

ARSC New York Chapter FEBRUARY 2016 Meeting

7:00 P. M. Thursday, 2/18/16

→ 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

Fritz Busch: A Career in Exile – March 3, 1933 and Beyond Presented by Gary Thalheimer

Only days after their election victory, Hitler and his NSDAP (Nazi Party) succeeded in hounding conductor Fritz Busch out of Dresden's Saxon State Opera, which he had led for almost a dozen years, having brought it to a position of a world-class opera. This was to be the March 7, 1933 premiere of a new production of *Rigoletto*, with Erna Berger and Paul Schoeffler. Organized protests, and catcalls and disturbances in the auditorium greeted his entrance and did not stop until he had left.

Shortly thereafter, he left for Denmark, then to Buenos Aires. Some of his 1936 Teatro Colon performances have survived.

In the summer of 1934 he inaugurated the Glyndebourne Festival, devoted primarily to Mozart operas, which The Gramophone Co. recorded over a three-year period to great acclaim – bringing this "uncharismatic" conductor sudden international fame.

His exile also took him to Sweden and the US, including the New Opera Company in New York in 1942, where he conducted *Così fan tutte* and Verdi's *Macbeth*.

Postwar, he returned to guest engagements in Europe, Scandinavia, the Edinburgh Festival and Glyndebourne, conducting Mozart and Verdi. After 18 years, he returned to Germany for a radio performance of *Un Ballo in Maschera*, one of his great successes in pre-Hitler Germany. Shortly after the 1951 Edinburgh Festival, he died in London, never having returned to Dresden, though he had been invited to the Orchestra's 300th anniversary.

The program will include excerpts from operas and concerts with some of his discoveries: Erna Berger, Birgit Nilsson, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Ina Souez.

Gary Thalheimer has been a record collector since 1942, a tape recordist since March 1954, and written articles and reviews going back to Music in Japan Letters for the *Saturday Review* of the 1950s, as well as for the ARSC Journal (including one on the Fritz Busch in Dresden set). After a career in direct marketing, he founded Gary Thal Music, Inc. to sell CDs and DVDs to music libraries, which he continues to do. He also writes and compiles a monthly Newsletter and Bulletin of New (Classical CD & DVD) Releases, available on an annual subscription basis at \$59.95 a year.

He has been an ARSC member since 1990 and serves as program chair of the New York chapter. Gary's first ARSC presentation was at the Rochester meeting in 1992, on the Teatro Colon Archives. His major collecting interest is historic recordings, especially from the inter-war years. He is also extremely concerned about the proper preservation of historic recorded material. For this purpose he has specified a \$1,000,000 bequest to the Sonic Arts Department of City College of New York (CCNY) to establish a graduate program and a tenured faculty position to teach Preservation and Transfer Techniques, a subject that most organizations and programs tend to overlook.



**OUR NEXT PROGRAM WILL BE ON 17 MARCH
David Lewis will present recordings by Bob Roberts**

Sonic Arts Center Auditorium, Room 95, Shepard Hall, CCNY

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 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)



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>