

Report of the  
**IASPM Executive Committee**  
in preparation of the General Meeting in Turku (July 9, 2001)

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***Dear IASPM members,***

as we proceed with the voluminous last minute preparations for the 20th anniversary conference in Turku, this Executive Committee has much to report. We have attempted several initiatives with various levels of success, all of which will be discussed at the General Meeting in Turku. Here I want to outline them for you, so that you all have time to think about the various questions before the meeting.

**Book Award**

This project has been under discussion for quite some time. After the Sydney meeting, a committee was constituted consisting of Lutgard Mutsaers, Shuhei Hosokawa, Juan-Pablo Gonzalez, Antoine Hennion, and Claire Levy (EC Liaison). That committee has developed an excellent proposal—a biannual award be given to the best first book in English, and that any non-English language branch that wishes to run a competition may award the IASPM Best Book in (specific language) prize. In this way, the international imprimatur is given to books in many languages, but we do not face the problem of constituting a committee that can read all languages. This proposal will be open for discussion and put to a vote in Turku—all comments prior to that are welcome and may be addressed to **Claire Levy** (levy@bgcict.acad.bg) or myself (kassabian@worldnet.att.net).

**Funding**

This is one of several committees over the years that have considered the problem of funding participants who cannot find travel funding. The issue was raised by Malka Shabtay in an e-mail to the EC, and in response we asked Malka Shabtay, Juan-Pablo Gonzalez, Chris Ballantine, Phil Heyward, Johannes Brusila, and Larry Witzleben (with Claire Levy again serving as EC liaison) to form a committee to explore funding possibilities. No funds were forthcoming from this work. As has been the case in the past, the EC has been able to use some funds to assist members on an ad-hoc basis. We have prioritized members from underrepresented regions where funding is more difficult to find. In conjunction with the membership restructuring we are proposing, we will also propose a regularization of the application process for the limited and unpredictable funds IASPM can make available.

**Publications**

Under Sheila Whiteley's guidance, many possibilities for IASPM book publications have been explored. It was determined that a book series is not currently feasible, although that possibility will continue to be examined further. At this point, Sheila has organized a team of editors — herself, Dave Laing, Andy Bennett, Will Straw — to put together a collection of important essays based on papers from Sydney and Kanazawa. As this project proceeds, we expect to learn more about how to plan such publications in the future.

**Conference Proceedings**

Rebecca Leydon has generously agreed to edit the proceedings from Turku. Presenters, please be certain to send her copies of your papers in RTF format; details available at the conference. Although we have not yet finalized production funding, we hope to be able to follow Tony Mitchell's example and make the proceedings available in a timely fashion.

**Membership restructuring**

Earlier this spring, we sent out an e-mail explaining the proposal and pointing you to a web page <<http://www.iaspm.net/rpm/synopsis.html>> that details the formal language. In designing this proposal, we considered a number of factors. We chose to maintain the discounted rate for students and unwaged members, and we used the World Bank GNP and UN data tables to develop a three-tiered system of national payments from high, middle, and low income countries. We all believe, after much research and discussion, that this is a fair and just distribution of economic responsibility. Please consider this proposal carefully and generously.

### **Archive**

The Executive Committee decided at its fall 2000 meeting that IASPM's 20th anniversary really points out the need for an archive. Such an archive would include all international materials, publications, photos and videos, as well as branch newsletters, conference programs, publications, etc. After much discussion, we have reached a preliminary agreement with IPM in Liverpool to house and catalogue the organization's record. We are all very excited about this tentative arrangement, and IPM and IASPM will jointly seek funding for a graduate student to catalogue materials as they begin to accrue. One significant problem for IPM is storage space. The EC will report on this project ongoingly as it proceeds.

### **Next conference site**

We have spoken with many different branches about the possibility of hosting the 2003 conference, and our future is certainly filled with great travel plans. The branches who have expressed interest in hosting the 2003 conference are Canada (Montreal) and Italy (Rome). Each has obvious attractions. Please wait to hear the branch proposals at the meeting in Turku, and keep in mind that a Canadian conference would make Latin American and Pacific Rim participation much more feasible, while an Italian site is much more inviting to Eastern European members.

### **Executive Committee nominations**

Several members of the current executive committee are prepared to stand for re-election, while others are stepping down. We currently have a nominee for each position, as listed below, and we believe that each nominee is willing to commit the time and energy that EC service demands. Nominations are, however, still open and volunteers are most certainly welcome!

Current nominees are:

**Chair:** Anahid Kassabian (USA)

**General Secretary:** Claire Levy (Bulgaria)

**Membership Secretary/Treasurer:** Marion Leonard (UK)

**RPM/Web:** Jan Hemming (Germany)

**Publications:** Sheila Whiteley (UK)

**Member-at-Large:** Shuhei Hosokawa (Japan)

I would like to thank outgoing EC member Keith Harris for his stalwart duty as Membership Secretary/Treasurer and Heinz-Peter Katlewski for his stellar two-term performance as editor of RPM and Web Builder/Manager. IASPM is indebted to each of them for their generous service.

As we prepare to celebrate IASPM's 20th anniversary, I hope all members can take a moment to consider what a gift the organization's founders gave all of us. While many of us cannot participate in every international conference, and some of us have not yet found funding to attend, I urge all of you to make it a priority in your planning for the next two years. We all benefit in our writing, teaching, and music-making from the international influences and insights that participants bring home from IASPM conferences. I am convinced that nothing in our various professions is more important than the networks IASPM offers.

I look forward to seeing you in Turku!

Warm regards,

**Anahid Kassabian**, Chair of IASPM -  
The International Association for the Study of Popular Music  
(Email: [kassabian@worldnet.att.net](mailto:kassabian@worldnet.att.net))

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- For further information on IASPM visit our website: <http://www.iaspm.net>
  - For Details on the 11<sup>th</sup> Biannual IASPM Conference in Turku/Finland (July 6-10, 2001) and registration form, go: <http://www.iaspm.net/2001>