



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)

**Invites you to its meeting, December 14th at 11 AM at the
First Presbyterian Church, 37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.**

The program will also be shown on Webinar: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

Tim Brooks

"How Jazz and Blues Revolutionized American Culture in the 1920s"



African American-derived music, in the form of jazz and blues, exploded into mainstream American culture one hundred years ago. Using original recordings as examples, author Tim Brooks will trace how and why during a relatively short period of time the relatively staid, Victorian sounds of the 19th and early 20th centuries era gave way to a multiplicity of musical currents that became truly "America's music." It was a period of institutionalized discrimination and segregation, yet black artists such as Duke Ellington, Louis

Armstrong, Eubie Blake, Fats Waller, Ethel Waters and others became major stars. White artists too embraced the new sounds, including Paul Whiteman, Ted Lewis, and the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Jazz even invaded the concert hall, with the historic debut of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" in 1924.

In time jazz and blues would influence each other and morph into such styles as big band swing, western swing, modern jazz, rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll. But it all began in the tumultuous 1920s, when after years of being suppressed or ignored, African American cultural sensibilities became part of mainstream America.

Tim Brooks is the author of nine books on media history, including *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry: 1890-1919*, which lays the groundwork for this era, and *The Blackface Minstrel Show in Mass Media: 20th Century Performances on Radio, Records, Film and Television*. His books have won many awards, including the American Book Award and the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for best book on music. He has also produced a number of reissue CDs, is a three-time Grammy nominee and won a Grammy Award for Best Historical Reissue for the companion CD to *Lost Sounds*. He is the current

president of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, a national organization of recording scholars and archivists.

Next week: December 21, RMA Holiday Party for Family and Friends. Next program, January 4, Margarita Alban, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission, Greenwich, "Issues in Greenwich Land Use"

The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact us by email at info@greenwichrma.org.