

**The International Association for the Study of Popular Music
L'Association internationale pour l'étude de la musique populaire**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1983-1985

Dear Colleagues,

According to IASPM's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, which were passed at the Association's 2nd General Meeting at Reggio Emilia, September 24, 1983, the Executive Committee of the Association is required to submit a report to all members two months before the General Meeting (to be held at 1400 hrs., Saturday, July 13 in Montreal). It falls to me as Executive Secretary to Write this report.

Before reviewing IASPM's development over the past two years and its current situation . I would lose to dispense with a number of matters required by the Association's Statutes and Rules of Procedure. A copy of these Statutes and Rules of Procedure is enclosed for your information. The Statutes and Rules of Procedure require:

- 1) that nominations for auditors be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least three months before the General Meeting. (7.5.8.)
- 2) that nominations for the Executive Committee be submitted to the Executive Secretary at least three months before the General Meeting. (7.5.8.)
- 3) that the Executive Committee submit a full report to all members two months before the General Meeting. (8.9.)
- 4) that this report includes a final list of nominations for the Executive Committee. (8.9.)
- 5) that proposals of modifications to the Association's Statutes and Rules of Procedure be sent to the Executive Secretary at least three months before the General Meeting. (11.)
- 6) that the Executive Secretary communicates proposals of modifications to the Association's Statutes and Rules of Procedure to all members at least two months before the General Meeting. (11.)

Requirement number 3 is being fulfilled by this Report. Requirements numbers 1, 2 and 5 have deadlines which are now past. I have received no nominations for auditors or for the Executive Committee, and I have received no proposals for modifications to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure. It is probable that this lack of communication has more to do with the slow rate at which mail proceeds around the world than with lack of interest on the Part of individual members. At its 4th meeting in Ottawa at the end of March the Executive Committee therefore decided to change these deadlines. I have been empowered by the Executive Committee to receive nominations and proposals until one month before the General Meeting (i.e. June 13, 1985). This decision is, of course, totally arbitrary in terms of the existing Statutes 'out, given difficulties in communication, at least seems consistent with their intent and spirit. All nominations and proposals together with the Executive Committee's response to them, will be available in written form at the beginning of the Montreal Conference (July 3). Under requirement 6, I should therefore like to give notice that the Executive Committee intends to recommend to the General Meeting that Statutes 7.5.8. and 11. be modified to reflect this change. A detailed formulation of this modification and any others that follow from it will be available to all members at the opening of the Montreal Conference.

At its meeting in Ottawa (March 29-April 1) the Executive Committee arrived at the following list of nominations for the Executive Committee which will take office in Montreal and run the Association until the 4th General Meeting to be held in 1987. The list of nominations is as follows:

KLEVOR ABO (Ghana)
 GEORGINA BORN (U.K.)
 FRANCO FABBRI (Italy)
 LINS GRENIER (Canaria)

LAWRENCE GROSSBERG (U.S.A.)
 DAVID HORN (U.K.)
 ANNA DE LEON (Philippines)
 GUNTER MAYER (G.D.R.)
 PAUL RUTTEN (Netherlands)
 ARNOLD SHAW (U.S.A.) .
 JOHN SHEPHERD (Canada)

The Executive Committee is currently seeking a nominee from Latin America whose name will be out before the General Meeting in Montreal as part of the above List. In making these nominations the Executive Committee was mindful not only of Statute 3.2. but also of two other constraints:

- 1) the necessity of maintaining some continuity on the Executive as well as introducing new members;
- 2) the necessity of electing an Executive that will be able to function effectively in running the Association. Continuity among the nominations is rasant in the shape of Franco Fabbri. Lawrence Grossberg, David Horn, Anna de Leon, Günter Mayer and John Shepherd. This means that we will be losing CORIUN AHARONIAN (Uruguay), JOSEE DESTREMPES (Canada), SIMON FRITH (U.K.), CHARLES HAMM (U.S.A.), GERARD KEMPERS (Netherlands), SILVIA MOORE (Netherlands), PAUL OLIVER (U.K.) , FIEL;HUT RÖSING (F.R.G.) and Philip TAGG (Sweden). Many of these individuals were heavily involved in founding and establishing the Association and, I feel, deserve the heartfelt thanks of the membership. In particular, I have become intently aware over the last two years of the nature of Philip Tagg's achievements as my predecessor.

