

ASSOCIATION  
FOR RECORDED  
SOUND  
COLLECTIONS



# **ARSC New York Chapter**

## **February 2020 Meeting**

**7:00 P. M. Thursday, 2/20/2020**

**→At the CUNY Sonic Arts Center←**

**West 140<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**In celebration of Black History Month**

### ***“THE BLACK SWAN PROJECT”***

The CD reissue “Black Swans” restores a lost area of black cultural history: performances by classically trained performing artists and composers from the early part of the 20th century. These sparsely distributed acoustic recordings, products of the earliest African-American commercial recording ventures, are valuable documents of a great culture’s accomplishments. The CD includes Broome Special's complete output, most of Roland Hayes's Columbia-made Personal Records and the Black Swan classical 7100 series. Tim Brooks will discuss his unique set of Broomes used for the reissue. Harry T. Burleigh, R. Nathaniel Dett, Edward H. Boater and Clarence Cameron White contribute interpretations of their music and arrangements, and Antoinette Garnes, Florence Cole-Talbert and Hattie King-Reavis sing opera and spiritual selections. Most were recorded before Mamie Smith's

“Crazy Blues” and a few years before Marian Anderson's first Victor discs.

**Leslie Gerber** was born in Brooklyn in 1943 and attended Brooklyn College. For 39 years he ran a mail order business specializing in used and rare classical LPs and CDs. He published LPs briefly in the early 1970s, and has run a CD label since 1996, both as Parnassus Records. He is a former review editor of the *ARSC Journal*, and has written many reviews for *The American Record Guide*, *Fanfare*, *Classical Pulse*, Amazon (professional reviews), and the *Woodstock Times*. He lives in Woodstock with his dog, Winnie.

**Tim Brooks** has written nine books on historical media, including *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry, 1890-1919* (2004), which led to a Grammy-winning CD of the same name and eventually to the excellent "Black Swans" CD discussed at this meeting. He has been active in ARSC for many years, serving two terms as president and in numerous other positions. His latest book is *The Blackface Minstrel Show in Mass Media* (including recordings). He is a retired network television executive and lives in Connecticut.

***Our next meeting will be on March 19, 2020  
Ralph Selig will discuss cantorial recordings.***

#### **DIRECTIONS TO THE SONIC ARTS CENTER**

**Subway:** Take the 1 train to 137<sup>th</sup> Street City College and walk north to 140<sup>th</sup> St. & Broadway, then go east to 140<sup>th</sup> St. & Convent Avenue. Take the A, B, C, or D trains to 145<sup>th</sup> St, go west on 145<sup>th</sup> St. to Convent Avenue, then south on Convent Ave. to 140<sup>th</sup> 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 in-depth curriculum emphasizes 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>