

XII IASPM General Meeting Minutes—Montreal, Canada, July 6, 2003

Introduction

The IASPM matters for the period of 2001-2003 were presented by the current Executive Committee, elected at the XI General Meeting (held in Turku, Finland, July 9, 2003)

Anahid Kassabian—Chair

Claire Levy – General Secretary

Marion Leonard -- Membership Secretary/Treasurer

Jan Hemming – RPM/Web

Sheila Whitely – Publications

Shuhei Hosokawa – Member-at-large

I. Call to order

A. Election of Meeting Chair

Anahid Kassabian was unanimously elected as Chair of the meeting (first proposal by Tony Mitchell, seconded by X).

B. Approval of the Agenda

After X's proposal, seconded by X, the agenda was formally approved.

C. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the previous General Meeting held in Turku, Finland, July 9, 2001, were unanimously approved after Philip Tagg's proposal, seconded by Tony Mitchell.

D. Election of Auditors

Matthew Stahl and Tony Mitchell were elected as auditors of treasurer's report.

E. Election of Ballot Counters

Russell Reising and Barry Salmon were elected as ballot counters.

II. Reports

A. Chair's Report

The Chair said the EC is very pleased that this conference is unprecedentedly large, which indicates the development of popular music studies in general. She also underlined that the "community" feeling characteristic to the earlier conferences had fortunately prevailed in Montreal despite the size. She addressed deep acknowledgement to the convener Geoff Stahl and the staff behind the stage and the floor responded her with ovation.

B. Membership Secretary and Treasurer's Report

Marion Leonard summed up the Report. Moti Regev corrected the misspelling.

C. Web/RPM Report

Jan Hemming reported the publication of RPM No. 30 in the early 2002 and No. 31/32 in April 2003. He noted that about 150 copies of the No. 31/32 were mailed to Latin America. He also spoke of the difficulty of editing and mailing the previous RPM issues. One of the reasons is related to the incompatible template he had taken over from Heinz-Peter Katlewski, the former RPM editor. Another problem came from the difficulty of locating the update address of each member. Because of the increase in printing and mailing cost, he suggested the availability of RPM publication on Website. He also urged the next EC to invest in hiring the professional Webmaster and designer for the more sophisticated outlook and function. He underlined the necessity of centralized database of memberships for the efficient management.

Serge Lacasse suggested to make a questionnaire about which format of RPM the members prefer, paper version or Website one. A member asked if the pdf file was practical for the online version.

D. Publications Report

Sheila Whitely remarked the possibility of publishing a series on popular music studies by such publishers as Ashgate. The first of the series, *Music, Space and Place* is to be published in fall 2003, that will be followed by *Queering the Scream*, and *Music and Moving Images*.

E. Auditor's Report

Matthew Stahl put a few questions on the dollar-pound structure and Marion Leonard answered him that it allows the international and British transactions more smoothly. All reports were unanimously adopted.

III. Discussion of New Conference Format

In order to feature the specific subjects and areas of discussion, the EC applied the "stream" structure in this Montreal Conference instead of the "day" structure as had been applied before. This trial was generally affirmed by the floor but some complained the incongruence that had took place in some sessions and the inaccurate title that did not always reflect the contents of papers presented. Philip Tagg and Tony Mitchell were uncomfortable with the "ghettoized" sessions, or the sessions based on region and/or ethnic group. Shuhei Hosokawa defended his idea

of those “area” and “ethnic” sessions could pull the scholars and audience with shared interest. Anahid Kassabian and Geoff Stahl explained how the successive dropouts had made the programming difficult. Jan Hemming suggested the more flexibility of size of each stream according to the popularity of subject. Then, the two deficiencies of program were mentioned. One, all the parallel events should be printed in the same page in order to miss the information printed in the next page. Two, one has to use the easy-to-read font. Whether the gap of the absentee should be filled by the following speaker or kept void is another issue to be discussed in the next EC. A speaker proposed a simple solution: to put “Change of today” announcement for the last-minute modifications in the lobby.

