

**IASPM VIII General Meeting Minutes**  
**Glasgow, Scotland, July 5, 1995, 18:45**

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1. **Election of Chair and Secretary for the VIII General Meeting**  
Toru Mitsui was unanimously elected as Chair and Ales Opekar as Secretary.
2. **Adoption of the Minutes of the VII General Meeting**  
These Minutes were unanimously adopted.
3. **Election of Electoral Officers and Ratification of Election Procedures for the VIII General Meeting**  
Ute Bechdorf and Jon Fitzgerald were unanimously elected as Electoral Officers. The Election Procedures were discussed later in connection with point 13 of the Agenda.
4. **Ratification of Agenda for the VIII General Meeting**  
No further items for inclusion on the Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously ratified.
5. **Acceptance of 1993-95 Executive Committee Report**  
The report was published in RPM 1995 No. 21 and circulated at the present meeting. The report was unanimously accepted.
6. **Election of Two Non-Executive Committee Members to Audit Treasurer's Report to the General Meeting**  
Philip Tagg and Motti Regev were unanimously elected to audit the Treasurer's Report to the VIII General Meeting.
7. **Toru Mitsui explained the absence of the Treasurer/ Membership Secretary Steve Jones, who was not able to attend the conference and the General Meeting, and gave a summary of his Report.**  
Toru Mitsui also reported about the effort of the Executive Committee to gain supporting members. The first step was to send out letters (about 60) to major organisations in the music industry, including copyright societies. Toru Mitsui informed the meeting about the poor response to these letters and about discussions concerning future fundraising strategies (the Board of Representatives also encouraged the Executive Committee to make more effort at getting money for IASPM besides the membership fees).

Georgina Born asked which branches actually have paid the fees and which have not. Sara Cohen answered that, according to the last e-mail message from Steve Jones, all branches had paid their fees except the US branch. Paul Friedlander explained about the US branch's last fiscal year and the reason why their payment was late (they supported the conference in Cuba). The US branch will pay a part of their dues as soon as P. Friedlander returns to the United States and then they will prepare a schedule for payment of the rest.

Ales Opekar drew attention to points 2 and 3 of the IASPM Membership Fee Structure, which refer to non-industrialized countries and countries which are not members of the International Monetary Fund. These countries are allowed to establish their own special national membership fee structure and the use of the collected money should be discussed annually at the Executive Committee meeting.

Following this, discussion focussed on travel expenses. Toru Mitsui explained that this item included financial support of IASPM for people from countries which were not members of the International Monetary Fund to attend the Stockton conference in 1993. Paul Friedlander added more detailed information about the Stockton travel expenses. Philip Tagg suggested approval of the Treasurer's Report on the condition that he and Motti Regev, who were elected to audit the Report, would communicate with Steve Jones to clarify some questions which remained unclear. His suggestion was seconded and accepted.

8. **Membership Secretary's Report**

Toru Mitsui reported that, according to the latest e-mail message from Steve Jones, the total membership at the moment was 408, but that this did not include the US branch because they had not paid their dues. The US branch consists of 109 members.

9. **Publications**

Will Straw reported about RPM, electronic publications and about the proceedings. One issue of RPM costs about 800-900 Canadian dollars. There are two issues per year. Addresses are the biggest problem every time about 50-60 copies are returned. New issues of RPM are now available for reading and downloading from the e-mail network which Steve Jones established. Will Straw will prepare one more issue after the conference before turning it over to the new publications officer.

Proceedings from Gosen are available and can be ordered from Humboldt University. Proceedings from Stockton were completed, copies of which were brought to Glasgow to be sold and the order form for which would be available in a new issue of RPM.

The question of an IASPM archive was discussed. There is an archive for printed material in Liverpool and an electronic archive, established by Steve Jones, in Tulsa, USA.

Appreciation was expressed to Will Straw for his work on RPM and also to Steve Jones who made a great effort towards setting up the electronic mail system for IASPM.

10. **Proposals for Restructuring IASPM**

Toru Mitsui went through three proposals published in RPM 1995, No.21, p.4, and explained the reasons for such formulations. Ales Opekar summarized the main reasons for the discussion on IASPM restructuring and added the Statement of the Board of Representatives, which eventually suggested keeping the current structure of the relationship between an international branch and a national organisation. Sara Cohen mentioned particular solutions worked out in the German, Australian and Japanese branches.

Ales Opekar invited representatives from those branches to explain briefly their new regulations. Ute Bechdorf said that in Germany two organizations were legally separated: one at a national level, ASPM, and the other at an international level, IASPM-Germany. Most of the members of IASPM Germany are also members of ASPM. They have double membership with double payment. There are two Executive Committees with a close cooperation between the organizations. The German IASPM branch has 27 members and is growing on. The Executive Committee members are Bechdorf, Munch and Katlewski.

Tony Mitchell said that, unlike the German branch, the Australian branch is not legally separated. They decided to operate a two-tiered membership System. A member is entitled to decide to be either an international member or a national member. Membership fees are fixed accordingly. They didn't set up a new separate national organization. Despite this fact they have more international members than before.

