

Report of the IASPM Executive Committee 1993-1995

At the last General Meeting held in Stockton, California on July 14th 1993, Ales Opekar, Toru Mitsui, and Will Straw were newly-elected to sit on the 1993-5 Executive Committee. The present committee comprises the following positions:

- Chair (Toru Mitsui, Japan)
- Secretary (Sara Cohen, UK)
- Treasurer and Membership Secretary (Steve Jones, US)
- Publications and Publicity Officer (Will Straw, Canada) .
- Member at Large (Ales Opekar, Czech Republic)

In addition, Simon Frith continued to attend meetings of the Executive Committee in his capacity as Chair of the Programme Committee for the 1995 IASPM Conference in Glasgow.

The Executive Committee would like to thank Peter Wicke and John Shepherd, who retired from the Committee at the 1993 General Meeting, for all the work they have done for IASPM over the years.

Since the 1993 Stockton Meeting, the Executive Committee has met twice. One meeting was held at Stockton in July 1993, the other took place in Glasgow in October 1994. In the meantime there has been much faxing and Emailing!!

BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Board of Representatives (BOR) comprises representatives from each branch of IASPM. It was formed to enhance communication between the Executive Committee and the IASPM membership, and to enhance communication between branches and members. The Board should also help to formulate IASPM policy, recommending changes to the Statutes, nominations to the next EC etc..

In 1991 it was agreed that one Person act as coordinator of the Board of Representatives for a period of two years, and that that Person be someone from the country hosting the International conference during that period. The Board's coordinator should be responsible for organising biennial meetings of the Board of Representatives to be held one day before the beginning of the biennial IASPM conference. Bill Barlow was elected coordinator for the 1991-3 period but he was unfortunately unable to attend the Stockton conference. The Board nevertheless met twice in Stockton.

At the 1993 General Meeting in Stockton, it was agreed that one member of the Board of Representatives should be co-opted on to the EC as a means of improving communication between the EC and IASPM branches and individual members. On the following day the Board of Representatives elected Ales Opekar to this Position. Since then Ales has thus acted both as a member of the Executive Committee and as the elected contact between it and the Board of Representatives, and he has worked with much success to improve communication channels between the EC and the BOR. In general, however, although branch representatives have raised important suggestions and comments during conference meetings, in between conferences they have not been actively communicating with Ales.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

The BOR has proposed that the following be added to the IASPM Statutes under # 10 The Board of Representatives:

To Statute 10. L: extension of first sentence, "... and two additional members are elected by independent members".

To Rules of Procedure, 2.3. L: addition to the second sentence, "The independent members not affiliated with a national branch shall be represented by two additional members".

To Rules of Procedure, 2.3.2.: addition to second sentence, "Independent representatives will be elected during the biennial IASPM conference. The Board's coordinator is responsible for organizing this election".

To Rules of Procedure, 2.3.3.: the first sentence should be changed und the second und third sentences cancelled: "The Board of Representatives meets biennially during the IASPM conference at least one day before the biennial IASPM General Meeting. The Board's coordinator is responsible for organising the meeting".

IASPM RE-STRUCTURING

Despite improved communication between the EC und the BOR, the present structure of IASPM is in many ways still problematic, particularly with regard to the flow of Information und money within the Association. A lack of co-operation from quite a few branches, for example, makes it difficult to get membership dues und Information an members. When Information is forthcoming it is often out of date. On April 1st the Membership Secretary receives members' addresses for the previous year, which gives rise to a Situation whereby the previous year's membership receives the current year's Services.

In addition, brunch members are increasingly deciding to form their own regional or national popular music associations separate from IASPM. In Germany, for example, there is now a new German IASPM branch und there is also ASPM. The two organisations are separate but one Person has been appointed to ad as a link between them. There are moves to Set up a popular music association in Australia that would likewise be separate from the Australian IASPM branch. Meanwhile in Japan there is a rather different arrangement whereby the Japanese IASPM brunch is incorporated within a larger society (JASPM) represents a large society (two kinds of membership).

Such developments are undoubtedly a symptom of IASPM's success. Healthy branches are less dependent upon membership in an international association. However, the consequences of this for IASPM's future development need to be carefully considered. Although there is of course room for much improvement in the organization and administration of IASPM within its present structure, IASPM has now reached a stage when it might be appropriate to review and perhaps revise that structure.

