

# Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series 2021-2022

## Joe Von Battle and Hastings Street Blues

A study of the life and work of mid-century, pre-Motown, Detroit blues and gospel record producer, Joe Von Battle (1915-1973), exploring his historical importance after decades of relative obscurity; following the dislocation and destruction of his businesses due to the Chrysler Freeway construction of 1960, and the '67 rebellion, respectively.

This includes investigation as to Battle's production of the sermons and songs of the Rev. C. L. Franklin, and Battle's role as the first to record the voice of Aretha Franklin. There have been over fifty interviews on the operation of Battle's record business, personal life and times, with historians and direct sources, on and off camera; and years of online correspondence and social media engagement.

Within the international community of Blues record collectors, there has been a synergistic exchange of stories, data, and record business arcana. The research and work has as its focus the determination that Joe Von Battle was, if not the first, was one of the most important, post-WWII independent African-American record producers in the U.S.

FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Tuesday, November 16, 2021

12:30PM—1:30PM

Join us on Zoom at :

<https://wayne-edu.zoom.us/j/92425815409?pwd=c2lrUndXL2FjYkpKQlRQRzRraGlRZz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 924 - 2581 - 5409

Password: 244113



**Marsha Music**  
Detroit Musician

**Marsha Music**, daughter of a pre-Motown record producer, grew up in Highland Park and was raised in Detroit. She has lived in these two cities all of her life. She writes about the city's music, its past, present and future. She is a former activist/labor leader and a noted speaker. Her writings on Detroit are published in important anthologies and periodicals, and she was the recipient of the Kresge Literary Arts Fellowship in 2012 and a Knight Arts Challenge awardee in 2015. Ms. Music has contributed to significant Detroit narratives, and documentary films. She has read her poetry with the Detroit Symphony, and Michigan Opera Theatre, and is co-producing, with WSU Professor Juanita Anderson, a documentary feature film, *Hastings Street Blues*.