

ASSOCIATION
FOR RECORDED
SOUND
COLLECTIONS



ARSC New York Chapter September 2019 Meeting

7:00 P. M. Thursday, 9/19/2019

→At the CUNY Sonic Arts Center←

West 140th Street & Convent Avenue, New York

Or enter at 138th Street off Convent Avenue (N.B. not always open)

Shepard Hall (the Gothic building) – Recital Hall (Room 95, ground floor)

An elevator is located in the center of the building.

“Dance and Grow Thin:”

Joseph C. Smith and the Evolution of Recorded Dance Music

From 1916 to 1920, Joseph C. Smith was America’s best-selling bandleader on records. Having led his orchestra at the Plaza—one of New York’s most upscale hotels—Smith brought a much-needed warmth and intimacy to 1910s dance music, only to be relegated during the Roaring Twenties to near-obscurity. He introduced key elements that bridged the gap between traditional dances and social dancing: establishing the fox trot; incorporating vocal refrains and jazz-influenced elements; and highlighting individual musicians in his sessions, some of whom went on to become successful bandleaders themselves.

Ryan Barna will present his research for *Songs of the Night: Dance Recordings by Joseph C. Smith’s Orchestra, 1916-1925*, for which he received a Grammy nomination in 2015. Using many visuals and recorded examples, he will explain the history of recorded dance music during the acoustic era, from the earliest days of the phonograph industry to Paul Whiteman and the dawn of the Jazz Age. Having been the first to publish previously unknown biographical details about Smith, Barna will also present on his life story, from his earliest days as a freelance violinist, to concluding his career as a first violinist with Sigmund Romberg’s orchestra in 1945.

Ryan Barna specializes in early popular music and acoustic recording in America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Writing from the University of Colorado at Denver. He formerly served as a park guide with the National Park Service, including Rocky Mountain National Park and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. His liner notes for Archeophone Records include *Arthur Fields Anthology: Singer, Songwriter, Soldier*; and *Songs of the Night: Dance Recordings by Joseph C. Smith's Orchestra, 1916-1925*, which was nominated in the Best Album Notes category for the 58th Annual Grammy Awards.

Our next meeting will be on October 17, 2019

Presentation to be announced

DIRECTIONS TO THE SONIC ARTS CENTER

Subway: Take the 1 train to 137th Street City College and walk north to 140th St. & Broadway, then go east to 140th St. & Convent Avenue. Take the A, B, C, or D trains to 145th St, go west on 145th St. to Convent Avenue, then south on Convent Ave. to 140th St. **Bus:** M4 and M5 on Broadway; M 100, 101 on Amsterdam Ave. (one block West of Convent Avenue)



The Sonic Arts Center at CCNY offers 4-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Music with a concentration in Music and Audio Technology. Their program provides an in-depth curriculum emphasizing real-world skills with a project-based approach. Students enjoy a well-rounded program, with emphasis on audio technology, music theory, orchestration, and history to help them compete in a field that today demands an ever-growing and highly diverse skill set.

All ARSC NY Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.
Voluntary contributions to help defray our expenses are welcome and tax deductible!

To join ARSC, visit <http://www.arsc-audio.org>