In view of this, the EC has discussed various alternative options for restructuring IASPM, and it offers the following suggestions for consideration and vote by the general membership:

1. That no change be made to IASPM's branch/international structure
2. That the international executive be dissolved and branches form individual, independent associations which could, in turn, join as needed and desired for international meetings, publications etc
3. That branches form individual, independent associations, and the international executive continue IASPM by dealing directly with individuals, allowing members to freely join other associations and allowing other associations to join and be accredited by IASPM.

The suggestions will be discussed at the next General Meeting in July 1995 in Glasgow. Any additional or alternative proposals would be extremely welcome and should be sent to the EC as soon as possible.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

Since the 1993 General Meeting in Stockton the EC has begun to explore the possibility of recruiting supporting members for IASPM. The category of supporting member exists in the Statutes but IASPM has no such members at present

A letter has been sent to an initial list of potential members comprising right-protecting societies. The EC would welcome any suggestions, advice or assistance regarding the whole supporting membership category and ways of targeting and approaching potential members in the future.

The EC agreed that for the purposes of the initial and rather exploratory mailing the fee for supporting membership should tentatively be raised from \$50 to \$500. The EC will propose at the next General Meeting in Glasgow in July 1995 that in future this figure should be set by IASPM's Treasurer rather than remain as a fixed amount in the Statutes.

PUBLICATIONS

Since 1991 RPM has been edited and produced by Will Straw in Canada. RPM continues to play an important role in communications between IASPM branches and members, and the EC would like to thank and congratulate Will and his colleagues for all their efforts.

Since Will took over, RPM has been distributed to IASPM members on an individual basis which has proved more efficient than the previous system whereby it was distributed at a branch level (although any branches that wish to do so can return to the old system).

A questionnaire was circulated with a 1992 issue of RPM which included a section on research interests in order to provide more information on IASPM members and help to establish networks, joint projects etc. Due to some misunderstandings, however, many questionnaires were not returned and the exercise was repeated last year.

A list of IASPM members will be circulated as part of the conference programme for the Glasgow conference. The list will also be published in RPM.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

During 1992, publications of proceedings from the 1989 Paris conference were distributed to IASPM members. Proceedings from the small international conference entitled 'Central European Popular Music' and held in Prague in July 1993, were also published and have been distributed to all those who attended the conference. Meanwhile, all articles from the 1991 Berlin conference were collected and edited by Peter Wicke and John Shepherd, although this took longer than expected, largely due to the late arrival of many papers and the fact that some papers needed considerable editing. The proceedings are due to be printed in a volume entitled 'Popular Music Perspectives 3'. The EC has had some difficulty, however, in deciphering the current position regarding the volume, although recent information suggests that it is with the printer.

At the last General Meeting it was agreed that attempts should be made to publish internally all the papers from the 1993 Stockton conference in a volume that would be circulated to all IASPM members. Will Straw has collected about 50 papers and has begun editing them. He has also been in contact with various publishers to explore the possibility of producing a volume of selected papers.

The EC proposes that in the future IASPM should no longer be responsible for editing or publishing conference papers. Instead, all efforts should be made to encourage publication of the papers elsewhere, and formal abstracts of papers should be published in a conference programme distributed to all IASPM members.

IASPM HOUSE JOURNAL

Following the Berlin conference in 1991 outstanding copies of the last issue of Worldbeat were distributed to individual IASPM members. Since then the possibility of linking up with a publisher to produce the journal has been explored. Negotiations have taken place with various publishers but IASPM's membership is not large enough to secure a contract and the emphasis on incorporating different languages in the journal also proved problematic.

Consequently, the Executive Committee has spent the past two years exploring alternative means of distributing information and articles.

NETWORK OF EXISTING POPULAR MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

The number of popular music journals has increased over recent years. New journals include Perfect Beat in Australia, and the Journal of Popular Music Studies in the US. The 1991 - 1993 EC discussed the possibility of setting up a network of existing publications whereby they could be ex-

changed or circulated to IASPM members. This initiative has been overshadowed, however, by the development of IASPM networks via electronic mail.

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Since he joined the EC in 1991 Steve Jones has worked on establishing a Bulletin Board System for IASPM, a mail reflector that distributes mail to those who subscribe to it.

Last year the IASPM Bulletin Board System was officially established and all IASPM members can now subscribe. Messages go to IASPM-list@dylan.cir.utulsa.edu and are then forwarded to others on the network. Use of the network is restricted to IASPM members for the time being.

The Service has proved extremely valuable. It is being used, for example, to request information, to discuss particular issues, to provide information on IASPM events and on IASPM members and their research interests and publications. (Networking between IASPM members is of course vital if IASPM members without Email access are to benefit from this Service.)

