

ARSC 2023 CONFERENCE IN REVIEW



RECIPIENTS OF ARSC'S INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE AWARD, 2023

REGAN SOMMER McCOY

A leading voice determined to preserve, archive, and tell the story of Hip-Hop and the people who created it.

SOPHIE ABRAMOWITZ

A writer, educator, music consultant, public radio DJ, and library worker with training in digital and audio project management, archival processing, and rare book, manuscript, ephemera, and audiovisual collection acquisitions.

RYAN BARNA

A writer, educator, music consultant, public radio DJ, and library worker with training in digital and audio project management, archival processing, and rare book, manuscript, ephemera, and audiovisual collection acquisitions.

PATRICK FEASTER

A polymath, autodidact, archeologist, Renaissance Man in service to recorded sound and those who study, preserve, and manage it.

CONTENTS

President's Message

ARSC Conference 2023

50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop

Collecting 101: Pre-Conference Workshop

ARSC Cinema

Silent Auction

Member Mixtapes

ARSC Awards

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tim Brooks

President

tim@timbrooks.net



I hope you are getting as much as possible from your membership in ARSC. The opportunity to network with your professional and collector friends and colleagues in the field of recorded sound is of course a major benefit. Those of you who were able to make it to the annual conference in Pittsburgh in May certainly had the opportunity to do that, in-person again at last!

I'd like to begin raising awareness of some of the specific benefits ARSC provides, beginning with the 200-plus ARSC videos on our YouTube channel. Some of these are getting a lot of traffic. Here are the top 10 most viewed, as of early 2023. How many have you seen?

	<u>Views</u>
1. "How Bob Wills and His Friends Made Western Movies Swing" Presented by Matthew Barton, 2014	18,400
2. "The Art of Recording the Big Band," Robert Auld, 2015	9,600
3. "KHJ's 1969 History of Rock and Roll," Matthew Barton, 2016	8,800
4. "Uncommon Encores of the Great Pianists," Donald Manildi, 2016	8,200
5. "Forgotten Crooner: The Extraordinary and Short-Lived Career of Russ Columbo," Dennis Rooney, 2016	5,700
6. "The Columbia Recordings of Fritz Reiner and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra," Dennis Rooney, 2015	4,200
7. "An Evening at the New York Philharmonic Archives," various, 2014	3,800
8. "So Rare: The Last Days of Jimmy Dorsey," Matthew Barton, 2019	3,700
9. "ARSC Audiotape Tutorial: Types of Magnetic Tape and Associated Problems," Richard Hess, 2019	3,300
10. "Recent Developments in Cylinder Audio Preservation," David Giovannoni, Rebecca Feynberg, John Levin, Nicholas Bergh, 2015	3,100

The channel has 1,300 subscribers. The subjects are extremely varied, including technical sessions on restoration and preservation, tutorials produced by the Technical Committee (e.g., #9), discussion of copyright, international subjects, and bios of popular and classical artists. Examples include Melissa Widzinski and Dan Figurelli's "Methodology for Digitizing Wax Cylinders," JiHoon Suk's "Korea on Record" and Bill Doggett's "Black Swan Records." There is even one on the history of ARSC ("ARSC at 50"). Those recorded at New York City chapter meetings run 1.5 to 2.0 hours each, while those from the annual conference (e.g., #10) are typically 30-40 minutes in length.

Continues on Page 3

Continued from page 2

ARSClist The Online Discussion Group of ARSC

Since 1999, the Association for Recorded Sound Collections has sponsored an unmoderated mail reflector to facilitate the exchange of information on sound archives and promote communication among those interested in preserving, documenting, and making accessible the history of recorded sound. The list is sponsored by ARSC as a service to its members and the archival community at large.

SUBSCRIBING

To subscribe to the list, send an email message to:
listserv@listserv.loc.gov

Leave the "Subject" blank. In the first line of the body of the message, type "subscribe ARSClist [your name]" and send the message normally.

To post to the list, send an email to: ARSCLIST@loc.gov

ARSClist Archives

Current archives are maintained by the Library of Congress on the above website. ARSClist archives from 1999 - 2009 are kept on the Conservation OnLine (CoOL) site at cool.conservations.org/byform/ mailing-lists/arsclist/. Once archived, messages will not be removed from the archives.

