

ASSOCIATION
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ARSC New York Chapter December 2019 Meeting

7:00 P. M. Thursday, 12/19/2019

→At the CUNY Sonic Arts Center←

West 140th 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.



“The Art of Henri Temianka”

VIRTUOSO VIOLINIST, CONDUCTOR, AUTHOR AND
EDUCATOR

Presented by John Haley

As demonstrated by his recordings, Henri (pronounced “Henry”) Temianka (1906-1992) was one of the finest violinists of the 20th Century. Born in Greenock, Scotland of immigrant Polish Jewish parents, he studied violin with Carol Blitz in Rotterdam, Willy Hess in Berlin, Jules Boucherit in Paris, and finally Carl Flesch at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. In 1930, Temianka was in the first Curtis graduating class, earning a double degree in violin and conducting, having studied the latter with Artur Rodzinski. As a violinist he was further influenced by Eugène Ysaÿe, Jacques Thibaud and Bronislaw Huberman. Flesch

referred to him as possessing “both musically and technically, ... a model collection of talents.”

After a brilliant debut in New York in 1928 (which Olin Downes described as “one of the finest accomplishments in years”), Temianka returned to Europe and rapidly established himself as one of that era’s foremost concert violinists, appearing with major orchestras in Europe and the U.S. under such conductors as Pierre Monteux, Sir John Barbirolli, Sir Adrian Boult, Fritz Reiner, Sir Henry Wood, George Szell, Otto Klemperer, Dimitri Mitropoulos and William Steinberg.

In 1935 he took third prize in the legendary first Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition in Warsaw, behind David Oistrakh in second place and Ginette Neveu (another Flesch pupil) in first place. This resulted in a lifelong close friendship with Oistrakh. Temianka performed with Benjamin Britten, Sergei Prokofiev and Ralph Vaughan Williams in their own works, moving to the U.S. before World War II, eventually settling in Los Angeles.

In 1946, together with cellist Robert Maas, previously of the famous Pro Arte Quartet in Europe, Temianka formed the Paganini Quartet, so called because a quartet of outstanding Stradivari instruments that had been owned by Niccolò Paganini were provided for their use. The Paganini Quartet was one of the greatest string quartets of the 20th Century, signed by RCA Victor to compete with the Budapest Quartet on Columbia Records. It lasted until 1966, after which Temianka focused on forming and conducting the California Chamber Symphony in Los Angeles and several outstanding series of chamber music concerts, while continuing to maintain his playing as a virtuoso violinist at the highest level, well into his 80s. As an avid chamber music player, Temianka was the host of frequent private musical evenings in his Los Angeles home, playing with the likes of Yehudi Menuhin, [Jascha Heifetz](#), [Isaac Stern](#), [Joseph Szigeti](#), David Oistrakh, Henryk Szeryng, Leonard Pennario, [William Primrose](#), [Gregor Piatigorsky](#), [Jean-Pierre Rampal](#) and other luminaries.

The program will feature rare live and commercial recordings (restored by the presenter) of Temianka (including with the Paganini Quartet) throughout his long career, demonstrating a musical sophistication, technical command and virtuoso technique achieved by very few violinists of any era.

John H. Haley of Harmony Restorations, LLC is an audio restoration engineer and ARSC member of many years who has served as Editor of the Sound Recording Reviews section of the *ARSC JOURNAL* since fall, 2012. He is a retired commercial attorney with a lifelong interest in both classical and popular music, holding a Bachelor of Music degree from University of North Texas with concentration in voice and piano. While in college he was a professional chorister of the Dallas Civic Opera. Since 1987 he has served as a Board Member of the Bel Canto Institute (www.belcantoinst.org), an organization that teaches *bel canto* opera style to young singers every July in Florence, Italy, serving as President of the Board since 2005. Recent published CD restoration projects include the acclaimed *William Kapell: Live Performances: Three First Releases* (“remarkably satisfying sound ... the remastering has been done at the highest level ...”, Henry Fogel, *Fanfare*); *Marian Anderson: Let Freedom Ring!*, presenting the first ever restoration of Anderson’s famous 1939 concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial (“This release of the first-ever restoration is miraculous, owing to the skill of John H. Haley ...”, Ira Siff, *Opera News*); and *Judy Garland: Lost Tracks 2* (“...restoration engineer John H. Haley has done his customary superlative job bringing sonic consistency and a surprising fidelity to these tracks.” Joe Marchese, *The Second Disc*).

Our next meeting will be on January 16, 2020
Bruno Walter Auditorium, Lincoln Center Library
6:00 PM (More information in January notice)
KOVACS ON MUSIC
A CENTENARY TRIBUTE TO TV'S ORIGINAL GENIUS
Presented By Ben Model & Seth B. Winner

DIRECTIONS TO THE SONIC ARTS CENTER

Subway: Take the 1 train to 137th Street City College and walk north to 140th St. & Broadway, then go east to 140th St. & Convent Avenue. Take the A, B, C, or D trains to 145th St, go west on 145th St. to Convent Avenue, then south on Convent Ave. to 140th 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 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 welcome and tax deductible!

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