

FEBRUARY 2006

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Presentation

The Future of Audio: Quality Matters

*George Massenburg, George Massenburg
Laboratories*

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2006

Time: 3:00 pm

Where: Lib 72, Lecture Theatre, lower level
Library Building, Ryerson University
350 Victoria Street, Toronto
Corner of Gould and Victoria, One block east of Yonge Street
(Dundas Subway)

Campus Map: www.ryerson.ca/map
Parking Info: www.ryerson.ca/parking

Seating is limited. First come, first seated!

Grammy Award-winner **George Massenburg** is internationally renowned as a producer, recording engineer and designer of audio equipment. In a career spanning over 30 years, he has worked with such artists as Linda Ronstadt, Bonnie Raitt, Billy Joel, Kenny Loggins, Journey, Phil Collins, Toto, Emmylou Harris, Dolly Parton, James Taylor, Little Feat, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, Carly Simon, and Earth, Wind and Fire. Massenburg, a member of the Faculty of Music of McGill University, has received three Grammys, including the Grammy for Technical Achievement in 1998. George Massenburg has been responsible for engineering some of the most respected recordings of the modern era, as well as creating that mainstay of the recording process, the parametric equalizer.

The VNET sound system for this meeting is supplied by Tannoy.

N E X T M O N T H

Sunday, March 26 - "The Beatles Gear: All the Fab Four's Gear From the Stage to the Studio", Andy Babuik

PLEASE POST - MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME

About the Presenter...

George Massenburg was born in Baltimore, Maryland and raised between there and Macon, Georgia. Keenly interested in music, electronics and sound recording at an early age, he started working part-time both in the recording studio and in a medical electronics laboratory by the time he was 15 years old.

As a sophomore majoring in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, he left university after his sophomore year and never completed an undergraduate degree.

He designed, authored and presented the 1972 AES paper on the Parametric Equalizer and is regularly published in professional journals and trade magazines worldwide.

He was chief engineer of Europa Sonar Studios in Paris, France in 1973 and 1974, and also did freelance record engineering and equipment design in Europe during those years.

He chartered several electronics companies, most notably GML, INC (now GML, LLC) in 1982 to produce high-performance, high-resolution recording equipment. Three notable developments are the parametric equalizer itself, the third-generation moving fader automation system & other control elements and systems for audio recording consoles, and a reference-precision Dynamic Range Controller.

Currently, with Massenburg Design Works, he has developed digital plug-ins for many platforms (including ProTools HD, the Sony Oxford OXF-R3 digital console, Sonic Solutions HD Mastering System, TC Electronics, the Roland VS series consoles and the Mackie D8B, among others)

He has designed and built a radically new and innovative studio in Berry Hill, Tennessee, Blackbird Studio C. Dubbed an "Ambechoic" space by Peter D'Antonio, it combines the benefits of highly suppressed first reflections (for improved imaging in the surround space) and a linear, frequency-independent ambience (for faster, more natural mixing).

He is currently Adjunct Professor of Music Technology at McGill University in Montreal of Quebec, and Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, and lectures at various colleges and universities, including UCLA and USC in Los Angeles, CA, and MTSU in Murfreesboro, TN. He is founding Chairman of the Technical Council on Studio Practices and Production of the Audio Engineering Society. He is a member of the advisory council of the Producers & Engineer's wing of NARAS, and is a member of the National Recording Preservation Board of the Library of Congress and the Committee for Library Information Resources. He is a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society.

He has produced or engineered records for, among many others, Linda Ronstadt, Aaron Neville, Emmylou Harris, Little Feat, James Taylor, Randy Newman, Lyle Lovett, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Billy Joel, Earth Wind and Fire, Natalie Merchant, Carly Simon and Michael Ruff. He has been nominated many times for the non-classical engineering Grammy (most recently in 2002 for Mary Chapin Carpenter). His projects have been nominated for Record Of The Year in several years, and has himself won three Grammys, one for Best Engineered Non-Classical in 1990, (for Linda Ronstadt's, "Cry Like A Rainstorm, Howl Like the Wind"), and for Best Producer (Children's Record, Linda Ronstadt's "Dedicated To The One I Love"); he was awarded the Recording Academy's Technical Grammy for 1997 for numerous contributions to the art and technology of the modern music recording. He also won the Academy of Country Music Record Of The Year for 1988 (for "The Trio"), and both the Mix Magazine Producer and Engineer Of The Year Awards for 1989 (for Little Feat), and Engineer Of The Year Award for 1991 (for Linda Ronstadt), and 1992 (for Lyle Lovett). He delivered the keynote address to the 50th anniversary of the Audio Engineering Society in New York in October 1997, to the 24th Conference on Multichannel Audio in Banff, Alberta in June 2003, and to the Surround Pro 2003 conference in Los Angeles, December 2003.

George has one son, Sam, 17, a drummer and emerging computer graphics programmer, and lives in Williamson County, Tennessee.