

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, the monthly meeting of the Atlanta Audio Club was held at the Dunwoody North Driving Club clubhouse. This meeting featured a presentation by Paul Tarver describing the making and history of the "Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs" album by Derek and the Dominos. There were about 20 members and guests present. It started at 2 pm and lasted until 4 pm. The early end time was the result of a scheduling conflict with the venue. We were planning on auditioning the new Emotiva Airmotiv B1+ bookshelf speakers, but the early end time prevented that from happening.

First up was Steve Gooding, president of the club. The location and topic of the May meeting has not yet been determined. Steve mentioned that an officer election needs to be done shortly, since we were not able to hold one last year due to Covid.

The equipment used for the presentation was:

- Audio club built 2-way speakers with soft dome tweeters.
- Audio club's speaker stands, and equipment stand.
- PS Audio Stellar Strata integrated amplifier/DAC/streaming module.
- Furutech TP80 power filter and distributor.
- Panasonic DVD player used as a transport.
- Dunwoody North's clubhouse video screen.

Tom Horner announced that he brought several more boxes of classical and non-classical CDs for anyone to pick up and keep, as many as they wanted. During the meeting many were taken by the members present for their collection. The classical CDs are from the collection of Dr. Phil Muse (our classical reviewer) which he had reviewed in the past.

Steve then introduced Paul Tarver who dedicated his presentation to Ruthie Morrison (John Morrison's wife who died recently). Paul first described the major players in the album. The producer was Tom Dowd, who had worked on the Manhattan Project and had a long-term friendship with Eric Clapton and had also produced other albums. Duane Allman was on guitars, known for using a glass bottle for his slide guitar. He died in a motorcycle accident in 1971. He was part of the Allman Brothers band before his accident and was a huge Eric Clapton fan. Eric Clapton (who is 77 now) was having a good career when this album was cut. He had been in several famous bands including the Yardbirds, Cream, and Blind Faith. Eric had a drug addiction problem that plagued him for many years. On keyboards was Bobby Whitlock, who also wrote about half of the original songs on the album. He had learned to play the Hammond Organ from Booker T, and had also worked with George Harrison on the "All Things Must Pass" album. Also on the album was Jim Gordon on drums, who did the piano at the end of Layla.

Derek and the Dominos was formed in 1970 but broke up after the Layla album in 1971. The album was recorded in Criteria Studios in Miami, Florida in August 1970. Paul described some of the instruments and techniques used to record the album. One was the addition of the piano "solo" at the end of Layla (the song) which was added to the song so the next (and final) song (Thorn Tree in the Garden) would have an appropriate lead in. The album also featured several cover songs.

Paul then showed some video clips. The first was a 1967 black and white clip of performers named Sam and Dave singing in the style that Layla later used. The next was a clip from the Johnny Cash show with Derek and the Dominos playing a couple of songs. The next clip was an interview with Bobby about how the piano at the end of Layla came about. Finally, a clip from Saturday Night Live showing the Blues Brothers singing a Sam and Dave cover. We then listened to the entire Layla song.

The club sincerely thanks Paul for an excellent presentation, and all the others who helped set up and run this meeting including Steve Gooding and the Refreshment Director, Dan Wittmayer.

Minutes written by Thomas Horner, Secretary, Atlanta Audio Club.