

**Minutes of the Society for Music Theory
Business Meeting: October 31, 2015, St. Louis, MO**

1. Call to Order (President Poundie Burstein)

Poundie called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm (after providing opportunity for Philip Duker, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, to present tote bag awards).

Poundie began the meeting by reading aloud the Society's Mission Statement.

2. Secretary's Report (Secretary Stanley Kleppinger)

Stan called for the approval of the minutes from the 2014 Business Meeting in Milwaukee (posted on SMT's web site and shared via [smt-announce](#)); they were approved.

Stan provided a summary of the Executive Board's activities over the last year, noting that the language of all motions passed by the Board are available online. This year the Executive Board passed various motions, including those that fine-tuned SMT's Governance Guidelines, increased the allotment for subventions, supported the SMT archives; clarified our conference hotel interview policy; and established two ad hoc committees: one devoted to increasing membership numbers, and the other to investigating possible additions to our Publication Awards.

3. Election Report (Henry Klumpenhower)

Henry reported that, as a result of the May election, our new Vice-President would be Daphne Leong and our two new Members-at-Large to the Executive Board would be Catherine Losada and Deborah Rifkin.

4. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Jan Miyake)

Jan noted that the complete printed Treasurer's Report was available online. This year, we made history as our endowment reached the threshold required to begin annual payouts to support Society activities—our \$200,000 endowment will generate \$4000 for use. More immediately, SMT-40 has enabled us to improve support of subventions, conference access for unsupported scholars, and conference streaming.

Jan noted that our ACLS membership dues have increased because our membership has grown, placing us in a new dues category with that society. She also pointed out the projected deficit in the budget, explaining that this not a problem because we don't see conference income in budget years that we meet jointly with AMS (whereas we receive double conference income in other years, making up the difference).

Jan closed by thanking her predecessor, Eric Isaacson, as well as Poundie and Vicky Long.

5. In Memoriam (President Burstein)

Poundie eulogized members of our Society and discipline whom we have lost over the last year, including Brian Fennelly, Deron McGee, Roland Jackson, Charlotte Reed Smith, Anne Trenkamp.

6. Vice-President's Report (Vice-President Michael Buchler)

Michael reported that he had been meeting with and being impressed by all our Interest Groups, but also expressed concern about sustaining more Interest Groups because of space and scheduling at conferences—diversity without dilution is the goal.

He then reported on the Society's subventions. Michael noted that it is a perennial difficulty to know how much money to save from January round of applications for use in the July round. The Subventions Committee chose this year to spend nearly the entire budget in the January round and then asked the Executive Board to add \$1500 to the budget for July, which it did. The entire subvention budget for next year has been increased to \$9000. Michael pointed out that subventions helped fund international workshops, representation of SMT by our CSW leadership at an international conference, travel for dissertation research, and other work by junior and mid-career scholars, in addition to typesetting books by senior scholars.

Michael thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as its Vice-President.

7. Standing Committee Reports

a. 2015 Program Committee (Joti Rockwell, Chair)

Joti reported more submissions than ever before (again!), and that it is thus becoming increasingly difficult to program this conference. 680 members registered for the conference—our largest ever. The Program Committee entertained 409 distinct proposals; 121 were accepted (30%). Among the proposals submitted, 70% of authors self-identified as men, 76% as white, and 38% as graduate students. The most common keyword among submissions (besides *music* and *theory*) was *form*, followed by *analysis*. Twentieth-century topics, harmony, perception, and history also ranked highly. Joti reported many submissions proposed alternative formats (speed talks, discussions, etc.), which is exciting. He offered thanks to the members of the Program Committee and Networking Committee, Vicky, and Poundie for their guidance and support.

b. 2015 Committee on Workshop Programs (Julian Hook, Chair)

Jay began by noting that this is the tenth year of the Society's Graduate Student Workshop Program, and that about 275 students in total have participated in this program. He acknowledged Wayne Alpern, who was present, for conceiving and supporting this program in its first years.

This is the third year for the Peer Learning Program, which is directed toward scholars who have already earned doctoral degrees. The Committee sponsored two PLP and two GSWP workshops this year. There were 41 applicants for GSWP and 40 for PLP, about three quarters of those were accommodated. A few selected applicants withdrew from PLP workshops before they took place; Jay noted that this should be done early when possible (to increase chances of allowing an alternate to take advantage of the vacant seat in the workshop). Look for announcements of next year's workshops on the web site; Ian Quinn will chair this Committee next year.

