



September 1999 Meeting Notice

A Joint Meeting of the
Acoustical Society of America
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Audio Engineering Society

Concert Hall Acoustics Dr. Cyril Harris

Monday, September 20, 1999, 7:30 PM
Benaroya Hall, S. Mark Taper Auditorium
Third Ave. and University St., Seattle

Dr. Cyril Harris, noted acoustician and Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Columbia University, will speak to our combined groups in the S. Mark Taper Auditorium at Benaroya Hall.

As you may know, Dr. Harris was responsible for the remarkable acoustics of our newest concert hall. Now entering its second season, Seattle's premiere concert hall has received justly deserved praise for its acoustical properties.

Dr. Harris grew up in Hollywood in the early days of the talkies. His junior high school was located across the street from the Warner Bros. lot. "I'd get in there by various means," said Harris, "and I found out that to avoid any problems, they routinely changed the batteries that powered much of their equipment even when they'd been used very little. They couldn't afford to risk any breakdowns. These were very expensive units, but they'd let me buy them for 15 cents apiece. I was an amateur radio operator, and I'd build my own amplifiers for music reproduction, and I guess I got an early start in acoustics through that — and those Warner Brothers batteries."

He got his BA and MA degrees at UCLA, later moving to Massachusetts to study for his PhD at MIT under Phillip M. Morse ("the best acoustics theoretician in the world"). After the war, he

worked under Harvey Fletcher at Bell Laboratories followed by a Fullbright Lectureship in Holland and a stint with the Office of Naval Research in Europe. Returning to the US, he then traded places with Harvey Fletcher at Columbia University (Fletcher wanted to return to BYU in Utah).

At Columbia, Harris started the Acoustics Laboratory of Columbia and engaged in government-sponsored research as well as studying various acoustical odds and ends. Over the years, Dr. Harris has worked on noteworthy concert auditoriums such as Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, the Met in New York and the Krannert Center in Urbana, IL. He brought acoustical success to Avery Fisher Hall in New York City.¹

Dr. Harris was awarded the Franklin Medal, 1977; the Wallace Clement Sabine Medal, 1979; the A.I.A. Medal, 1980; the Gold medal, Audio Engineering Society, 1984; the Gold medal, Acoustical Society of America, 1987. He is a member of National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences.²

Directions to the Meeting

Benaroya Hall is located in downtown Seattle between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, between University and Union Streets. It is one block east of the Seattle

Art Museum. Use the regular public entrance to the Hall on 3rd Avenue, near University Street.

From I-5 Southbound: From the Union Street exit, continue west until you reach 2nd Avenue. At 2nd, go left and left again into the hall's underground garage.

From I-5 Northbound: From the Seneca Street exit, go west on Seneca to 4th, right on 4th to Union, left on Union to 2nd. At 2nd, go left and left again into the hall's underground garage.

From I-90: go to I-5 northbound. Take the Madison Street exit. go west on Madison to 4th, right on 4th to Union, left on Union to 2nd. At 2nd, go left and left again into the hall's underground garage.

There are elevators in the garage to the 3rd Avenue entrance.

(1) portions excerpted and summarized from "Design for Music" by Ken Gouldthorpe. Copyright 1999. ISBN 0-935503-22-6. Available from the Seattle Symphony gift shop at Benaroya Hall or by calling the Symphony offices.

(2) CV excerpted from <<http://www.arch.columbia.edu/Admin/Bulletin/faculty.html>>

Some web references to Dr. Harris' work:
<<http://sandiego.sidewalk.com/link/13530>>
<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0070269203/qid=934350910/sr=1-6/002-9696775-8421201>>
<<http://www.wwnorton.com/catalog/spring98/amarch.htm>>
<<http://www.kcts.org/productions/benaroya/interior.htm>>



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PNW SECTION
 Sept 99 MEETING NOTICE

FIRST CLASS

Vince Dayton, Vixel, 425-806-4328 Terry Denbrook, KUOW-FM, 206-543-2710
 Sam Fontaine, 425-513-2451 Barry James, Puget Sound Recording, 206-650-6554
 Bob Moses, PAVO, 206-682-7223 Rick Smargassi, Integrated Light & Sound, 360-668-7016
 Lindsay Smith, Sparling, 206-224-3636

PNW Committee Members

Secretary: Gary Louie, UW School of Music, 206-543-1218 Vice-Chair: Rick Chinn, Uneeda Audio, 425-868-0442
 Chair: Aurika Hays, 425-844-2464 Treasurer: Dan Mortensen, Dansound, 206-525-2113

1999-2000 PNW Officers

AES Pacific Northwest Section
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<http://www.aes.org/sections/pnw>

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 212-661-8528 or 800-541-7299
<http://www.aes.org>

Of Possible Interest

EMU/Ensoniq, a technology leader in sampling, synthesis and digital audio, is looking for a Desktop Music Product Manager who wants to make a mark in the music/audio industry.

This creative, driven, self-motivated individual will lead a team that will create the strategy for the next generation, desktop music products for EMU/Ensoniq. This position requires an extensive technical and music background combined with excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as good organizational and perseverance skills. A technical, business or music degree is highly desirable. Experience with music retailers is a plus.

Email <employment@emu.com>

Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section of the Audio Engineering Society for the 1999-2000 season. We are particularly fortunate to have Dr. Harris speak about his hall, in his hall this month, along with our associates from the AIAA and ASA. Please bring your friends to this rare opportunity. The meeting, as always, is open to non-members and free.

Aurika Hays assumes the PNW Chair's role for the new millennium, and we welcome Lindsay Smith as a new committee member. Contact any of the officers listed in this mailer if you have any questions about the AES or its activities. Keep up with meeting notices and our activities at the AES website: <<http://www.aes.org/sections/pnw/>>