

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What do wax cylinders and computers have in common? For one thing, they have ARSC. Both subjects were touched on in sessions at our Annual Meeting in Syracuse last May.

The diversity of ARSC continually amazes me. The Syracuse conference also included presentations on three recording artists who could hardly be more different: the early Black entertainer Bert Williams, composer Igor Stravinsky, and actress/singer Lotte Lenya (plus a session illustrating alternate takes in jazz recordings). The wonder of it was that devotees of each sat in on sessions dealing with the others, contributing and enjoying!

This aspect of ARSC as a meeting ground--both in its annual conference and in the pages of the Journal--is its greatest strength, and one which I hope will continue during my term as your President. I am the first president to come from the ranks of collectors, however the diversity of ARSC is reflected in its current Board which includes two professional archivists, two collectors, one writer, and two otherwise associated with music and theater.

Through the hard work of many dedicated individuals, ARSC is today on a reasonably firm organizational and financial footing, and growing. Having put our own house in order, I think it is time to look toward the future. Six specific goals on the agenda:

- 1) Promote increased visibility for ARSC and its goals within the collecting and archival worlds, as well as before the general public. This can benefit us all, not only by attracting new members but by attracting articles for the Journal, speakers for the Annual conferences, and support--financial and otherwise--for the Association's projects. An example is the landmark ARSC/AAA project to produce a single listing of and access to millions of recordings in five national archives. This never would have been possible without major funding by the Ledler Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. We will be distributing press releases and writing articles about ARSC; you can help by encouraging friends to join, and by publicizing our activities in your local paper and in publications of other organizations.
- 2) Establish local chapters for members who would like to meet others with similar interests, but who cannot travel to the annual conferences. A referendum on an amendment to the Bylaws to permit chapters is taking place this summer. Meantime, you can use the new membership directory to contact others in your area.

3) Encourage participation in ARSC by several groups which remain largely outside our present activities and Journal-- notably, phonograph collectors, dealers and serious rock music researchers. If ARSC is truly a meeting ground, they should be better represented.

4) Plan for an Annual Conference on the West Coast in the not-too-distant future. The problem has been lack of an individual to spearhead local arrangements, and an institution to be our host. Your suggestions are welcome!

5) Establish contact with other active collectors' and archival groups which share our goals, especially those which hold regular meetings or keep in touch with each other via newsletters. The first problem is simply to find them. I know of groups dedicated to vintage jazz and popular music (Record Research Associates) and classical music (The Vocal Record Collectors' Society) which meet here in New York, a machine collectors' society in Michigan, the International Association of Sound Archives, and a few others. If you know of any in your area please send me the name and address of the person to contact for information. The goal is to compile a current listing that could be published in the Journal for the benefit of all. (This means organized clubs and societies.)

6) Encourage volunteers to help run our organization. The next ARSC election is early next year, and a nominating committee consisting of Barbara Eick, Michael Biel and Peter Bergman is now recruiting candidates. If you can serve, contact them. If you would be willing to help out in a non-elective capacity, contact me.

This is your organization, your Journal and Newsletter. The strength of the Association is in an active and involved membership. I encourage you to submit articles and notices, attend the Annual Conference if you can (next Spring in Nashville), or simply spread the word about ARSC among your friends. ARSC can be as strong and rewarding as we make it.

Tim Brooks
84-22 264th Street
Floral Park, NY 11001