

By Brenda Battat



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From the Executive Director's Desk

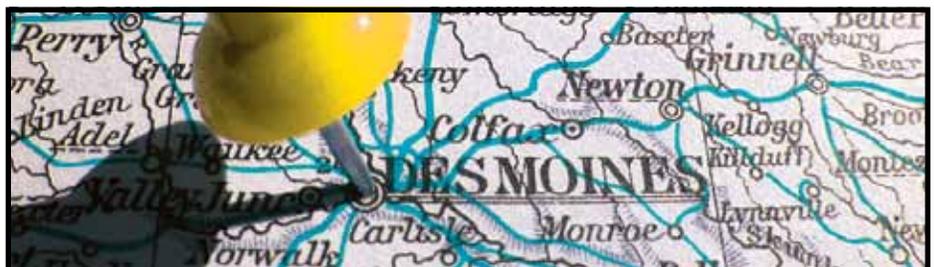
Looping facilities for better hearing has really caught people's imagination. The momentum fueled by David Myers' persistent and gracious advocacy has built up and HAAA volunteers all over the country are advocating for installation of loops in their communities. Dr. Myers will be the keynote speaker for HAAA Convention 2012 in June and share his experiences and progress in the field. For hearing aid and cochlear implant users it's not hard to see why there is a lot of enthusiasm for loops. Hearing loops are simple to use by just clicking on the telecoil and do not require additional equipment; they do not increase drain on the battery; are of universal frequency and so will work in any facility; can cover a wide area such as the Michigan State University Stadium; connect directly with an inexpensive telecoil; and deliver personalized sound through the telecoil that is programmed along with the hearing aid.

Simplicity—Immediacy—Invisibility—Power effectiveness—Universality—though some argue this is old technology, Jason Galston of Starkey Labs, in his presentation at the 2nd International Loop Conference in Washington, D.C., in June 2011, said, "Hearing loops are our future." The breadth of applications is mindboggling—taxi cabs, theaters, concert halls, convention centers, tour buses, grocery and drugstore checkout counters, restaurants, houses of worship, airport terminals, metro cars, classrooms, sports arenas, personal car, TV room, workplace or home office—wherever acoustics, noise and distance from the speaker make hearing difficult and compromise the hearing aid and cochlear implant function. Loops are bringing music back into the lives of people with hearing loss.

Evidence the euphoria of the 600 people who attended the looped performance of *Wicked* at the Kennedy Center—an offsite event offered at the HAAA Convention last year. More recently, at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore where we coordinated a very special looped performance of HAAA member composer Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light*—an oratorio set to Carl Theodor Dreyer's silent movie of the trial of Joan of Arc. It was special because Richard was able to hear his own composition. Richard is bringing music into our lives. Read his story on page 10.

We look forward to seeing you in Providence for HAAA Convention 2012 this June when we bring you the most hearing-friendly experience you'll be able to find anywhere—including some looped sessions. ■■■■

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There is more to hearing loss than a hearing aid or cochlear implant.

Visit an HAAA Chapter and meet others who also have hearing loss.

HAAA Chapters are supportive organizations where people with all degrees of hearing loss come together to share and learn—and where it's okay not to hear well.

To find a chapter near you, go to www.hearingloss.org or call 301.657.2248. If you would like to start a chapter, contact Elizabeth LeBarron, national states and chapters coordinator, at elebarron@hearingloss.org.