
- The Dayton DTA120 T-amp.
- Any order over \$400. This can be a combination of products eg. an RDV plus some extra RxLP concentrate.

This bonus offer ends December 31st or when stocks run out.



Pro-Ject Audio turntable specials

[Essential II](#) - down to \$399 (was \$429), but we also include a replacement stylus (worth \$59.95)

[Debut Carbon DC OM10](#) down to \$549 (was \$599), bonus replacement stylus (worth \$59.95)

[1Xpression Carbon](#) \$1099 with Ortofon 2M Red cartridge (free Tivoli AM/FM radio).



Beethoven's 9th free download

Last month I provided a link to the Rode Microphone's website where a performance of Beethoven's 9th symphony at the Opera House is available to download for free. It's still available at <http://en.rode.com/animaeterna>

I asked for comments from our readers regarding the recording, and how it compared to CDs or vinyl versions. Here's some of the comments ...

... I followed the provided link, watched the performance and subsequently ordered the Blu Ray, expecting high quality sound and video. Imagine my disappointment on loading the disc into my player and all that is on there is 2 channel Dolby digital, 192 kb. The video is great, over 27mb, but this is a Blu Ray with lots of room so why the crap audio? Tony Faulkner should be ashamed and embarrassed. And it was recorded in high resolution as the download is available at 24/96. Please warn potential purchasers of the unacceptable audio used on this disc.

... I settled on the FLAC format many years ago so that's the version I listened to. My only point of comparison is with a version of the 9th digitally recorded in 1980, performed by the Concertgebouw Orchestra (and Chorus) Amsterdam, and released on CD in 1990.

Like you, I thought the 4th movement stood out with the excellent reproduction of the choir's voices but that, overall, for me there was some emotion missing in the recording. This may simply be my reaction to the sterility of the venues' acoustics. I don't have any other recordings from the Sydney Opera House to compare with.

I was interested in your comments about getting more enjoyment from the 1960's Berlin Philharmonic recording, and am wondering if you think this is a analog vs. digital issue, or more an emotional attachment you have to the earlier recording. I ask because I have a similar attachment to a Berlin Philharmonic / Herbert von Karajan recording of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, released on LP in 1967 (one of only two LPs I still own),

and re-released on CD in 1989. I enjoy hearing the performance on CD just as much as I ever did on LP (I sold my turntable in the 80's), whereas I don't enjoy the renditions of other orchestras as much, regardless of medium. All of which has led me to the opinion that the artist/performance is more important than the delivery mechanism.

Thank you for those comments, but as more than 250 people took the link I am sure there are additional observations which will be of interest to our readers. I have put this article up on our facebook page and invite further comments.

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