One issue faced by the Executive Committee in making the nominations was the double nature of its own function:

- 1) a forum reflecting the different geographical, cultural and political constituencies of the membership;
- 2) actually running the Association. Given the considerable financial and logistical difficulties encountered in bringing together 15 people twice a year, the Executive considered splitting these two functions so that the first could be achieved through an elected Council which perhaps met annually, and could be large enough to comprehensively reflect the different geographical, cultural aid political constituencies of the Association, while the second could be achieved by an Executive Committee reduced in size to perhaps 6 or 7 people who might be able to meet more frequently. The Committee fest, however, that such an arrangement would increase bureaucracy, become cumbersome, and, in the long run, might well turn out to be more expansive. 'The Committee therefore felt it appropriate to stay with the present arrangement and recommend no change in the Statutes affecting the constitution of the Executive Committee. it should nonetheless be recognised that travel costs will probably preclude all members of the Executive being able to attend all meetings.

Statute 8.3. requires that the Executive Committee have between nine and fifteen members. The present Executive Committee has nominated 12 people (one as yet unnamed) to take office in Montreal, therefore making it possible for there to be three further nominations from the membership before elections are required 'de would welcome nominations, particularly from newer branches not represented in the above list of nominations as well as from areas and countries on the verge of forming branches.

Officers of the Association are elected by the Executive Committee at its first meeting, which tradition dictates takes place immediately after the General Meeting. As part of its deliberations the present Executive Committee has found it advisable to consider who might fill the positions men-

tioned in Statute 8.4. and to recommend to the Executive Committee which takes office in Montreal the following people:

Chairperson:	FRANCO FABBRI
Vice-chairpeople:	DAVID HORN ANNA DE LEON
Executive Secretary:	JOHN SHEPHERD

The positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary are still under informal discussion. However, while the four people recommended above represent continuity, it is likely that the people recommended to fill the positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be new to the Executive Committee.

One feeling frequently encountered at Executive Committee meetings is mild amazement and strong gratification on the part of those persons involved with the founding of the Association that the Association has grown and flourished in the way in which it has. We now have nearly 400 members in over 30 countries. We have formally constituted branches in Australia, the Benelux countries, Canada, France, Italy, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. We also have de facto branches in Scandinavia and the Federal Republic of Germany awaiting formal accreditation, as well as strong interest from our Israeli members in forming a branch. Many of our branches have newsletters and publications of their own as well as regular meetings.

This speed and diversity of growth has undoubtedly put strains on the International Association.

- Firstly, funding and finances remain a difficult area. Although the membership of the Association has grown rapidly, it has not yet reached a level where the per capita cost of producing printed materials (e.g. RPM, membership Lists, copies of Statutes, membership forms and, we hope eventually, a Directory and House Journal) and mailing them effectively around the world can be met from membership fees alone. For example, RPM has, for financial reasons, to be sent surface mail to Europe for distribution by branches and representatives, involving an inevitable delay of some six to eight weeks, which renders much of the information contained in it stale or redundant. As against this, it must be recognised that membership in the Association must be accessible to many individuals who, for one reason or another, are in no position to contribute financially to the Association at the level possible for those, for example, who live in the 'Western' world and have Full-time, permanent employment.
- Secondly, the past growth in the Association's membership is due in large part to the success of branches. For obvious reasons, and particularly in the long period between international conferences, many members feel their strongest sense of identity with the Association to lie at the branch, as opposed to international, level. While the Executive Committee recognises the growth, strength and distinctiveness and relative autonomy of branches to be an essential element of the Association, it recognises equally that, in a world where the creation and impact of popular music has a strongly international flavour, the effectiveness of the Association and its benefit to individual branches requires a strong international organisation and presence. Additionally, there are many areas of the world where formation of branches, for political and economic reasons, is not easily possible. It is important for the Association's understanding of popular music as a global phenomenon that members from these areas of the world are served effectively by the international Executive.
- Thirdly, the growth in the level and activities of the Association's membership has resulted, at the international level, in a relatively small number of people doing an increasing amount of work. For example, it is unlikely that PMP 2, the English-language proceedings of the

Reggio Emilia conference, will be available at Montreal for purchase by members (although one or two copies made up from page-proofs and order forms will be!). This situation is not due to the indolence of the editorial team, but simply reflects the level of their involvement, with other IASPM matters.

