



## A SOUND EXPERIENCE NEWSLETTER 02 FOR 2009: 29 JANUARY 2008

This is the second newsletter for 2009, issued each month. Read more about:

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- ' New software

### MUSIC DAY, 21 MARCH 2009



Mark 21 March in your diary as “Booked: Music Day”. A change of scenery is always a good thing and our first music day of the year sees AV Cables, A Sound Experience and Valve Audio working together for the benefit of anyone who enjoys music. This is the first music day to be held in Pretoria and we trust our friends from the Johannesburg area will understand that we need to have a Pretoria venue as well to cater for those enthusiasts who live on the other side of the Jukskei river.

Join us at Thula Thula Lodge, east of Pretoria, for a day of music and relaxation. Situated a few kilometres from the Zambesi tollgate, Thula Thula is a unique escape from the busy malls and shopping centres we tend to spend a lot of time in. A 220m<sup>2</sup> thatched entertainment area is the focus of the day and the three businesses will run one system comprising components spanning our catalogue. Come and listen to Jeandre’s EMM Labs SACD player, Schalk’s Whisper phono stage, A Sound Experience’s turntables and the very popular and quite exquisite Spondor loudspeakers.

Treat yourself to some Furutech and Ecosse accessories; Rega spares for your turntable; and some new software from Naim Label, Stockfish and others. On sale will be some regular best sellers as well as the new album by Sara K, **Made in the shade**. We will also be demonstrating a recent Stockfish release, the Paperboys’ **Live in Stockfish Studio**.

In addition, we will take care that you do not go hungry, with food platters available and also a limited bar where you can buy some beers, cooldrinks and so on. The lodge does not have a liquor licence and so “hardehout” is out of the question. The food platters are for *mahala* but beers will cost you R10.00 per can / bottle and cooldrinks will set you back R5.00 per 340ml can. There are tables and chairs for your use inside the listening area and you can also spend time outside. Bring along the family - there is a pool but please note that the children’s safety is the responsibility of the parents or guardians. There is an animal farm and the area generally allows you to relax. Should you want to stay there for the weekend or get any other information, visit their web site on [www.thulathulalodge.co.za](http://www.thulathulalodge.co.za). The web site’s roadmap is accurate and easy to follow. Sufficient parking is available and there are shops nearby. Bring a picnic basket if you like and spend some time in the beautiful gardens.

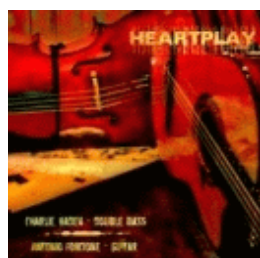
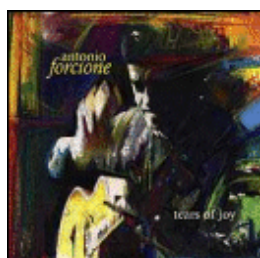
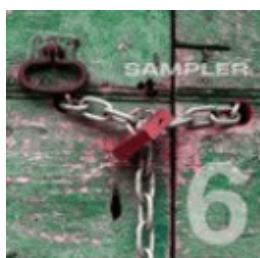


We will start at 09:00 and finish at 17:00 and you are welcome to join in whenever you like. Quick directions: Take the N1 North to Pietersburg / Polokwane. Go past Rigel, Atterbury, Lynwood and Stormvoël. Go through the neck and take the Zambesi offramp. Pay your R5.80 and turn right into Zambesi, going east. Go across the Moloto intersection and up the hill. The shopping centre with Renegades and news Café is to the left. At the next intersection, turn left into the Kameeldrift road. Continue for about 2km and look out for the following marker to the left: Laerskool Die Poort to the left. Continue for another 3km. A shopping centre is on the right. Don’t turn left at the intersection here. A large church is on the right just after the shopping centre. Another kilometer or so, look out for the Thula Thula board to the left

of the road. The entrance is to the right. One of AV Cables / Valve Audio / A Sound Experience banners will be next to the road and clearly visible.

