

International Association for the Study of Popular Music

Minutes of Annual General Meeting: Sydney, Australia, July 12, 1999

INTRODUCTION

The current Executive Committee, elected at the IX General Meeting at Kanazawa, Japan (July 30, 1997) comprised of the following persons:

Tony Mitchell	:	Chair
Motti Regev	:	General Secretary
David Hesmondhalgh	:	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Heinz-Peter Katlewski	:	Publicity Officer
Anna Szemere	:	Member-at-large

1. Election of Chair and Secretary

Chair	:	Tony Mitchell
Secretary	:	Motti Regev

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the IX General Meeting

2.1 Matters arising

Martin Cloonan, referring to Point 13 of the Minutes and the issue of freedom of expression, highlighted a future need for IASPM to discuss the problems that musicians face with censorship. He also updated the meeting with confirmation that the book he is co-editing has now been published.

2.2 Phil Hayward proposed that the minutes of the IX IASPM General Meeting be formally adopted. The proposal was seconded by Will Straw.

3. Election of Electoral Officers/Election Procedures for the X General Meeting

3.1 The need to elect two Electoral Officers to officiate at the election of the new Executive Committee was identified and their roles briefly outlined. Caspar Melville and Phil Hayward were elected.

3.2 The Chair provided a brief outline of the election procedures whereby members vote by a show of hands. The Secretary also asked the meeting if anyone would prefer to vote by other means. The Chair reminded the Meeting of the nominees as outlined at the IX General Meeting.

Val Morrison proposed that the election procedures be adopted and this was seconded by Geoff Stahl.

4. Ratification of the Agenda for the X General Meeting

- 4.1 Under Section 12 of the Agenda, Martin Cloonan requested permission to report on a conference he had attended. The Chair also proposed a discussion concerning the IASPM Book Prize that was outlined in The Report of the Executive Committee, 1997-1999.

Rob Bowman proposed that these items should be included and this was seconded by Phil Hayward.

- 4.2 The proposal for a second book of IASPM papers was also adopted and Sheila Whiteley was asked to explore the possibility of publishing such a book with an academic press.

5. Acceptance of 1997-1999 Executive Committee Report

- 5.1 Sheila Whiteley noted that in paragraph two of the Report, Popular Music Institution should read Institute of Popular Music, University of Liverpool.
- 5.2 Anahid Kassabian raised the problem of ambiguity with regard to the Board of Representatives. The Secretary responded by confirming that there would be further discussion under Item 8 of the current agenda.

6. Election of two non-Executive Committee Members to Audit the Treasurer's Report

Phil Hayward and Will Straw were elected.

7. Treasurer/Membership Secretary Report

David Hesmondhalgh spoke to his report. Keith Harris proposed that the Report be formally accepted and this was seconded by Michael Hannan.

8. Board of Representatives Report

- 8.1 The Secretary defined the Board of Representatives as a Board consisting of Secretaries from each of the Member Branches. Its role is to communicate between the Executive Committee and the Member at-large; to gather information at the bi-annual International Conferences which concerns individual Branches, and to present such information at Annual Branch Meetings.

- 8.2 The Secretary also outlined the following issues

- (a) The last meeting of the Board of Representatives was held during the Kanazawa Conference, in 1997.
- (b) Shuhei Hosokawa was elected as the new Chair of the Board, replacing Ute Bechdorf.
- (c) Apparently, Shuhei Hosokawa was not aware of his election. As a result, the Board of Representatives was not active for a year. When Shuhei was finally reminded of his election, his attempts to get in touch with members of the Board were unsuccessful.

8.3.1 The Secretary further stressed that the original idea behind the Board of Representatives was to create a body that would improve the connection between Branches and membership at large and the Executive Committee. That was, however, before the e-mail era and the construction of the IASPM-list.

8.4 A short discussion followed, during which several members raised the possibility of cancelling the Board since it had become redundant.

8.5.1 Cancelling the Board of Representatives entails modification of the Statutes. Proposals for such modification should be sent to the General Secretary at least one month before the General Meeting (see point 4 of IASPM's Rules of Procedure).

The General Meeting therefore recommended, by majority vote, that a proposal to modify the Statutes, so cancelling the Board of Representatives, be sent to the General Secretary in due time before the next General Meeting (Finland, 2001).