Much of the traffic undoubtedly comes from links placed elsewhere on the net, so if you see something you like post it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or some other social platform. It will be great advertising for ARSC!

Even more video and audio is available to members through the AMP! database on the ARSC website, which currently provides links to 4,610 items, including more than 1,100 conference audio files, 600 conference videos, PowerPoints, webinar videos and thousands of Journal articles going back to 1967, all free to members. More is being added all the time.

What else would you like to see from ARSC? Let us know.

As I've said before, volunteers are the lifeblood of ARSC. If there is an existing committee that interests you, or a new activity you want to propose, speak up. ARSC will support you and you will find it very rewarding. Contact execdir@arsc-audio.org, the appropriate chairperson, or the "volunteer opportunities" page on the ARSC website.

Tim Brooks
President
tim@timbrooks.net

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Maya Edmond
Newsletter Editor

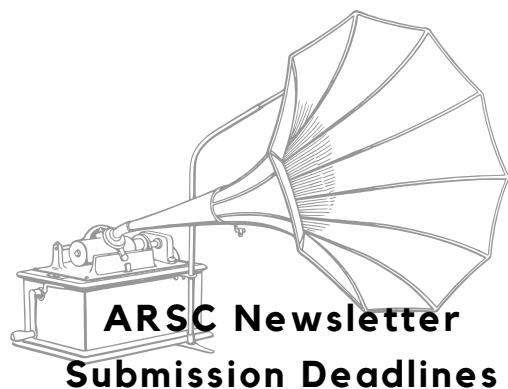
I had the pleasure of attending ARSC's 2023 Conference in Pittsburgh and meeting many members of the ARSC community for the first time. It was also my first time visiting Pittsburgh, whose steel industry and Native American history truly fascinated me. Meeting local conference presenters only deepened my interest in the city as I learned about black music as well as radio history.

I was lucky to moderate the first session of the conference and make connections with the speakers, including Jerry Zolten, producer of the film *How They Got Over*. Back at the Margaret Herrick Library in Los Angeles, I was happy to add new materials to our file on the film (see photo on page 6).

Special thanks to Sommer McCoy for her ideas and support on this issue of the newsletter. She was a major addition to this year's conference, moderating a session as well as moderating the keynote panel on the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop, a true source of inspiration and active scholarly research.

I hope you enjoy this recap of the conference and, as always, please contact me with any submissions or questions.

Warm regards,
Maya E.
mayaaedmond@gmail.com



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ARSC NEWSLETTER

Issue 162

Summer 2023

The ARSC Newsletter is published three times a year: in March, July, and November.

Submissions should be addressed to the editor via email.

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The opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the view of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections.



From left: Timothy Anne Burnside, Martha Diaz, Paradise Gray, Danielle Cordovez, Sommer McCoy, Ricky Parker

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP-HOP

ARSC Conference Keynote
HIP HOP 50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Hip Hop

Moderator: Regan Sommer McCoy
Panelists: Paradise Gray, The Paradise Gray Collection/Universal Hip Hop Museum; Martha Diaz, Hip-Hop Education Center; Ricky Parker, Deputy Director, Center for African American History and Culture/ Founding Director, Hip Hop Studies Program, Virginia Union University

RESOURCE CENTER

Compiled by Moderator Sommer McCoy



"Why Hip-Hop Has Many Fathers"
Featuring Paradise Gray
<https://www.villagevoice.com/why-hip-hop-has-many-fathers/>



"Libraries, Museums, and Universities Must Welcome Hip-Hop Into Their Halls" Article
<https://www.hiphopadvocacy.org/legacy-institutions-must-welcome-hip-hop-into-their-halls/>

PANELISTS INFO

PARADISE GRAY
[@paradisegray](https://twitter.com/paradisegray)
[Universal Hip-Hop Museum](http://www.universalhiphopmuseum.com)

MARTHA DIAZ
[@iammarthadiaz](https://twitter.com/iammarthadiaz)
[Hip-Hop Education Center](http://www.hiphopeducationcenter.com)
linktr.ee/hiphopeducation

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<https://linktr.ee/hiphopatvuu>



HIP-HOP TREASURES A&E TV SHOW
<https://www.aetv.com/shows/hip-hop-treasures>



"HIP-HOP CAN SAVE AMERICA" PODCAST
(Produced by Manny Faces & Sommer McCoy)
<https://hiphopcansaveamerica.com/>



BLACK BEAUTY ARCHIVES
<https://www.blackbeautyarchives.org>

ARSC CINEMA

ARSC Conference screened two feature films on sound recorded history: *How They Got Over* (Robert Clem, 2017) and *The Soundies* (Mark Cantor).



