



ARSC New York Chapter MARCH 2015 Meeting

7 P. M. Thursday, 3/26/15
at the CUNY Sonic Arts Center
West 140th 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 Unknown Nadia Boulanger:
Recordings from The Crane School of Music Archives*

Presented by
Gary A. Galo
Audio Engineer Emeritus

The renowned teacher and conductor Nadia Boulanger had a long association with The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, beginning in the summer of 1925 when Helen M. Hosmer, a faculty member and future director of the school, traveled to Fontainebleau for a summer of study in France with Mlle. Boulanger. A friendship that would last over half a century developed between them, and during the course of that time Boulanger appeared as guest conductor of Crane Chorus and Crane Symphony Orchestra at SUNY Potsdam four times, in 1939, 1945, 1958 and 1962. Crane Chorus also traveled to New York City in April, 1941 for a special benefit concert for the Polish Relief given in honor of Ignace Jan Paderewski. For the New York concert, members of the Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York and fifteen distinguished soloists joined Boulanger and Crane Chorus.

Boulanger made a relatively small number of commercial recordings, and the archives of The Crane School contain a number of works not otherwise found in her discography, much of it reflecting her interest in 20th-century composers. This presentation will sample those recordings, beginning with an excerpt from a 1939 performance of Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*, recorded on 16-inch lacquer discs. The 1941 Polish Relief Concert was recorded on five 16-inch, 33 1/3-rpm lacquer discs by the Carnegie Hall Recording Company. The repertoire on that concert included the complete *History of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ* by Heinrich Schütz, "Fac me tecum pie flere" from the *Stabat Mater* by 20th-century Polish composer Karol Szymanowski, and the 14th century Polish chant *Bogurodzica Dziewica*, in a polyphonic setting probably done by Boulanger. The *Requiem* of Gabriel Fauré, a staple of the Boulanger repertoire, concluded the concert. Excerpts from her 1958 appearance will include *Vielle Prière Bouddhique* by her sister Lili, and *Hymne Olympique* by the Polish composer Michal Spisak. Excerpts from the 1962 concert will include *Cantate* by Igor Markevitch, the motet *Sequentia de Vergina Maria* by Hungarian composer Láslo Lajthe, *Gloria* by Poulenc, and *Cantate* by Corsican-born Leo Preger, the latter a commission by The Crane School on the recommendation of Mlle. Boulanger.

This presentation will combine expanded versions of two papers previously presented at ARSC national conferences: *Nadia Boulanger: The Polish Relief Benefit Concert* given in Milwaukee, WI in 2007, and *The Unknown Nadia Boulanger: Recordings from The Crane School of Music Archives* given in Kansas City, MO in 2014.

Gary A. Galo retired in June 2014 after thirty-eight years as Audio Engineer at The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, where he also taught courses in music literature and audio technology. He has been an ARSC member since 1982, was the Sound Recording Review Editor of the *ARSC Journal* from 1995-2012, was co-chair of the ARSC Technical Committee from 1996-2004, has been a frequent presenter at *ARSC* Conferences, and has written numerous articles, book reviews and sound recording reviews for the *ARSC Journal*. Mr. Galo is a widely published author with over three hundred articles and reviews to his credit on both musical and technical subjects, in over a dozen publications. He is a Regular Contributor to *audioXpress* magazine, has reviewed numerous books for *Notes: Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, is the author of the “Loudspeaker” entry in *The Encyclopedia of Recorded Sound in the United States*, 1st edition, and has also written for the *Newsletter of the Wilhelm Furtwängler Society of America*, and *Toccatà: Journal of the Leopold Stokowski Society*.

Our next program will be on April 16, 2015
Dennis D. Rooney will discuss the Columbia recordings of Fritz Reiner
and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra



DIRECTIONS TO THE SONIC ARTS CENTER

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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.

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