Toru Mitsui explained the Japanese Situation which preceded the Australian one in its two-tiered membership System.

Philip Tagg relayed the comments from Franco Fabbri about the Italian branch, which has been re-constituted. It has about 50 members. They are not much interested in international activities because of linguistic difficulties and conflicts of interests in approach and subject matters.

Lara Allen from South Africa emphasized the importance of national branches because they do a lot of service for members which is not available for an individual member.

Georgina Born summarized discussions in the UK and proposed to accept proposal No.1 expressing an understanding of the situations in Germany, Australia and Japan. Jan Fairley suggested to adopt formally the changes which were made in the three branches (circulate the proposals for changes in the Statutes and come to an agreement the next General Meeting). The lively discussion

came to a close with the conclusion that IASPM cannot deal legally with every possible deviation by local branches from a norm.

Proposal No.1 ("That no change be made to IASPM's branch international structure") was moved, seconded and finally unanimously accepted.

#### 11. **Changes to IASPM Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

Ales Opekar announced the proposal of the Executive Committee to raise the supporting membership fee from \$50 to \$500. Ute Bechdorf suggested setting up a different scheme with supporting membership fees following a sliding scale from \$100 to \$500. Her proposal was accepted.

The following changes in the IASPM Statutes were passed:

- To Statute 10.1 - an extension of the first sentence: "...and up to two additional members are elected by independent members"
- To Rules of Procedure, 2.3.1. – the addition of a second sentence: "The independent members not affiliated with a national branch shall be represented by maximally two additional members."
- To Rules of Procedure, 2.3.2. - an addition to the second sentence: "Independent representatives will be elected during the biennial IASPM conference. The Board of Representatives is responsible for organizing this election."
- The Rules of Procedure, 2.3.3. - the first sentence should be changed and the second and third sentences deleted: "The Board of Representatives meets biennially during the IASPM conference at least one day before the biennial IASPM General Meeting."

#### 12. **Location of 9th and 10th IASPM International Conferences in 1997 and 1999**

Toru Mitsui welcomed IASPM members to the 1997 conference which will take place in Kanazawa, Japan, on July 27-31. The location of the 10th IASPM conference was tentatively suggested as Toronto, Canada. [Editor's Note: This has been changed. The 1999 conference will be in Mexico City.]

#### 13. **Election of the Executive Committee 1995-1997**

Sara Cohen explained the development of discussions in the Executive Committee concerning election procedures. Toru Mitsui announced the nominations of the Executive Committee, which were circulated in RPM: Toru Mitsui (chair), Ales Opekar (general secretary), Tony Mitchell (membership secretary-treasurer), Helmi Järviluoma (publications officer) and Will Straw (member at large). Further nominations included Paul Friedlander, Alenka Berber-Kersovan, Karen Lury and Juan-Pablo Gonzales. All the nominated members introduced themselves. A lively, heated discussion followed concerning the question of how many members at large the new Executive Committee could have and whether the voting procedure would be connected with a particular position in the Executive Committee or not.

Finally it was decided to vote by acclamation for the principal positions and then to propose to the newly elected Executive Committee to establish an advisory board which would comprise other nominated members (including Steve Jones as an e-mail adviser). Toru Mitsui as a chair, Ales Opekar as a general secretary, Tony Mitchell as a treasurer and membership secretary and Helmi Järviluoma as a publications officer were duly elected as the members of the new Executive Committee.

The meeting unanimously moved a vote of thanks to Sara Cohen, who would now leave the Committee, for all her hard work as general secretary.

#### 14. **Any other business**

Philip Tagg announced his communication with several ex-activists of IASPM (Chris Cutler, Franco Fabbri, Charles Hamm and others). F. Fabbri's message to Philip Tagg could be summarized in the questions "Where is the music and where are the musicians?", "Are music and musicians an un-

necessary appendix of popular music studies?" Charles Hamm, in a statement sent to the conference, expressed how much he missed historical scholarship and the analysis of music itself.

Ales Opekar announced the nominations of Motti Regev and Christopher Ballantine as the two representatives of individual members [i.e., those not belonging to national branches] on the Board of Representatives and asked the individual members for other nominations or for the vote. Both members were unanimously elected.

Johan Fornäs repeated the statement he had made at the Board of Representatives meeting, to the effect that something should be done for those popular musicians in various countries who are censored, kept in prison, or murdered, either by undemocratic governments or by terrorist or Fundamentalist movements or various sorts. J. Fornäs suggested taking up this topic as the theme of a session at the next conference. J. Fornäs proposed that the Executive Committee formulate and publish in RPM some initiatives on this subject and said that he was willing to assist the editor with this work. His proposal was received with general applause.

The Meeting unanimously moved a vote of thanks for the organization of the conference to Simon Frith and his crew.

15. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 21:20.

Ales Opekar  
General Secretary