IV. Conference Proceedings

Geoff Stahl, the convener of this conference, explained the long debate over the format: paper publication vs. virtual one. He spoke on the tremendous cost and size of printing multiple volumes of over 240 papers. Tony Mitchell added how editing such a voluminous work (especially correcting English) was painful. One speaker mentioned that some may undervalue the online publications and that some journals tended to reject a paper whose fragment had been previously published online. An American member worried that the virtual publication is tended to be disrespected in academia. But the general participants understand the financial difficulty to edit the paper publication of our conference. A speaker proposed the CD-ROM publication with audio and visual examples but the Chair replied her that clearing the copyright is insurmountable for us. At last Geoff Stahl’s proposal of the CD-ROM and PDF format publications were approved.

V. Archive and Permanent Office

The Chair remarked that Institute of Popular Music, University of Liverpool, had been ready to receive the materials concerning the IASPM and its branches. She encouraged the branches to send their historical sources to Liverpool.

VI. Funding

The Chair announced that our Association succeeded in waiving the registration of all the attendees from middle- and low-income countries as well as in funding the participation of three members from middle- and low-income countries in this conference through a formal, open application process (there were seven candidates and three of them could attend to the conference). She also opened her

hope to continue these two supportive programs for the future conferences and it was unanimously applauded.

VII. Membership Fees

The Chair proposed the augmentation of membership fee from 16 US dollars to 20 (individual membership in the high-income countries) and from 8 US dollars to 10 (student membership in the high-income countries and individual one in the middle- and low-income countries) for the reason of funding the travel of members from middle- and low-income countries to the site of international conference. Her proposal was motioned by Barry Salmon and seconded by Serge Lacasse. It is also decided that this modification will be validated from the fees of 2004, or the fees to be collected in 2005.

The discussion then moved to the legitimacy of “Institutional membership.” In British understanding, this means that all the affiliated to the institution that holds this membership (including students) have automatically right to participate in the events the IASPM organizes. The American branch, by contrast, interprets the system more as a financial support by the entities related with popular music studies (for example, publishers, libraries, universities) than as a benefit for the individuals. The discussion went on whether the Institutional membership is beneficial or detrimental in terms of financial structure of the IASPM. One speaker proposed the elimination of the category of Institutional membership. Because this issue requires the change of Statutes, however, the General Meeting could not make it a motion. Yet it is agreed that the discussion would be reprised in the next General Meeting.

VIII. Student Participation

The previous General Meeting in Turku raised a question concerning the ways for graduate students to be included as frequently and widely as possible in any of the IASPM business matters. This time the Chair proposed an option that a student of the host country of the biennial conference should join in the “ex-officio” member of the EC (just as Francesco D’Amato does for the Italian branch). There were several questions concerning the capacity and function of “ex-officio.” The proposal was motioned by X, seconded by Y.

IX. Book Awards

The first IASPM Book Awards were announced by the Book Awards Committee

Tony Mitchell, Line Grenier and Lutgard Mutsaers. The two books of Special Mention were Jeroen De Kloet, *Red Sonic Trajectories: Popular Music and Youth in Urban China* (Amsterdam School for Social Research, 2001) and Lise Waxer, *The City of Musical Memory: Salsa, Record Grooves and popular Culture in Cali, Colombia* (Wesleyan University Press, 2002). Tony Mitchell explained that the former opened a new territory in popular music studies while the latter, a superb ethnography on salsa, was also a commemoration for the author who had passed away in 2002. The book awarded is Regina Sweeney's *Singing Our Way to Victory: French Cultural Politics and Music during the Great War* (Wesleyan University Press, 2001). Line Grenier, representing the Committee, admired the nicely-written style with surprising details. They were celebrated unanimously. The Chair then raised a question about whether the non-members of the IASPM were eligible for the Awards. Val Morrison mentioned the difficulty of tracking down the membership of authors and Steve Waksman, with a hope of the recognition of the IASPM by the publishers, underlined that the awarded non-members would know at least the existence of our Association. Bruce Johnson added the democratic principle of academic criteria and that the IASPM should be generous to the non-members as far as they greatly contributed to the scholarship. The eligibility of non-members was formally supported.

