1992 ARSC Awards for Excellence in Recorded Sound Research

Winners Announced at 26th Annual Conference

Barbara Sawka, President of ARSC, and Tim Brooks, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced the recipients of the 1992 ARSC Awards for Excellence at the ARSC banquet in Rochester, New York, on April 25. All the finalists are listed below; the winners are in bold face type. Normally the finalists would be announced in the spring issue before the conference and the winners in the summer afterwards; but as the conference was a month earlier than usual, we are combining both operations into one. The winner of the “Best Research in Recorded Folk or Ethnic Music,” Harry Bradshaw was present at the conference—coming all the way from Ireland—and received his award in person.

Best Research in Recorded Classical Music

Anton Bruckner: A Discography by Lee T. Lovallo (Fallen Leaf Press, 1991)


*Imgard Seefried* by Jacob Vietn, in *Stimmen die um die Welt Gingen*, No. 33, Sept. 1991

Best Research in Recorded Rock, Rhythm & Blues or Soul

Big Beat Heat: Alan Freed and the Early Years of Rock & Roll by John A. Jackson (Schirmer/Macmillan, 1991) for historical research

LaVern Baker: the ‘Teddylee-Dee’ Girl is Back” by Dennis Garvey, in *Goldmine*, July 12, 1991

“The Monkees—Listen to the Band” by Andrew Sandoval, notes to Rhino 70566 (CDs)


“Ray Charles - The Birth of Soul” by Robert Palmer, notes to Atlantic 82310-2 (CDs)

Best Research in Recorded Jazz or Blues

Bluesland edited by Pete Welding and Toby Byron (Dutton, 1991)

Boy Meets Horn by Rex Stewart, ed. by Clair P. Gordon (Univ. of Michigan, 1991)

Ellington: The Early Years by Mark Tucker (Univ. of Illinois, 1991)


“Seventy Year Old Controversy: Kid Ory’s Legendary Nordskog/ Sunshine Recordings” by Floyd Levin, in *AJRC Journal*, Fall 1990 and Winter 1991 (Vol. 23 No. 4 & Vol. 24 No. 1)

The Song of the Hawk: The Life and Recordings of Coleman Hawkins by John Chilton (Univ. of Michigan, 1991)


Best Research in Recorded General Popular Music

Discographie der deutschen Kleinkunst by Manfred Weihermüller (Brigit Lotz Verlag, 1991)


Intimate Nights: The Golden Age of the New York Cabaret by James Gavin (Grove/Weidenfeld, 1991)

Best Research in Recorded Country Music

“Americana: Jimmie Driftwood” by Dale Vincir, notes to Bear Family BCD 15465 (CDs)

“Bill Monroe Blue Grass: 1959-1969” by Charles Wolfe and Neil V. Rosenberg, notes to Bear Family BCD 15529 (CDs)

“Johnny Horton” by Colin Escott, notes to Bear Family BCD 15470 (CD)

“The Patsy Cline Collection” by Paul Kingsbury, notes to MCA 10421 (CD)

Best Research in Recorded Folk or Ethnic Music

“Michael Coleman” by Harry Bradshaw, notes to Viva Voice 004 (cassettes)

Best Research in Record Labels or Manufacturers

The Aladdin/Imperial Labels: A Discography compiled by Michel Ruppli (Greenwood Press, 1991)

Chicago Soul by Robert Pruter (Univ. of Illinois, 1991)

Good Rockin’ Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock ‘n’ Roll by Colin Escott with Martin Hawkins (St. Martin’s Press, 1991)

One Night Stand Series, I-1001 (Armed Forces Radio transcriptions) by Harry Mackenzie and Lothar Polomski (Greenwood Press, 1991)

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Brian Rust. Although unable to be in Rochester, Brian Rust acknowledged the award on tape. Tim Brooks had telephoned him in England a week before the conference to inform him of the award and, with permission, recorded the conversation.

1993 Conference

The 27th Annual ARSC Conference will be held May 12-15, 1993, in Chicago at the newly renovated Bismarck Hotel. This will be a joint meeting with the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). Since MAC has been meeting annually at the Bismarck for twenty years, they receive greatly reduced room rates which have also been offered to ARSC. Local arrangements and program planning are under way; details on both will be published in upcoming issues.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I can hardly believe that my two-year term as president is nearly over. Time has flown by in the pleasure of working with two excellent and dedicated Boards of Directors and many other ARSC members who have contributed their time, energy, and creativity to sustaining and improving ARSC’s services and outreach. Certainly one of the greatest rewards of this job is the opportunity to meet and work with such a diverse and interesting group of colleagues. On taking office I noted that ARSC has always been one of my best educational resources as I’ve gradually honed my professional skills. This was never truer than during the last two years. Total immersion in the variety of ex officio duties the president takes on in addition to basic administrative responsibility for ARSC is both an exciting and humbling experience. The collective knowledge, scholarship, and technical expertise embodied by the ARSC membership is astounding by any measure.

