

## Series 8 Review by Mike Corgan



Mike Corgan  
Michael T. Corgan, PhD, Assoc.  
Prof.  
Associate Chair, Boston  
University

My system - McIntosh: MCD 500 CD player, C220 preamp, MC 275 amp. Between the CD and preamp is a Margules Audio ADE 24 Analog Digital Harmonizer Speakers are Von Schweikert VR-33s.

Absolute Sound Reference - we go to lots of live concerts. In Falmouth we support the annual appearance of the Colorado String Quartet at their summer workshop program and we go to several Cape Cod Symphony concerts each season. Best of all, for 27 years we have subscribed to the Boston Symphony and our seats are first balcony, second row, dead center. These are arguably the best concert hall seats in the world. We know what live music sounds like.

Mike bought his cables from Ralph Shelgren at Nantucket Sound in Hyannis, MA. Nantucket Sound has been a premiere Tributaries dealer since 2005.

### **Closer to Live Music: Series 8**

Ralph Shelgren at Nantucket Sound suggested you might want to hear of my reaction to Tributaries Series 8 interconnects. In a word, they make my system sound the best it ever has. I hear things in discs I have played frequently, some for over a dozen years that I have never heard before.



Much of my current system I bought from Nantucket Sound and have dealt with them for over 25 years. Thus Ralph asked me if I would mind trying out the Series 8 interconnects in place of the Nordost Baldurs I was then using. I listened carefully for a while and concluded the S8s gave me much more of the immediacy of live music that I know well. Overall, I was most impressed by the distinction of inner voices in all music types; small vocal group, chamber music, and orchestral symphonic. Notions like 'liquidity' and 'presence' came most frequently to mind but I find those somewhat fuzzy ways of expressing what I heard. But there were other virtues as well.

The vocal group was the King's Singers. I could always tell who and how many were singing whether all, or some combination of the six. The chamber group was the Ames Quartet on a Dorian CD of Dvorak recorded in the concert hall of the Troy [NY] Savings Bank (!) which I have actually been to for a concert. The hall sound was now, with the S8s, captured perfectly. And in one adagio movement there is a low pedal note on the cello which I have never heard properly captured before. Now I heard it.

The orchestral work was a Brahms Symphony No. 1 on Chesky. Most immediately apparent were the low notes on the bass clarinet in the beginning of Movement IV. But throughout I could always distinguish the simultaneous different lines of orchestral passage work. This effect was something quite different from the so-called precise sound staging one sometimes reads about in equipment reviews.

**Tributaries Series 8 bring me closer to all kinds of live music than anything else I've done. Great product!**