

Transcript of edited excerpts.

KENNY, MARIA

"I'm Maria Kenny. I used to reside at 157 Bleecker Street, between Sullivan [Street] and Thompson [Street] in Greenwich Village.

In the beginning, I used to come down on Saturdays and Sundays. My dad had this gospel brunch, and then he had a soul brunch. I used to work the soul brunch. I was fifteen. It was called 'Encyclopedia of Soul.' People like—oh my god, so many people—I'm trying to remember names...

He had amazing singers who would come up and do a show or do a number, and then another one would come up... It was magic to me to be sitting there and listening to these incredible performers. I don't think any of them played there for the money because there was never any money. He paid people, but it was very minimal. He couldn't afford it anyway.

It wasn't about that. It was about the scene. It was about performing. It was about your friends. It was a jam, sort of in a non-traditional way, almost a *ceilidh*, which is an Irish version of a jam, basically, where all these different people come and either story-tell, or they play music, or they sing, or whatever it is that they can contribute. It was sort of his version of that. The musicians themselves, they sort of organized it, and my dad was just the host, if you will. I just loved it."