

# Rome Minutes

## **IASPM General Meeting Minutes Rome, Italy, 29 July 2005**

### **Introduction**

The IASPM matters for the period of 2003-2005 were presented by the current Executive Committee, elected at the XII General Meeting (held in Montreal, Canada, 6 July 2003)

- Claire Levy: Chair
- Shuhei Hosokawa: General Secretary
- Marion Leonard: Membership Secretary/Treasurer
- Geoff Stahl: RPM/Web
- Franco Fabbri: Member-at-large

### **I. Call to Order**

#### *A. Election of Meeting Chair*

Claire Levy was unanimously elected as Chair of the meeting after Russell Reising's proposal, seconded by Rob Bowman.

#### *B. Approval of the Agenda*

The agenda was formally approved.

#### *C. Approval of the Minutes (Montreal)*

The Minutes of the previous General Meeting held in Montreal in Montreal, Canada, 6 July, 2001, published in RPM33/34 and on IASPM Website, were unanimously approved.

#### *D. Election of Auditors*

Russell Reising and Giulia Baldi were elected as auditors of treasurer's report.

#### *E. Election of Ballot Counters*

Joshua Schmidt and Jean Dickson were elected as ballot counters.

### **II. Reports**

#### *A. Chair's Report*

Claire Levy reported that much of the Executive Committee work during the last mandate has been focused on the aim at developing what has been achieved in terms of the best IASPM traditions, and also on the aim at facing some recent intellectual concerns in relation to the issue of Anglophonic domination in popular

music studies. This concern was taken into account while working on several projects: the profile of Rome conference in terms of the subject orientation, funding of participants, exploration of favourable possibilities for next conference site, and also search of appropriate nominees for the next EC who can serve the continuity of IASPM as an international and interdisciplinary body. She was pleased to assume that – having in mind the size and the scope of the Rome conference – at present IASPM enjoys pretty good perspectives, not only in terms of just growing figures, but also in terms of involving in a more active way new members from different parts of the world. She pointed out that, for instance, while participants from Korea used to look like rather an exotic appendix to the traditional IASPM body, now we welcome a brand new IASPM branch found in Korea. She welcomed as well the re-union of the Francophone branch, and noted that unlike previous international IASPM conferences, Rome is well attended by members from Spain, Latin America, and – certainly – from Italy. Emphasizing on the fact that the big size of the Rome conference did not spoil one of the best IASPM traditions – the notion of “community” – Claire Levy addressed deepest thanks to the executive-officio Francesco D’Amato and all other local organizers behind the stage. She also thanked Marion Leonard, Shuhei Hosokawa, Franco Fabbri, and Geoff Stahl, for their devotion and energy, employed in the work of the Executive Committee over the last two years.

#### *B. Membership Secretary/Treasurer’s Report*

Geoff Stahl read the report of Marion Leonard (absentee, to be posted shortly). A Spanish member corrected the number of membership of her branch: not 11 but 38. Listing the names of members on Website in order to confirm the membership was proposed, but Stahl responded that such a measure will need deliberate consideration because of privacy. [IASPM Treasurer/Membership Secretary’s Report 2005](#)

#### *C. Web/RPM Report*

Geoff Stahl asked whether the coming RPM could be published only on Web for waiving the expense and manual work necessary for the postage. Pascal Bujold proposed the postage of hardcopy on demand but another was afraid that in some areas the post service is unreliable. Ideas that the branch posts the hardcopy when necessary and that only the institute members receive it for archival use were also proposed. Stahl mentioned that the costs for postage of RPM (about 900 pounds) could be used for funding the participants of conference from middle- and low-income countries. Another advised the lessening of bites for the convenience of narrowband users. That RPM will be published only on Website was motioned by David Schumway and agreed by majority (two negative votes). However, they added, the postage by branch office is not prohibited and the publication of RPM should be announced on Web list.

#### *D. IASPM Publications*

Franco Fabbri reported substituting for Sheila Whiteley, who is responsible for the IASPM Publication Series, that the first of its series, *Music, Space and Place: Popular Music and Cultural Identity* (Ashgate) was a success, and is going to be published in softback as well; that it be followed by *Queering the Popular Pitch*, with 18 contributors, edited by Whiteley and Rycenga, due for delivery to the publisher (Routledge) on July 31st. Franco Fabbri transmitted Whiteley’s message that she would continue working for the series, possibly with the assistance of an experienced co-editor, and encourage new projects by the members. Franco Fabbri invited Geoff Stahl to report about ongoing discussions about the third

book in the series, and a proposal to initiate a new series on popular music, popular culture and gender, probably with an anthology of key contemporary articles, maybe in the form of a dialog between writers.

### **III. Discussion of the Conference Format**

Shuhei Hosokawa explained how the programming had been made and how the successive dropouts had forced the EC to modify continuously the title and date of sessions till the last moment. He suggested that the announcement of tentative program on Website may stimulate the motivation among the participants but simultaneously increase the confusion. His alternatives are the non-announcement prior to the conference and the partial announcement of title and speaker without date and time slot. No particular discussion followed it.