The Executive Committee perceives these strains as inevitable and, indeed, healthy given the fast growth of the Association in so many different areas of the world. It has, however, taken a number of decisions aimed at reducing these strains:

- 1) The Executive Committee will recommend to the General Meeting in Montreal that the membership fee structure presently in force (reported in RPM 5) remain frozen until 1987. The financial strain on the international Association will be reduced in Part by concentrating an increasing the level of membership.
- 2) The Executive Committee will recommend to the General Meeting in Montreal a restructuring of the Publications and Documentations Committee and a number of new ventures under its aegis. These ventures include:
 - a) The establishing of Popular Music Perspectives as the Association's house journal. A sub-committee (Larry Grossberg, John Shepherd, Philip Tagg) has been struck to Wake recommendations concerning editorial policy, editorial structure and nominations for an editor and editorial board. It is the feeling of the Executive Committee that the establishing of a house journal will fuel the increased membership referred to above and so indirectly aid the overall financial situation of the Association.
 - b) A computer-based Encyclopaedia of Popular Musics of the World. This project, initiated by Paul Oliver and David Horn, has attracted a grant of n5,000 from the University of Exeter to run a pilot project establishing feasibility. It is the hope of the Executive Committee that, as well as involving many IASPM members in its creation, and improving the quality and flow of information about popular music between branches and members, the Encyclopaedia may in the future be a source of revenue for the Association.
 - c) The production of records and cassettes in conjunction with interested, small, independent companies, aimed at disseminating popular musics not otherwise easily available. This would serve to improve our service to members, publicise IASPM's existence, increase the number of institutional members through libraries (-and so our income from membership fees) and provide increased revenue, through royalty agreements. It is the intention of the Executive Committee that royalty agreements with musicians and the flow of royalties to them be monitored very closely Paul Oliver, Simon Frith, Philip Tagg, Gerard Kempers and Larry Grossberg would be very interested to hear from members interested in serving on an Editorial/ Management Committee or in participating in this project in any other way.
 - d) The re-publishing of out-of-print books and the publishing of new books relevant to popular music studies. The purposes served will be the same as those in (c) above and both initiatives will be under taken in conjunction with interested publishers. Paul Oliver, Simon Frith and Larry Grossberg would be very interested to hear from members interested in contributing in any way to these initiatives.
 - e) Involvement in the production of reliable films and videos on popular music. Again, the purposes are the same as in (c) and (d) above. However, the Executive Committee feels it necessary to approach the initiative with extreme caution. Anyone with ideas and suggestions, and anyone willing to work on this project, should contact Larry Grossberg.

It is the hope of the Executive Committee that as well as generating additional Funds both directly and indirectly for IASPM and thus relieving the burden of the present level

of membership fee income, these suggested projects will greatly increase the numbers of members involved with projects which reach beyond their own areas and branches. The Executive Committee wishes to encourage as many members as possible to become involved with projects aimed both at making more information on popular music available to the IASPM membership as a whole, as well as providing accurate and up-to-date information on the world of popular music to communities outside IASPM. To this end the Executive Committee will recommend to the General Meeting in Montreal a reorganisation of the Publications and Documentations Committee along the following lines. The Committee will have six sub-committees:

- a) RPM editorial board consisting of an editor and one elected representative from each duly constituted branch and other areas of the world identified by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will recommend to the General Meeting that PETER WINKLER be invited to assume the position of editor for the period 1985-1987. The Executive Committee would like to thank UMBERTO FIORI for his contribution to RPM as joint editor from 1983-1985, and hopes that he will continue to have a close association with the newsletter in the future.
- b) DOPMUS management committee. Philip Tagg presently constitutes this committee and will undoubtedly do so in the future! We all know that he would be delighted to receive help and assistance from any member who is interested in this extremely valuable project. Philip will be presenting a report on DOPMUS to the General Meeting.
- c) PMP editorial board. The afore mentioned three-person sub-committee would like to hear from anyone with ideas, suggestions and nominations.
- d) EPMOW (Encyclopaedia of Popular Music of the World) management/editorial board. EPMOW was discussed above. Members interested in becoming involved with this project should contact Paul Oliver or David Horn.
- e) Book publishing/re-publishing management/ editorial board.
- f) Record production/issuing management/editorial board.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee is that one person from each of these sub-committees sit on the Publications and Documentations Committee. A further recommendation will be that David Horn, as a Vice-Chairperson of IASPM, will continue to chair the P & D committee. The Committee would thus comprise seven people, with the possible addition of a Secretary (to ensure effective communication) and a treasurer (to ensure that all projects - with the exception of RPM are independent of membership fee income and financially self sufficient). The P & D treasurer would thus be of assistance to the IASPM international treasurer. We recognise that all this smacks of unbridled bureaucracy, but nonetheless feel it is the only way to increase IASPM's visibility, membership, and information flow, involve as many members as possible in valuable projects, and ensure that the whole thing works.