I owe thanks to more people than this short column could ever accommodate, and I trust I’ll be able to extend them personally to many of you in Rochester. A few, however, must be publicly expressed as well. We are all indebted to ARSC Journal Editor Ted Sheldon and his colleagues at the University of Missouri-Kansas City not only for a consistently excellent publication but for UMKC’s additional financial support of the editorial office as well. Executive Director Phillip Rochlin’s work goes on largely behind the scenes but is nonetheless vital to ARSC’s daily operations; ARSC officers and members owe him a debt of gratitude for his dedication over the years. Finally, I’d like especially to recognize and thank another member who has worked selflessly on ARSC’s behalf for more than thirteen years. Harold Heckendorn is stepping down as ARSC Archivist and chair of the Finance Committee. In those two vital roles, he has known and worked with a long succession of officers and committee chairs and been almost single-handedly responsible for the collection and preservation of the ARSC archives. Harold, we will miss you in Rochester this year, but rest assured that we will be thinking of you and wish you the very best.

When I took over as president in 1990, I started a little “bouquets and brickbats” file to monitor both the compliments and complaints presiding officers are wont to receive. As I leave office I’m gratified to note that the bouquets slightly outnumber the brickbats, and the latter were always thoughtfully hurled with ARSC’s best interests at heart. I hope that you all sustain that degree of commitment and give incoming president Martin Silver the same support that I have enjoyed. He brings great experience and wisdom to the job, and I look forward to working with him and with all of you in my final year on the Board.

Barbara Sawka

Committee Chairs Named

Martin Silver, incoming President of ARSC, has appointed Steve Ramm as Chair of the Finance Committee and Steve Smolian Technical Committee Chair. Still to be named is a new chair of the Membership Committee.

ARSC Online—Part II

Once again, members are invited to submit their e-mail addresses. So far too few have responded to our earlier call to warrant publishing a list. However, respondent/member Kermit Gray has offered free use of The SoundBoard, his electronic bulletin board dedicated to audio and recording topics, including record collecting. You will, of course, have to pay your telephone company for its service. The number is 1 816 358-9048. ARSC is looking at a “defined connection” with The SoundBoard, but until a position is fixed, The SoundBoard operates entirely under the control and rules set up by SysOp Kermit Gray. Members experiences are solicited.

ARSC 1992 Grant

B. Lee Cooper has been awarded a $500 grant to assist in gathering initial bibliographic and discographic information on the early years of the Black harmony groups for a project to trace the role of these groups in providing social and cultural models for the integration and economic success of minority performers in the American recording industry.

Guidelines for ARSC grant applications will be printed in the next issue of the ARSC Newsletter.

The summer deadline for No. 60 is July 6, 1992.

ARSC NEWSLETTER

The ARSC Newsletter is published seasonally four times a year. Submissions should be TYPED (DOUBLE-SPACED) and be clearly understandable by and sent to the editor: David Sommerfield, 101 G Street, S.W., #A-618, Washington DC 20024. Fax: 202-707-6269. E-mail: DMASK@RIG.BITNET or CompuServe 73740,1527.

The Newsletter policy statement is published in the Winter issue.

Claims or other notification of issues not received should be addressed to the Executive Director of ARSC. His address serves as the return address of every issue of the ARSC Newsletter.

ARSC NEWSLETTER
MLA O’Meara Award

The Music Library Association has awarded the 1992 Eva Judd O’Meara Award to Garrett Bowles for his article “Music Notation Software for the IBM-PC” in Notes vol. 46, no. 3 (March 1990), p. 660-697. Garrett Bowles, former ARSC President and Member-at-Large, is Head of the Music Library at the University of California, San Diego.

The award is presented annually by MLA as recognition of the best review article to appear in Notes during the previous year. The award, including a cash prize of $250, was presented at the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Association in Baltimore.

Broadcasts from Berlin

Albert J. Marquis has a collection of twenty records dating from January 1945 through March 1947 of news broadcasts from Berlin by William Shier. These recordings appeared under the Empire Transcriptions, Columbia, Carnegie-Station WABC, and Rockhill Radio labels. Mr. Marquis is looking for someone who would be interested in purchasing the collection. He may be reached at 90 Yankee Green, Kittery ME 03904 (207 439-2054: leave message).

