

***N.B. October 20 is the correct date for this meeting. The date was incorrectly given as October 13 on a previous communication.***

***We regret the error.***

# **ARSC New York Chapter**

## **OCTOBER 2016 Meeting**

**7:00 P. M. Thursday, 10/20/16**

**→ 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**

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### **“Forgotten Crooner: The extraordinary and short-lived career of Russ Columbo”**

**Presented by Dennis D. Rooney**

Born in Camden, NJ, the twelfth child of Italian immigrants, Ruggiero Eugenio di Rodolfo Colombo (Jan. 14, 1908 – Sept. 2, 1934) made his professional debut as a violinist calling himself Russ Columbo. He joined Gus Arnheim’s Orchestra and appeared in motion pictures by 1928, first in two-reelers. At the time of his death, he just completed his fifth feature film and first leading role in *Wake Up and Dream*. Columbo’s voice was essentially lyric and he disliked the term crooner, yet he was inevitably categorized as such. For most people, “crooner” begins and ends with Bing Crosby, but Columbo got the name first, and in the course of the “Battle of the Baritones”, influenced his rival. By 1931, he enjoyed great success in network radio (nicknamed the “Vocal Valentino” and “Romeo of Radio”), which led to a Victor recording contract. The thirty sides he recorded for that label included his signature tune, “You Call It Madness But I Call It Love”, and his original compositions “Prisoner of Love” and “Too Beautiful For Words”. His death was the result of the unexpected discharge of an antique dueling pistol during a visit to a friend. He was struck above the left eye and died six hours later. His death was ruled accidental. His name rapidly fell into obscurity as Crosby’s career surged. Columbo’s artistry will be illustrated by recordings and excerpts from his films.

**Dennis D. Rooney** is Co-Chairman of ARSC's New York Chapter. Since 1996 he has served on the ARSC Technical Committee, and reviews books and recordings regularly for the ARSC JOURNAL. A professional career embracing journalism, classical record production, broadcasting and narration has been accompanied by over six decades as a record collector. Discs from his collection are frequently used in CD historical reissues. As both a producer, and Archival and Catalogue Exploitation Consultant to the classical recording industry, he developed and contributed to important classical reissue lines for Sony Classical, Universal Classics and Vox. His writings on music have regularly appeared in THE STRAD for more than thirty years. He has also contributed to BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE, MUSICAL TIMES, CLASSIC RECORD COLLECTOR, AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE and musicalamerica.com.

## **Our next program will be on November 17, 2016**

Matthew Barton will present an expanded version of his talk about KHJ's "History of Rock and Roll" broadcast of 1969.



### **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 145th St, go south on St. Nicholas to 141st St, (one long block), then west one block to Convent Avenue, and south one more block to 140th & 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 welcome!**

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

