

## **ARSC New York Chapter ▪ February 2012 Meeting ▪**

**7 P. M. Thursday, 2/23/12**

**at the CUNY Sonic Arts Center**

**West 140<sup>th</sup> Street & Convent Avenue, New York**

**or enter at 138th Street off Convent Avenue**

**Shepard Hall (the Gothic building) – Recital Hall (Room 95, Basement level)**

**An elevator is located in the center of the building**

### ***“The Recorded Legacy of Serge Koussevitzky, 1928-1950” with Dennis Rooney***

**Koussevitzky** (1874-1951) was a celebrated virtuoso of the contrabass before he became a conductor. In 1924, he succeeded Pierre Monteux as conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and was himself succeeded in 1949 by another Frenchman, Charles Münch. The Orchestra had made its first records under Karl Muck in 1917 but none again until 1928, when Koussevitzky's series for Victor was begun and continued (with one exception) until his final session in 1950.

In addition to his eminence as an interpreter of the standard symphonic repertoire, Koussevitzky was responsible for the creation of much new music, e.g. Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*, Prokofiev's *Fourth Symphony* and Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. He also commissioned many works by American composers, in particular Aaron Copland and Roy Harris. He also expanded the Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood, where one of his protégés was Leonard Bernstein.

Despite his importance to American musical life, Koussevitzky's reputation has sharply declined over the past six decades, most particularly due to the limited availability of his recordings and the frequently indifferent quality of what has been reissued. In a brief survey that will include recorded excerpts and video of the conductor in action, Rooney hopes to suggest Koussevitzky's true stature among twentieth century conductors.

**Dennis D. Rooney** has enjoyed a varied professional career as an audio producer, broadcaster, narrator and writer. He has been a member of ARSC since 1996 and a regular

presenter at its conferences. He serves on its Technical Committee and is Classical Music Judge of its Book Awards Panel. His reviews of books and recordings regularly appear in the ARSC JOURNAL. He has been a record collector for six decades. Discs from his collection have frequently been used in CD historical reissues.

Since 1984, his writings on music have regularly appeared in THE STRAD. He also contributes to MUSICAL AMERICA.COM, BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE, MUSICAL TIMES, and CLASSIC RECORD COLLECTOR.

As both a reissue producer and Archival and Catalogue Exploitation Consultant to the classical recording industry, he worked on reissue lines for Sony Classical devoted to Bruno Walter, Isaac Stern, Leonard Bernstein and Glenn Gould. He was also producer and series consultant for its award-winning Masterworks Heritage releases, hailed as the finest series of historical re-issues to appear on CD. At Universal Classics, he supervised catalogue exploitation reissues and in 2006 planned and produced the 10-CD set STEINWAY LEGENDS in cooperation with Steinway and Sons. He also conceived and produced a 12-CD set of historical and broadcast recordings issued by the Minnesota Orchestra to celebrate its centennial.

In addition to affiliation with Minnesota Public Radio and New York's WQXR, he has recorded more than one hundred titles for the Library of Congress's TALKING BOOKS program, administered by its National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

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## **OUR NEXT PROGRAM WILL BE ON MARCH 15, 2012**

**Gary Galo** will discuss and demonstrate a new archival preamplifier that he designed and built. His presentation will include a PowerPoint slide show with many photos of the pre-amp, and recorded examples of a number of recordings transferred using it.

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## **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 south on St. Nicholas to 141<sup>st</sup> St, (one long block), then west one block to Convent Avenue. and south one more block to 140<sup>th</sup> & Convent Avenue.

**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 appreciated!*

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