Top: Curtis Peoples, Conference Manager, left, and Jerry Zolten, presenter and producer of film "How They Got Over," right.

Center: New file on "How They Got Over" at the Margaret Herrick Library branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures.

Bottom: Cover for feature film "The Soundies" by Mark Cantor.

ARSC Conference Videos Now Online

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections is pleased to announce the online publication of video recordings of presentations at the following ARSC Conferences:

- ARSC's 45th Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA in 2011
- ARSC's 46th Annual Conference in Rochester, NY in 2012
- ARSC's 47th Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO in 2013
- ARSC's 48th Annual Conference in Chapel Hill, NC in 2014

This is the latest installment in the association's "Reeling in the Years with ARSC" series of archival releases, brought to you by the ARSC Archives Committee and the ARSC Online Media Committee.

All conference video recordings are available to ARSC members in ARSC's Aviary Site: <https://arsc.aviaryplatform.com/collection>

Members must log into or create an Aviary account using the email address on file with ARSC in order to gain access. Alternatively, members may email ARSC Executive Director (execdir@arsc-audio.org) to request an invitation to join ARSC on Aviary.

Selected conference recordings are available to the public in ARSC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/arscaudio/playlists>

The same selected conference recordings are also available to the public on Aviary in public playlists: <https://arsc.aviaryplatform.com/playlist>

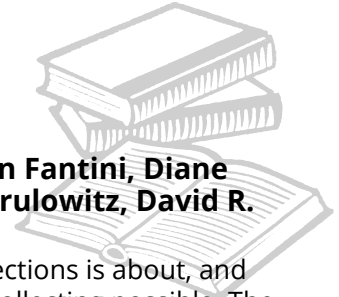
Thank you to all who presented or contributed!

Thank you to Mike and Leah Biel for videography!

Thank you to George Blood for digitization services!

Thank you to Miyuki Meyer and Abhimonyu Deb for Aviary and YouTube management!

Pre-Conference Workshop: Collecting 101



Presenters: Aaron Bittel (Workshop Leader), Cary Ginell, Franklin Fantini, Diane Napert, Amy Strickland, John Levin, Seth Winner, Allie da Silva Srulowitz, David R. Lewis, Hugh Paterson III, and Curtis Peoples

Collections are at the core of what the Association of Recorded Sound Collections is about, and this workshop delved deeper into the elements of what makes successful collecting possible. The 2023 ARSC workshop offered a closer look at the processes that go into creating and sustaining recorded sound collections, both private and institutional. Led by various field experts from all walks of collecting, this day-long program engaged with attendees on the subjects of collection development, care, access, and administration.



Pictured from left: Curtis Peoples, Cary Ginell, Diane Napert, Hugh Paterson III, Amy Strickland, Dylan Utz, Franklin Fantini, Aaron Bittel.



More Conference Photos...

Upper Left: Brad San Martin, Apollo Theater (The Apollo Theater Archives: 5 Years In)

Upper Right: Richard Cruz Dávila, Michigan State University (Cataloging Texas-Mexican Music in the Midwest: Challenges and Limitations)



Lower Center: Maya Edmond (ARSC Newsletter Editor), Melissa Widzinski and Yuri Shimoda (ARSC First Vice-President/ Program Chair) at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.



Silent Auction & Exhibitors

TOTAL RAISED
\$682

Archeophone Records
Champaign, IL
meagan@archeophone.com
<https://www.archeophone.com/>

ATR Magnetics
York, CA
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<https://www.atrtape.com/>

Council on Library and Information Resources
Alexandria, VA
<https://www.clir.org/>



Archeophone Records Booth

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The MediaPreserve
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Endpoint Audio Labs, Inc.
Burbank, CA
nick@endpointaudio.com
<https://www.endpointaudio.com/>

Millennia Media
Diamond Springs, CA
jl@mil-media.com
<https://mil-media.com/>

Jerry's Records
Pittsburgh, PA
chris@jerrysrecords.com
<https://jerrysrecords.com/>

Southwest Music Archive
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX
curtis.peoples@ttu.edu



MEMBER MIXTAPES

ARSC Conference 2023 featured several conversations about mixtapes within the United States and beyond! From Sommer McCoy's Mixtape Museum, to the session on Cultural Impact of Recording Technologies to the Pre- Conference Workshop, we have a fascination for sharing recorded sound on magnetic tape with our own personalizations.