- 3) The Executive Committee will recommend to the General Meeting a number of procedures aimed at improving information flow between
 - (a) branch and international Officers;
 - (b) the International Association and its members.

The Executive Committee feels it would be helpful to hold an informal meeting in Montreal (before the General Meeting) of all branch officers and representatives, and Executive Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The purpose of the meeting would be to air

problems, frustrations and preoccupations, and arrive mutually at a set Of procedures that everyone can live with.

The Executive Committee would like to draw the attention of members to a number of additional points:

- 1) After continued discussion at a number of its meetings, the Executive Committee will not be raising affiliation to UNESCO/IMC as a motion Or point of discussion at ,the .General Meeting. Given the present uncertainty of UNESCO's situation, the Executive Committee recommends that informal co-operation with the IMC be continued as before. The Executive Committee further recommends that Günter Mayer be invited to act as the Association's Liaison Officer for the period 1985-1987.
- 2) The .General Meeting in Montreal has to decide where the 4th international Conference and IASPM General Meeting will be Held. We have some ideas. We would be happy to receive Other Suggestions. We would become moderately ecstatic in the face of a concrete invitation.
- 3) Voting rights and procedures at the General Meeting are governed by Statutes 7.5.1. - 7.5.9. Those members who, in accordance with Statutes 7.5.3. and 7.5.5 have voting rights in addition to their own by virtue of a proxy, of voting on behalf of an institutional member, or of voting on behalf of an accredited Branch Committee, must establish voting accreditation writing with the Membership Secretary (Franco Fabbri) before the General Meeting.
- 4) The Executive Secretary would like to receive reports from all Branch Chair people on the activities of their Branch since Reggio Emilia or its foundation. These reports can be brought by hand to Montreal and will be tabled at the General Meeting.

The Treasurer must receive reports from all Branch Treasurers plus all monies due the International Treasury as soon as possible so that he can Write his report and prepare a budget for the period 1985198?.

The Membership Secretary would appreciate an up-date on membership from all Branch Secretaries/Membership Secretaries at Montreal so that he can prepare an accurate and up-to-date report for the General Meeting.

In closing, I would like to make a comment about the Montreal Conference and !ASPM generally:

- 1) I know that a tot of people are anxious for detailed information concerning the programme at Montreal, as well as travel, board, lodging, conference fees and so an. All this information is about to come your way. We apologise for what must seem like inexplicable delays but.
 - a) we attempted to put together a Programme that was arrived at through much consultation and would hang together as a totality. Such an attempt has had its difficulties and unavoidable delays. However, we now have a Programme that we feel is valuable, interesting and exciting, and is worth all the difficulties encountered in putting it together. d copy if this Programme will be with you shortly.
 - b) we only received notification of funding within the last seven weeks. Anne-Marie Messier and her colleagues in Montreal are to be congratulated on raising over 3100,000 for the Conference. However, they only received their first cheque about ten days ago, which har meant that until that time undertaking anything concrete and. large in scope har been very difficult.

In short, we ask you to be patient. Everything will :all into place very quickly.

- 2) The Executive Secretary, as the centre (at least in theory) of the IASPM information flow, is perhaps as well placed as anyone to access the 'state of the Union'. For those of us who sometimes feel that things are not quite as they should be or as we would like to see them, it is sometimes not inappropriate to reflect on IASPM's comparative youth and speed of growth. I occasionally have to remind myself that our largest branch (the U.S.A.) is not yet two years old; that the tiny Canadian Branch which thought it would be a 'nice ideal to host the 3rd International Conference in Montreal now has a dozen or so members actively working on a conference with over 100 presenters and a budget well in excess of \$ 100,000 and is backed by a branch membership in excess of 50; that our two or three Australian members at the time of Reggio Emilia are now a branch pushing 20 members and so on. To prevent myself getting unbearably lyrical will simply say that there is every sign that IASPM is here to stay, and that it has the clear potential to be a strong and flexible organisation serving all its members in ways they feel appropriate.

I know I can speak on behalf of my colleagues on the present Executive Committee in saying that we have immensely enjoyed serving IASPM, and do look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Montreal.

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