The "stream" structure of this Rome Conference was generally accepted yet the more clarity of the nature of each stream and the more strict and punctual procedure were wanted. For example, the absentee's time slot should not be filled with the following speaker but left vacant. One remarked that the moderator should keep the time more rigorously and the Plenary Sessions should not be held consecutively in two days but each day. The sudden rescheduling disappointed some participants. Some complained the six-day long size of this Conference and proposed to respect the habitual five-day frame. Some wondered about the ratio of the proposed papers to the accepted ones, whereas others missed the publication room, the excursion, evening activity, and the presentation of host country's popular music in this Conference. Technical problems with DVD player and Power Point irritated some participants. For these claims, Franco Fabbri explained the logistic unavailability in the University of Rome which prevented the smooth scheduling. The EC recommended the next EC to realize the uniform and efficient session format.

### **IV. Discussion of the Conference Timing**

The EC received a message from the member that he had preferred spring or fall to July as conference timing because of high-priced air ticket and accommodation. After discussing alternatives, the participants expressed that July is the most acceptable timing for holding IASPM international conferences.

### **V. Conference Proceedings**

Geoff Stahl apologized the delay of publication of the Montreal Proceedings (only on CD-ROM) and urged the members to collaborate with him for the prompt publication of Rome Proceedings. Rome Proceedings will be published in January 2006.

### **VI. Funding**

Claire Levy reported that IASPM managed to apply in Rome the already established policy in waiving the registration fee for all conference attendees from middle- and low-income countries, and a number of participants from these countries have been supported with travel grants for the Rome conference through a formal, open application process. She also expressed a hope that in the future more flexible possibilities will be found for supporting students and other members from high-income countries as well.

### **VII. New Branches**

Hyunjoon Shin proclaimed the establishment of Korean Branch last June and promised to expand it despite the economic hardship. Following him, Christoph Pirenne announced the establishment of Francophone Branch. Both statements were welcomed unanimously.

### **VIII. Book Award**

Franco Fabbri, the liaison with the Book Award Committee (Toru Mitsui, Sheila Whiteley, Peter Wicke), announced the following publications as awarded: 2005 Iaspm Book Award, Joseph G. Schloss, (2004) *Making Beats. The art of sample-based Hip Hop*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press (in the words of the jurors: "...an exemplary text. It complements other established works in the field [...] and provides a thoughtful discussion of the historical developments that led to current hip-hop sampling practice and the processes by which individuals become hip-hop producers"; "...breaks new ground in the study of hip-hop, through focusing on hip-hop composers who use digital sampling, and dealing with hip-hop's musical process and non-vocal aspects seriously for the first time" ); Special Mention, Rehan Hyder, *Brimful of Asia. Negotiating Ethnicity on the UK Music Scene*. Aldershot: Ashgate ("...an absolutely fascinating book, well-written and well-referenced to writers in the field – not simply the UK. The first section alone provides some essential thinking about identity politics that would be useful to anyone studying ethnicities").

### **IX. Discussion on Voting Procedure**

Geoff Stahl opened up the discussion on electronic voting. Due to the expanding membership of the IASPM and the difficulty of attending the General Meeting for many members, the EC proposed the electric voting for the more democratic decision making. According to Stahl, electronic voting is interpreted as an extension of proxy in the present Statute and the first step is to redefine the notion of proxy in the Statute. Anahid Kassabian and David Schumway claimed that the proxy can usually represent individuals, not collectives. Otherwise, one vote becomes too potential for a democratic organization like ours. Bruce Johnson motioned the reconsideration of proxy and electronic voting by the next EC and seconded by Tony Mitchell. The Chair asked the next EC to work on this matter.

### **X. Next Conference Site**

The Chair presented two candidates for the next conference site: South Africa and Mexico. Michael Drewett maintained the significance and feasibility of organizing an IASPM conference in South Africa despite the small number of local members. In turn, Julia Palacios, on behalf of the Latin America Branch, underlined that they proposed the candidature since 1995 and that the branch has over 200 members. She mentioned her Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, hosted the branch meet in 2002, gathering 120 participants. Before the voting, a participant asked if the failed could be de facto site of the 2009 conference as Italy had been in the voting of conference site in Turku conference. There was no clear answer to it because of Michael Drewett's vague disposition in the future. The result of voting is 96 votes for Mexico and 36 for South Africa. Julia Palacios thanked the applauding participants.

### **XI. Elections**

The Chair announced the names of nominees. The Chair is substituted for by Franco Fabbri, while the seat of General Secretary by Shane Homan. Marion Leonard steps down and Michael Drewett replaces her for the Membership

Secretary/Treasurer. Geoff Stahl continues to be the RPM/Web secretary in his second term. The Member-at-large has three candidates: Martha Tupinambá de Uihôa, Vanessa Knights (absentee) and Rajko Mursi?. After the Chair's brief description of each of them, the participants voted. The result was 93 for Tupinambá de Uihôa, 16 for Knights and 19 for Mursi?. Mártha Uihôa Tupinambá was applauded unanimously. As a result, the new Executive Committee is comprised of the following members:

- Chair: Franco Fabbri (Italy)
- General Secretary: Shane Homan (Australia)
- Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Drewett (South Africa)
- RPM/Web: Geoff Stahl (New Zealand)
- Member-at-large: Martha Uihôa Tupinambá (Brazil)

## **XII. New Business**

None of the new issues were raised. The closing of meeting was accepted. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Minutes taken by Shuhei Hosokawa