9 Publications

9.1 The Chair reminded the floor of the discussion concerning the publication of the Report by the Executive Committee.

9.2 The Chair confirmed that there would be a report on the X General Meeting.

9.3 Subsequent discussion concerned the publication of proceedings, including the IASPM web-site for the publication of paper and noted the limitation of space on the site.

9.4 Further discussion was held concerning the publishing of papers on the web and in paper format. It was considered that young scholars (not least those without access to the web) needed these in paper form.

9.5 The Chair also raised the issue that proceedings have never been refereed. This clearly has consequences in terms of their academic

status. Without such refereeing, published papers do not have credibility with Research Councils. There are also implications with regard to funding for travel and attendance at refereed/non-refereed conferences.

- 9.6 There was further discussion over the proposal to publish material from past IASPM conferences with a reputable publishing house (Routledge, OUP, Blackwell etc.) Points raised included whether this should be a collection of papers or whether the book should have a specific focus (as with Simon Frith's earlier collection (*World Music, Politics and Social Change*, Manchester University Press, 1989). There was a proposal that members should have the opportunity to suggest which collections should be considered by the Committee and to propose possible editors. The Committee would then discuss the choice of publisher. Further discussion concerned the regional choice of publisher in relation to the contents of the book.

There was a proposal to allow members of IASPM to submit collections of papers given at International conferences for consideration by the Committee. A proposal would be submitted to publishers for consideration.

The proposal that the definition of such a collection needed further clarification was accepted.

10. Location of XIth and XIIth International Conferences (2001 and 2003 respectively)

- 10.1 The original proposal that the XIth International Conference be held in Mexico City was not feasible. Graciela Martinez communicated his regrets that this could not happen due largely to financial constraints.
- 10.2 Henri Terho (University of Turku, Finland) expressed an interest in hosting the XIth International Conference. This was welcomed by members. However, it was pointed out that making an Institutional commitment takes time and that the final decision would be taken in two to three months time (i.e. in or around October, 1999)
- 10.3 It was pointed out that the proposed location for the Conference (Turku) had good facilities and accommodation. Transport also presented no problems.
- 10.4 It was noted that other popular music conferences were to be held in Finland during 2000/2001. Conference organisers should be aware of competitive conferences when making decisions as to time and place.
- 10.5 It was also noted that the XI International Conference would (ideally) take place in July, 2001 when weather conditions are good. Henri also

highlighted the benefits of Turku's location in Finland, noting that having the Conference in a small town gave it more cohesion.

- 10.6 It was carried that the XI International Conference should be held in Finland.
- 10.7 Proposals for IASPM 2003 included Amsterdam. It was pointed out that Mexico should be given further consideration, as Amsterdam would be the second European City to host the Conference over a two year period. It was thus proposed that the Executive Committee would give first option to a Latin American country, and second to Amsterdam.

11. **Election of Executive Committee 1999-2001**

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee :

Chair	:	Anahid Kassabian
General Secretary	:	Sheila Whiteley
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	:	Keith Harris
Publication Officer	:	Heinz-Peter Kattlewski
Member-at-large	:	Claire Levy

12. **Any Other Business**

There were two items of discussion.

- 12.1 Martin Cloonan gave a report on the first World Conference on Music and Censorship, held in November 1998, which attracted speakers from across the world. An organisation has been set up to deal with freedom of expression, but this still has to be given a name. Statutes have been written and the Danish Government is to be asked for money. IASPM is to give moral support. Discussion centred around the inclusion of Africa and the extent to which it is under-represented.
- 12.2 There was further discussion on the proposed bi-annual book prize, to be awarded by IASPM. This concerned the representation of the editorial board and the principal of the book prize itself. Problems were identified concerning producing a committee to discuss and critically evaluate book proposals and it was feared that this would be a complex process. It was pointed out that it would be more ethical for IASPM to award a prize to an author not in IASPM, so avoiding the problem of appearing self-congratulatory. It was suggested that the prize should be awarded to an author for whom this would be a first publication, however, more thought and discussion was considered necessary with regard to criteria. Questions were also raised as to whether the book should be in English. It was proposed that, in principal, IASPM should sponsor a book prize.

Sheila Whiteley
General Secretary