Even though he will not sit on the 1995 Executive Committee Steve will continue to act as IASPM's electronic networking advisor. He is developing an electronic archive for IASPM which could eventually be set up as a gopher or other site. IASPM materials (RPM and other publications, minutes, conference programmes, etc.) can be stored in the archive (such materials are currently being collected.) The EC is extremely grateful to Steve for offering to do this, and we would like to thank and congratulate him and his colleagues at the University of Tulsa for setting up this Service.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

So far, the following people have been nominated to sit on the next Executive Committee:

- Toru Mitsui (Chair, Japan)
- Ales Opekar (General Secretary, Czech Republic)
- Tony Mitchell (Treasurer/Membership Secretary, New Zealand)
- Helmi Järviluoma (Publications Officer, Finland)
- Will Straw (Member at Large, Canada)

Please send other nominations to the EC as soon as possible. All nominations should ideally be received two months before the next General Meeting which will be held in Glasgow during the first week of July, 1995.

IASPM 1994 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached is a consolidated report of IASPM's financial status for 1994.

Communication with branch treasurers has been better than in the past, though I am afraid some of that is due to using "strong-arm" tactics, such as threats of withholding RPM mailings, conference registrations, and the like. In general, IASPM continues to struggle with prompt dues payments from branch treasurers and timely reports of up-to-date member information from branch secretaries.

IASPM has 493 members in 1993. This compares to 460 members in 1992- Please note that branches and members in non-IMF countries do not pay dues to the international.

(See table below)

Of the current balance available a significant portion is being held in reserve for potential use in conjunction with the 1995 Glasgow conference. Since 1994 dues payments are to come to the international on or before April 1, 1995, I am confident that, should we be able to maintain membership numbers for 1994 similar to those we had in 1993, that we will have an inflow of approximately \$4,500.00 to the treasury, and thus I believe IASPM's finances are quite robust.

However, IASPM's cost of delivering Services to members continues to increase. Our largest expense at present is for RPM, and that cost will rise in the future. Similarly travel expenses related to the biennial international meetings mount, particularly as IASPM seeks diverse geographic representation. Additionally the publication of proceedings and other items which add value to membership will tax the treasury.

Consequently, I propose at the Glasgow meeting that membership dues increase for 1996 membership as follows:

	CURRENT	1996
Supporting membership	\$50	\$500
Institutional membership	\$50	\$ 1 00
Individual membership	\$16	\$25
Unwaged/student membership	\$8	\$14

I also propose those holding the office again of treasurer in future consider a dues increase at each biennial meeting to at least match inflationary increases in the cost of providing service to members.

Should the membership decide at the Glasgow meeting, however, to alter the structure of IASPM, the dues structure should be again examined to ensure its compatibility with the association's structure and aims.

Publication of the IASPM membership list in RPM is in process. I have received updated membership lists using a new membership form from several branches, However, again several branches have been unresponsive. Consequently, the membership list will be incomplete. I am pleased to report the Italian branch is revitalized.

Problems continue with the German branch of IASPM, though of what sort is never quite made clear to me. The German association ASPM is apparently taking the German branch of IASPM to court, though I remain uncertain as to the nature of the dispute. At present the German IASPM branch has but five members, reflecting the dispute between ASPM and IASPM/Germany. Perhaps someone from Germany can make this fiasco intelligible to me, though at least a couple have tried without success.

Report created on January 11, 1995
and respectfully submitted to the IASPM Membership by

Steve Jones
IASPM Membership Secretary/Treasurer

Cash Flow Report

1/ 1/94 Through 12/3 1/94

(All figures in \$US]

IASPM-IASPM Intl. 1 / 11 /95

Category Description 01/ 01/94 - 12/31 /94

INFLOWS

Brunch Dues		4,726.68
Individual Dues		128.00
Institutional Dues		50.00
Interest Income		138.70
Miscellaneous		439.14
TOTAL INFLOWS		5,482.52

OUTFLOWS

Bank Fees		442.00
Miscellaneous		100.00
Office Expenses		599.49
RPM Expenses		
Printing RPM	789.78	
RPM Expenses – Other	1,819.66	
Total RPM Expenses		2,609.44
Travel Expenses		2,271 .68
TOTAL OUTFLOWS		6,022.61

OVERALL TOTAL - 540.09

CURRENT BALANCE AVAILABLE 5,609.80