X. Branches

Héctor Fouce proclaimed the establishment of Spanish branch in 1997 that had already over thirty members and was to set up their Website soon. The Chair followed the first Spanish representative who had attended to our General Meeting to say that the transatlantic Francophone branch was discussed among some members. Both statements were welcomed unanimously.

XI. Next Conference Site

The chair presented the only candidate for the next conference site: Italy. On behalf of the Italian branch, Francesco D'Amato explained the two cities competing for the site, Rome and Milan, and the former would be more plausible because of the possible support of Università di Roma Sapienza. Though Milan was not completely discarded, he underlined the merit of Rome as a site for our conference such as the city's history as a center for broadcasting, mass media, and film industry. He also wished that the international conference would stimulate popular music studies in Rome and Italy. English and Italian were proposed to be

the official languages and the possibility of simultaneous translation in some rooms was clarified. Due to the schedule of semester of the Sapienza, D'Amato added, the second half of July would be expected to be the date. A speaker worried about the difficulty of accommodation in the touristic season. Reebee Garofalo suggested the possibility of virtual conference for those who could not go to Rome. The motion for Rome as a next conference site was proposed by X and seconded by Paul Friedlander.

XII. Discussion Groups

A. Gender. Anahid Kassabian announced the listserv group of "Gender and Popular Music," run by Vanessa Knights.

B. Africa. The Ghanaian member Klevor Abo once proposed the EC to set up a discussion group on Africa, the third world, and the popular music studies during the Montreal conference. Unfortunately he could not participate in the conference. Therefore we were forced to leave this agenda over.

C. Others. There were no proposals of setting up other discussion groups.

XIII. Elections

The Chair apologized that the EC had forgotten submitting the list of nominees as is prescribed in the Statutes. Instead, she called the name of nominees. Three of the existing members were nominated for re-election and unanimously re-elected. Geoff Stahl was nominated as RPM /Webmaster and unanimously elected. There were two candidates for member-at-large, Franco Fabbri and Michael Drewett. None of them were present at the election. Fabbri, one of the co-founders of the IASPM, was nominated mainly for the smooth organization of next conference, while Drewett for his long commitment to the IASPM in South Africa, where we have only a few members. Steve Waksman emphasized the political position of Drewett and the merit of having an EC member in Africa. Philip Tagg, in turn, mentioned the contribution of Fabbri to the IASPM as a non-academic yet powerful lecturer, broadcaster and critic and Francesco D'Amato added to him saying Fabbri's strong human connection and influence out of academia. A speaker wondered the economic consequence of election, considering the travel expense of EC member to the biennial conference. The result of voting was 33 for Fabbri and 21 for Drewett, with 14 obstinated. Fabbri was elected. As a result, the new Executive Committee is comprised of the following members:

Chair: Claire Levy (Bulgaria)

General Secretary: Shuhei Hosokawa (Japan)

Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Marion Leonard (UK)

RPM/Web: Geoff Stahl (Canada)

Member-at-large: Franco Fabbri (Italy)

XIV. New Business

A student proposed the necessity of tutorship during the conference for those who had little acquaintance with the members. The Chair answered that the next EC would continue discussing this issue.

XV. Close of Meeting

Line Grenier addressed acknowledgements to the outgoing EC members Sheila Whitely, Jan Hemming and Anahid Kassabian for their dedication to the IASPM. All the other EC members and the participants, in turn, applauded fervently.

The closing of meeting was motioned by Serge Lacasse and seconded by Russell Reising.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Shuhei Hosokawa

General Secretary