### SOFTWARE SPECIALS

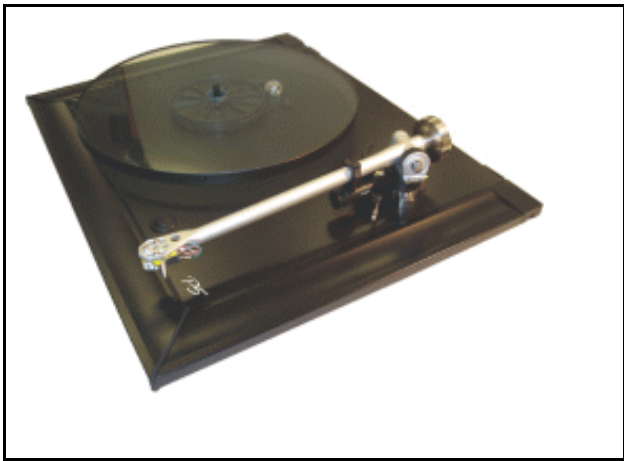
Looking for excellent titles but still taking a bit of strain after December? Stock up your collection at the music day. On sale will be the following titles: Rega’s Christine Collister LP, Love (R250.00); Naim’s Sampler 6 (R100.00); Antonio Forcione’s Touch Wood, Heartplay, Tears of Joy and other AF titles (R100.00). In most cases this is a 50% discount. These prices are not available to dealers though and will apply only on 21 March.



## HARDWARE SPECIALS

To start the year on a new note, why not treat yourself to some decent equipment. The following items are brand new, some having been only used for review purposes by Audio Video South Africa (AVSA) Magazine. These are available to private buyers at the prices indicated below in bold and will be available at the music day event on 21 March. Dealers interested in these items should enquire with me:

	<p>A brand new pair of R5 loudspeakers, used by AVSA for their October 2008 review of this fine product, is available. The retail price is R13 000,00 and the boxed pair is available for <b>R10 000.00</b>. The speakers carry a full one year guarantee and are in perfect condition. The finish is Maple.</p>
	<p>A Cursa pre-amplifier with MC phono stage built in, is available. This item, together with two monoblock Exon amplifiers, was reviewed by AVSA in March 2008 and as a set will retail for over R45 000.00. The combo is available for <b>R30 00.00</b> and carries a full one year guarantee. The units are finished in black and can also be purchased separately.</p>
	<p>The Radio 3 FM/AM tuner is perfect to complement the rest of your Rega equipment. Available in both black and satin, the item retails for R7 500.00 and is available for <b>R5 000.00</b>.</p>
	<p>Rega's RB1000 arm is a work of art and able to perform with the very best out there. While it appears to look like the older RB300 arm, the technology and craftsmanship are way beyond what many thought was possible in tone arm design. Retailing For R19 000.00, the RB1000 is available for <b>R15 000.00</b>. Special three-point pacers and extra heavy counterweights, specifically designed for this arm, are available.</p>



A P5 turntable, with satin surround (black surround pictured here) is available. Used for a few hours during a demonstration, there are a few marks on the headshell where the cartridge was bolted but it is normal for all Rega arms to show this wear as the external paint surfaced will scuff, no matter how careful you are. The unit normally retails for R13 700.00 and is available for **R11 000.00**. Add the TT PSU off board power supply (retail price R3099.00) available for **R2500.00**, in either silver or black and you have probably the best value for money of all Rega's turntable, including the much liked P3-24. The quality of the RB700 allows fitting a really top notch cartridge of your choice and special three-point spacers are available to raise the VTA if required.

### NEW RELEASE: SARA K'S "MADE IN THE SHADE"

Sara K is no stranger to the Stockfish label. Known as "the queen of audiophile", Sara's music is brilliant in many respects - a voice somewhere between that of Diana Krall and Joni Mitchell and absolutely stunning recording and support by her backing musicians.

Following her last recording with the late Chris Jones as lead guitarist, Hell or high water, Sara released a solo recording spanning much of her pre-Stockfish career, **Don't I know you from somewhere?** Back in the studio for much of 2008, the new release *Made in the shade* is due middle-February 2009.

*Made in the shade* will be released as a hybrid SACD/CD, meaning those with high resolution SACD players will have the advantage that this format provides while the standard CD player is available for all non-SACD compatible players. You can pre-order your copy today, which is available at R290.00.



### NEW SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

Some new software and hardware will be available shortly. December was a "dead" month in terms of deliveries to the country and there are some very anxious clients waiting for deliveries. My apologies especially to those who ordered Rega spares, the supply and shipment of which was severely delayed. Since I am without a cartridge at this point and am also waiting for this same delivery, I am starting to have some bad "cannot play vinyl" withdrawal symptoms!

Titles have been ordered from Stockfish Records as well as from a US supplier. The latter include some really stunning XRCD titles, some vinyl and especially hard to find accessories for vinyl supporters - anti static inner sleeves and plastic outer sleeves.

Back to Stockfish. There are some titles that are consistently popular: *The Closer to the Music* Volume 1 and 2 SACD; Chris Jones' *Roadhouses and Automobiles*; Bassface Swing Trio's Gershwin and Cole Porter tributes; Steve Strauss, Mike Silver, Allan Taylor, Sara K and many other artists will be available. Contact me today for pre-orders to ensure you get a copy.

Best regards, Andries O  
084 531-8046