SFX - A British Cassette-Only Pop Music "Magazine" of 1981-1982

DAVID DRAZIN

David Drazin is a pianist and composer who has acquired a national reputation for his piano improvisations accompanying silent films.
<http://drazinmusic.com/index.html>
<https://arsc-audio.org/blog/tag/david-drazin/>



Mixtape Nostalgia: Culture, Memory, and Representation

JEHNIE I. BURNS

Jehnie I. Burns is associate professor at Point Park University.

From book description: *Mixtape Nostalgia: Culture, Memory, and Representation* tells the story of the mixtape from its history in 1970s bootlegging to its resurgence as an icon of nostalgic analog technology. Burns looks at the history of the mixtape from the early 1980s and the rise of the cassette as a fundamental aspect of the music industry. Stories from music fans collecting hip hop mixtapes in the Bronx or recording songs off the radio permeate the book. She discusses the continued contemporary appeal of the mixtape as musicians, novelists, memoirists, playwrights, and even podcasters have used it as a metaphor for connection and identity.

Continues on Page 10

Continued from Page 9



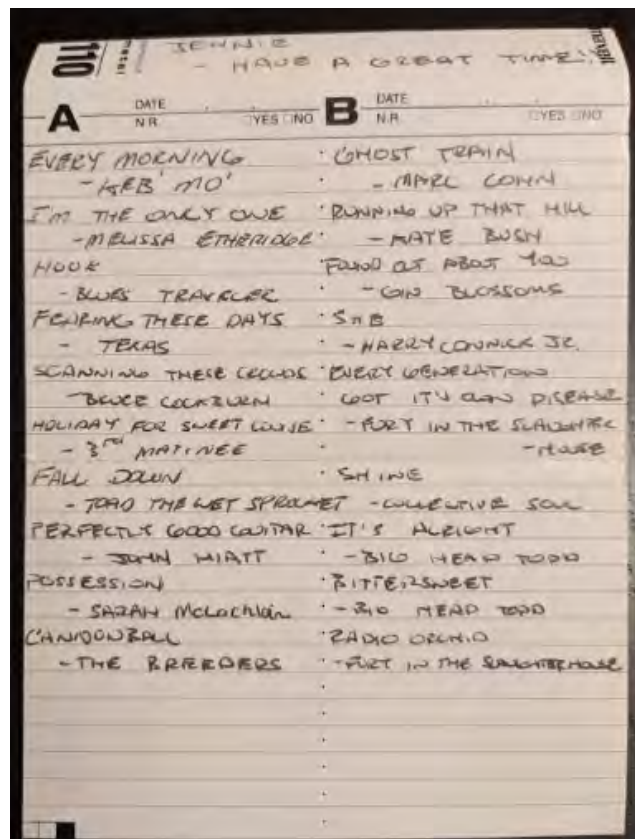
Jehnie I. Burns Mixtape from mixtapemuseum.org

For the entire year I rotated between those three cassettes from my brother, three mixtapes I had made myself, and French radio which was peppered with a lot of Beatles. My room became a popular spot to hang out because I had one of the only radios with speakers (most of us brought Walkmans). At the end of the year, I returned home with two additional cassette tapes of mixes I had recorded off the French radio, complete with covers I made out of Time Out Paris clippings. On the tapes from my brother, he had included music that he knew but that was new to me. I had been living in New Orleans and learning about Zydeco and the Blues and hanging out with southern friends, steeped in country roots, so college radio wasn't really on my radar. I listened to those tapes on repeat for nine solid months. I knew the songs in order and loved what I heard..."

Read the full article here:
<https://mixtapemuseum.org/mixtape-nostalgia-jehnie-burns/>

Excerpt from the Jehnie I. Burns feature on The Mixtape Museum website:

"When I was a Junior in college I got the opportunity to study in Paris for the year. It was the year Friends and ER debuted, leaving me far outside of the pop culture loop. This was before the internet and I only had space for what I could carry on the plane with me. My giant duffel was stuffed with everything I could possibly need, including three mixtapes gifted to me by my older, cooler brother. When I got to Paris there was a lottery of items left by students from the year before and I was the lucky solo individual who won a tiny French boombox to grace my dorm room.



