



## **ARSC New York Chapter JUNE 2013 Meeting**

**7:00 PM, Thursday, 6/20/13  
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**

### **“Born To Be A Record Man”**

*Donn Fileti talks with author John Broven about his involvement in the fascinating New York independent record scene of the 1950s and 1960s.*

Raised in West Orange, N.J., near the homes of Savoy Records and Essex record distributors in Newark, **Donn Fileti** dreamed of being a record man after becoming hooked on the rock ‘n’ roll sounds being played on local radio by disc jockeys such as Mr. Blues, Dr. Jive and Jocko Henderson. He became fascinated by the small independent record labels after his father picked up Cash Box and Billboard magazines in the mid-1950s.

His interest in the R&B vocal group sound/doowop was reinforced in 1959 by his visits to Slim Rose’s fabled Times Square Record Shop. Still in high school, Fileti contacted indie labels to persuade them to reissue doowop 45s in demand at Times Square and, with his friend Wayne Stierle, was responsible for the Shells’ “Baby Oh Baby” and the Edsels’ “Rama Lama Ding Dong” becoming national chart hits.

In 1963, Fileti launched his own label, Solitaire out of Williamsburg, Va., with a one-off release by soul artist Roy Hines. Soon the budding young record man went into partnership with distributor Eddie Gries in the Relic Rack record shop in Hackensack, N.J. Then they launched Relic Records, which became a leading U.S. label specializing in vocal group harmony sounds. Fileti’s compilations and well-researched LP liner notes took reissue standards to new levels. Later in the 1960s, Fileti and Gries operated the Record Casino, a major record store in Paterson, N.J., with a large black clientele.

Relic Records caught the reissue wave, first with LPs then, later, CDs. The releases were mainly from the masters of those small indie labels that had so intrigued Fileti in the first place. Relic Record Productions was closed in 2000 at the peak of the CD reissue boom. Fileti has continued to distribute CD reissues and sell vinyl over eBay. He lives in Hackensack.

A former co-editor of *Blues Unlimited* (mid-1970s) and co-founder of *Juke Blues* magazine (1985), **John Broven** became a reissue consultant at Ace Records in England (1991-2006) producing/co-producing over 250 CD reissues.

He is author of the Pelican (U.S.) publications “Rhythm and Blues in New Orleans” (originally “Walking to New Orleans” [1974]) and “South to Louisiana: The Music of the Cajun Bayous” (1983). Through the years, Broven has contributed many music history articles to periodicals, and essays for numerous LP and CD releases.

His latest book “Record Makers and Breakers” (2009) was awarded the Certificate of Merit by ARSC in 2010. In that year, Broven gave the keynote address at the annual ARSC conference in New Orleans. A year later, his first book, “Walking to New Orleans,” was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame as a Classic of Blues Literature. Plans are in hand for the Pelican publications to be upgraded as ebooks, along with a new print edition of “Rhythm & Blues in New Orleans.” In March this year, Broven helped launch the Cosimo Code website documenting the 1960s and ’70s recordings emanating from the New Orleans studios of revered engineer Cosimo Matassa. Broven lives now on Long Island with his wife Shelley whose father, Clark Galehouse, founded Golden Crest Records.

## **THIS IS OUR FINAL PROGRAM BEFORE SUMMER ADJOURNMENT.**

*We will resume on September 19, 2013, when Lawrence Schulman and John Meyer  
examine the Judy Garland legacy.*



## **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>