Dimitri Mitropoulos

William R. Trotter is completing the research on a biography of Dimitri Mitropoulos by Oliver Daniel, left incomplete at Daniel’s death in 1990. He is particularly concerned about possible reasons for the inferior quality of Columbia’s recordings of Mitropoulos in Minneapolis (1938-1949) and if there exist air-check recordings of the Minneapolis Symphony’s many radio broadcasts. Anyone who can help should contact Mr. Trotter at 717 North Church Street, Greensboro NC 27401.

Martin Williams

1924-1992

Jazz historian and critic Martin Williams died April 13 at his home in Washington DC. Not only was Williams an ARSC member, he participated as a speaker at many ARSC conferences. The following is from Phil Elwood’s “Jazz Beat” column in the San Francisco Examiner of April 17, 1992.

No one has even matched Williams’s contributions to the expansion of public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of African American music.

In the 1940s Williams developed an enthusiasm for jazz that lasted for the next half-century. For twenty years he wrote extensively in the Saturday Review, Evergreen Review, Down Beat, and New York Times; he and Nat Hentoff founded the superb Jazz Review in 1958—he was its editor. He wrote LP liner notes and began writing books.

In 1970 Williams joined the division of performing arts of the Smithsonian and organized its jazz and American culture programs. In 1973 his multi-disc Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz boxed set was issued: far and away the best such anthology ever assembled. Meticulously put together by Williams, with both his musical and discographical notes included, the classic jazz anthology has remained available ever since, expanded in the mid-1980s and transferred to CDs in 1991. At the Smithsonian, Williams also supervised the production of dozens of other record sets, reissue packages, and various recreations from early commercial recordings of famous presentations such as the 1924 Aeolian Hall (“Rhapsody in Blue”) concert.

He established the annual Smithsonian concert series, conducted seminars for critics, delivered lectures, pursued discographical projects, and worked closely with all manner of institutions such as the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies and the Library of Congress. Williams has had a dozen jazz-oriented books published over the years, all still good reading. The Jazz Tradition has gone through a number of revisions. He also wrote extensively on American cultural subjects from film director D.W. Griffiths to comic strips and television. He completed Hidden in Plain Sight, a discussion of American popular arts, a few months before his death. It will be published later this year.

I valued my professional association and personal friendship with Martin as much as any in my adult life. Our conversations and correspondences were long and heated, but they were also stimulating, enlightening, and fun.

Vitaphone Project

Needed by the project are film soundtrack discs (Vitaphone, Paramount, MGM, etc.), production information, stills, or other ephemera on pre-1940 short films for a major film restoration program. Replies will be kept confidential. The project is endorsed by the copyright owners. Please contact the Ron Hutchinson, 5 Meade Court, Piscataway NJ 08854 (908 463-8521).

CBC Radio News

Anyone with or information about a collection of recordings from CBC Radio News during World War II (1938-1940), specifically recordings of Edward R. Morrow and William Shirer are urged to contact Laura A. Caulfield, Winkler Films, 211 So. Beverly Drive, Suite 200, Beverly Hills CA 90212 (310 858-5780; facs 310 858-5799).
Recent and Forthcoming


"Rare wartime Telefunken 78s and a live Gliasonov Concerto with Georg Kulemkoff [violin] ... on Alta Nova, never before on LP or CD. Special price for ARSC members: $20 per CD (postage & packing) + a revised Kulenkampff discography ... from Göran Soderwall, Bondegatan 1 B, 116 23 Stockholm, Sweden."

PAID ADVERTISING

Paul's Record Magazine #17/18, 124 pages; articles/discographies on Elvis Presley, Shirelles, Dreamtones; original label research-$10/U.S. #16, 60 pages: The Diamonds, Premiers, Buddy Holly, label research-$5/U.S. Checks to Paul Bezanker, Box 843, Enfield CT 06083-0843.

Seeking any information on Russ Columbo, popular crooner of the early 1930s. Professor Victor Greene, History, University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin, MilwaukeeWI 53201 (414229-3965).

Classical LP auction catalogue for the serious collector featuring the rare and not-so-rare. Collections bought or consigned. Seriously interested in parties should write to: Michael Russell, 920 NW 123 Street, N. Miami FL 33168.


Classified advertising is $1.50 per line, prepaid (eight words per line, three-line minimum). Deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Make checks payable to Association for Recorded Sound Collections and mail along with advertising copy to Charles J. Haddix, ARSC Advertising Editor, Marr Sound Archive, University of Missouri-KC, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City MO 64110.