Jehnie I. Burns Mixtape from mixtapemuseum.org





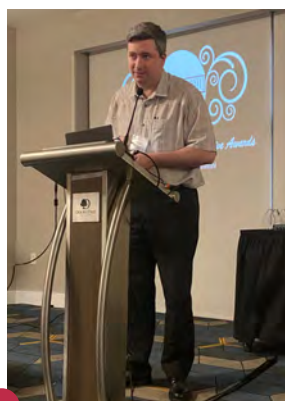
ARSC AWARDS

ARSC Award for Independent Initiatives

The ARSC Award for Independent Initiatives is presented to individuals who are advancing the field of recorded sound on their own time and their own dime. Awards of up to \$10,000 are given annually with no strings attached. The award supports the work of the individual, advances the field by publicizing their work, and seeks to inspire others to independently undertake their own initiatives in recorded sound.



Regan Sommer McCoy Sophie Abramowitz



Ryan Barna



Patrick Feaster

REGAN SOMMER McCOY

Regan Sommer McCoy is a champion of Hip-Hop and prime mover in the preservation of mixtapes. One of her most visible initiatives—the Mixtape Museum—is dedicated to preserving, archiving, and educating the public about mixtapes: how they integrate artistic expression and technology, and how they fueled the musical genre and cultural movement of Hip-Hop.

<https://sommer.nyc/> <https://mixtapemuseum.org/>

SOPHIE ABRAMOWITZ

Sophie has contributed to two well-received historic reissues: "Ann Arbor Blues Festival 1969" and "Hotter Than a Polecat Spitting in a Bulldog's Eye: Mable Hillery + Johnny Shines, Live 1975". She is currently studying Victoria Spivey and Rosetta Reitz—women who started their own labels to champion black female blues singers. Her list of publications and accolades is growing quickly. ARSC is pleased to support this young scholar who is undertaking these projects outside the university system.

<https://sophieabramowitz.com/>

RYAN BARNA

In 2019 Ryan Barna, himself a student of the recording industry, took the initiative to present the Wile family with a practical plan. Ryan committed to conserving, organizing, and curating author Ray Wile's papers, making them available to researchers via free digital access, and ultimately depositing them in an appropriate public repository—all per Mr. Wile's and the family's wishes, and all to the benefit of current and future generations of historians.

<http://www.phonostalgia.com/>

PATRICK FEASTER

Through his independent initiatives Patrick has advanced our understanding of sound recordings, recorded sounds, and audio itself.

He's cracked the codes on American Berliner and Eldridge Johnson matrices, so we know how equipment and performers were arranged in the studio when the recordings were made. He's addressed longstanding questions about the viability and limitations of Reis's telephone. He's revealed secret military origins of the sound spectrograph. He's written software to play paper prints of sound recordings—most famously the phonautograms of Edouard Léon Scott de Martinville.

<https://griffonagedotcom.wordpress.com/>

Continues on Page 12



ARSC Service Awards

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded annually to an individual in recognition of their life's work in published recorded sound research.

HENRY SAPOZNIK

Henry Sapoznik is an award-winning producer, musicologist, writer, and performer in the fields of traditional and popular Yiddish and American music and culture. In 1972, Sapoznik co-founded the New York-area group The Delaware Water Gap String Band, and he confirmed his reputation as a noted player in both Southern traditional playing styles and classic ragtime banjo. Sapoznik was the founding director of the sound archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York from 1982 to 1995. While there, Sapoznik founded and directed the internationally acclaimed KlezKamp: The Yiddish Folk Arts Program, which operated for thirty years beginning in 1985.

A five-time Grammy-nominated producer/performer, Sapoznik has contributed to over fifty released recordings, including approximately 30 anthologies of Yiddish, jazz, old-time, cantorial, ragtime, blues, Italian, swing, blackface minstrelsy and bluegrass recordings. Sapoznik won a 2002 Peabody Award for co-producing the 10-part National Public Radio series "The Yiddish Radio Project," which was drawn from his collection of over 10,000 items (that collection is now part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress). He has published two books, *The Compleat Klezmer* (1982) became the standard tune book of the klezmer revival, while his book *Klezmer! Jewish Music from Old World to Our World* won the 2000 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Excellence in Music History.

