**Lifetime Achievement Award**

This year’s Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Deane Root.

Like the eye of a hurricane, which exudes calm while generating the force to propel tempestuous activity, Deane L. Root spins out sparks of scholarly activity while retaining a calm essence.

Deane’s accomplishments encompass musical cultures that span multiple eras, both stylistic and historical, and he has been an innovator in print and online. Since publishing his *American Popular Stage Music, 1860-1880* in 1981 – nearly forty years ago – Deane has exercised consistent leadership, with deep and wide-ranging contributions to the study of music in the United States, and he has been at the forefront of musical discovery in a broad range of areas, from local inquiry and research to the meticulous details of bibliography and editing.

As a founding member of what was then called the “Sonneck Society,” Deane has remained passionately aligned with the Society’s mission of scholarly activism and community engagement. Added to that, his wife Doris Dyen is an important collaborator in many of their shared professional alliances.

In fact, responsible citizenship, with a strong ethical compass, has been at the core of Deane’s diverse contributions.

Deane’s appointment at the University of Pittsburgh as Curator of the Foster Hall Collection and Stephen Foster Memorial – and then as Director of its Center for American Music—is a testament to his administrative talent and dedication to preserving, growing, and making accessible a unique archive.
As an educator, his innovative initiative *Voices Across Time*, begun in 1995, has brought American music history to secondary-school teachers of social studies and language arts, meaningfully creating a bridge between the academy and public schools across the country.

As a bibliophile, his 1981 editorial collaboration with Don Krummel, Jean Geil, and Doris Dyen produced *Resources of American Music History: A Directory of Source Materials from Colonial Times to World War II*, which remains a standard and treasured resource for archivists, librarians, and anyone who is curious about the archival treasures in their library, town hall, or institution of higher learning.

As a music editor, his critical edition of *The Music of Stephen C. Foster* from 1990, prepared together with Steven Saunders, applied the editing tools of mainstream musicology to popular music of the 19th century.

Both *RAMH*—as that volume is lovingly termed—and the Foster edition highlight another of Deane’s core traits: that is, his abundant capacity to work productively with others.

In other words, Deane Root is a mensch. He has mentored innumerable young scholars, while encouraging his friends and peers with enthusiasm, professionalism, and a deep reserve of patience. The broad scope of his expertise is manifest in his appointment as Editor in Chief of Grove Music Online. He is a central figure in this Society, having served as its president from 1989-1993 and received the Distinguished Service Citation in 2000.

Honoring Deane Root with SAM’s highest award recognizes not only a formidable legacy of accomplishment but also pays tribute to a truly wonderful and compassionate human being.