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ARSC Presents Award for Distinguished Service to Historical Recordings to Senator Ron Wyden During Portland Conference

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The Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) is pleased to announce the recipient of its 2019 Award for Distinguished Service to Historical Recordings – Oregon Senator Ron Wyden. ARSC recognizes Senator Wyden for his stand for the public’s interest in the passage of the recently enacted Music Modernization Act. The provisions that Sen. Wyden fought for will yield significant benefits by encouraging the preservation of historical American sound recordings, and making those recordings accessible to scholars, students and the general public, in some cases for the first time in more than one hundred years.

The Award for Distinguished Service to Historical Recordings recognizes an individual who has made contributions of outstanding significance to the field of historic recordings in forms other than published research. Since 2003 ARSC has given the award to leading producers, engineers, and archivists in recorded sound. This is the first time the award has been presented to a legislator. In a recording of his acceptance, Senator Wyden said, "As a son of a librarian, I grew up understanding the importance of access to public information and protecting archives." More information on the award and its winners may be found at: www.arsc-audio.org/awards.html.

ARSC Member Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive, applauded the award: "Ron Wyden is my absolute hero. I thanked him by giving him a cylinder when I met with him and his staff last week. He loved the cylinder and carried it out with him. Without him, that cylinder I understand would be under copyright until 2067. Thank you, Ron!"

The award will be presented at a ceremony on May 9, 2019, during ARSC’s annual conference, which this year will be held in Portland, Oregon, Senator Wyden’s hometown. The conference will feature a plenary session “The Music Modernization Act and You,” as well as presentations on record collecting, regional artists and musics, and historical recording technologies. More information may be found at: www.arsc-audio.org/conference.html.

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and study of sound recordings -- in all genres of music and speech, in all formats, and from all periods. In addition to an annual conference, ARSC publishes a peer-review journal and grants for recorded sound preservation and research. ARSC is unique in bringing together private individuals and institutional professionals -- everyone with a serious interest in recorded sound.

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