Sapoznik's recent projects include the widely reviewed 3-CD compilation album *Protobilly: The Minstrel and Tin Pan Alley DNA of Country Music 1892- 2017*, co-produced with Dick Spottswood and David Giovanonni (JSP, 2019).



ARSC Award for Distinguished Service to Historical Recordings

The Award for Distinguished Service to Historic Recordings is presented annually to an individual who has made contributions of outstanding significance to the field of historic recordings in forms other than published works or discographic research.

RON HUTCHINSON

In 1991, Ron Hutchinson co-founded the Vitaphone Project, a preservation initiative to bring together extant film prints and synchronized sound discs of early sound subjects whose individual elements had been separated over time, and through losses. Hutchinson coordinated among collectors, scholars, institutions and stakeholders to locate missing elements and to account for subjects that had gone astray. Prior to the Vitaphone Project, little investigation had been made into the field of early sound films outside of those with dedicated optical tracks. This opened up a wider frame of activity, including recovery of little-known comedians and vaudeville acts, visual records of great musicians at work, long-lost Technicolor sequences and the recognition accorded to living legends that appeared in such films, such as *Baby Rose Marie*. Ron was an enthusiastic colleague; he was respected and very well loved by collectors, and never neglected to answer a research request if it was submitted to him. The Vitaphone Project has reinvented the history of the era of "Talkies," a history most thought we already knew.

Continues on Page 13



Distinguished Service to ARSC Award (Membership Awards)

This annual award recognizes members who have contributed to ARSC in an exceptional manner through contribution of time, resources, and/or innovative thinking over an extended period. Nominations may be submitted to the Board of Directors. To be eligible, the candidate must be a member for at least ten years and may not currently be a member of the Board of Directors.

MIKE CASEY

A great and giving friend of ARSC received a well-deserved award at the May conference when Mike Casey received the Distinguished Service Award for 2023. Mike has been contributing to ARSC since 1987 and a leader since he was Secretary and Editor of the ARSC Bulletin 1989-9. During his many years serving ARSC, he made 13 ARSC Conference presentations. Perhaps, though, his greatest contribution to ARSC has been his distinguished leadership of the Technical Committee as Co-Chair 2004-2013. During this time the Technical Committee had great growth through TC initiatives including the ARSC preservation guidelines which the TC has published and which have been used by numerous institutions and are still often requested and used by those looking for help with audio materials. He also led an important initiative of Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) that Mike led Chris Lacinak to develop. In addition to all these important milestones, Mike has served both ARSC and the audio preservation field in many other ways of which I note only a few here.

He was the Project Manager of the Indiana University portion of SOUND DIRECTIONS publication, a document that was a landmark in the history of audio preservation and is still referenced by the Technical Committee, the audio preservation community and in audio preservation literature. Mike extended the reach of SOUND DIRECTIONS through ARSC Conference presentations and other presentations throughout the world.

Mike was a major force behind the very successful ARSC pre-conference workshop hosted by Indiana University/ Memnon at the 50th ARSC conference held at IU. That workshop offered 50+ attendees an unparalleled opportunity to learn and experience hands-on all phases of the audio preservation, digitization and metadata processes.

Mike's leadership in ARSC has made him very influential in the audio preservation field, including major players like New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, Harvard University and countless others large and small, which follow guidelines he has developed and have often asked him to come speak at their events. Some have restructured their preservation programs through Mike's guidance while he was Co-Chair of the TC and beyond.

After passing the leadership of the TC on, Mike continued to contribute in important ways. He and Melissa Widzinski led the way in looking at wire recording, and established a sub-committee of the TC which did a study on numbers of wires in personal and institutional collections. This study is still cited today years later.

I am so happy that we are giving Mike long overdue recognition for his service to ARSC through his receipt of this award!

Brad McCoy

Co-Chair ARSC Technical Committee

ARSC NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

ARSC NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



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at

[www.arscaudio.org/
join.html](http://www.arscaudio.org/join.html)



Association for Recorded Sound Collections
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ARSC Conference 2023 was held in Pittsburgh, PA, the hometown of Andy Warhol and home to the Andy Warhol Museum, open since 1994.