Poundie again thanked Wayne for his support of the GSWP.

c. Local Arrangements (Victoria Long, Chair)

Vicky was not in attendance because she was, as Poundie reported, “locally arranging.” He thanked and lauded Vicky and noted that the membership owed her a debt of gratitude. There followed long applause for Vicky from the membership.

d. Publications Committee (Matthew Shaftel, Chair)

Jan Miyake delivered a report for Matt in absentia. Deep appreciation was expressed for editors and editorial boards of all our publications. Michael Cherlin and Mark Spicer were particularly lauded as their terms as editors of *Spectrum* end. Applause followed.

The past year has marked a transition to new editorial teams for *MTO* and *Spectrum*, the launch of SMT-V, and the close of our first season of partnership with Oxford University Press. The editorial boards of our publications have expanded, drawing in scholars from outside the more traditional ranks of music theory to help us broaden submissions and readership. We are experiencing a huge increase in institutional subscriptions to *Spectrum* from around the world. Gender diversity of our authorship has increased: 33 submissions to our journals came from women with 15 being accepted for publication, reflecting a near-doubling of those numbers from the previous year. Even so, we still need about 18–20 more submissions from women per year to reflect our membership’s demographics. Matt especially encouraged membership to get their new and diverse work into submission shape. He reported that the Committee is evaluating a new submission-management tool and virtual volumes for *Spectrum*. He offered thanks to Poundie for his visionary leadership over last two years, and the Society for the opportunity to chair this Committee. Applause ensued.

f. Networking Committee (Sean Atkinson, Chair)

Sean noted that the biggest shift in our deployment of online resources this year is the retirement of smt-talk. (Applause.) It has been replaced with SMT Discuss, a new online discussion platform.

Sean announced that a web site overhaul is in its very early stages; the changes will eventually include mobile-device friendliness.

Conference streaming and recording continues to grow in importance—there were over 390 views of live streams from the conference yesterday. Thanks to Jon Kochavi and the Accessibilities Committee for helping to make this happen. This year we also taped several sessions; those recordings should appear online shortly after the conclusion of the conference.

Sean described the in-house conference app built for this year’s event, which seems to be popular and successful. Thanks go to Michael McClimon, Tahirih Motazedian, and Brian Moseley for their work on this project. Applause.

Sean encouraged next year’s presenters to submit materials to be posted electronically prior to the meeting (73 items were posted in advance this year!), and to let the Committee know if there are other services it should be providing. Applause.

g. Professional Development Committee (Sam Ng, Chair)

Sam reminded the membership that the Committee was sponsoring two sessions set for the next morning: “Writing for Publications” and “Navigating Academia from Off-Center.”

Our Conference Guides Program served 12 new members this year. Sam offered thanks to everyone who offered to serve as a guide.

125 students appeared at the annual student breakfast. We also saw 40 participants in the CV review session. Sam thanked all the reviewers, including Lynne Rogers, who saw a need for more help as she walked by the session and saw the long lines!

Sam highlighted the new materials at the PDC’s web site from David Huron for young scholars working toward publication. Sam concluded by thanking the entire Committee for working so hard to make all these services available.

h. Accessibilities Committee (Jon Kochavi, Chair)

A survey on accessibility was sent to membership this year. The Committee was pleasantly surprised to get 68 responses. Overall, the Committee believes that awareness of accessibility issues is continuing to evolve. Jon encouraged conference speakers and chairs to become familiar with the Society’s accessibility guidelines prior to the conference.

Jon offered thanks to Sean Atkinson and the Networking Committee for help with live streaming. Four sessions were streamed live yesterday to 390 viewers, 167 of whom were unique. Jon also thanked Poundie, Vicky, and the Society for their support of this initiative in particular.

i. Committee on Diversity (Cynthia Gonzalez, Chair)

We had an abundance of applicants for travel grants this year. Cynthia recognized each of the recipients. Applause followed their introduction.

j. Committee on the Status of Women (Laurel Parsons, Chair)

Women now make up 32% of the Society, which is the highest ratio in history. 50% of leadership positions in SMT last year were filled by women. Record numbers of women are submitting work to journals, but more are needed. Laurel reported that 24 mentees took advantage of the proposal and article mentoring programs this year. Five of the proposals in question were accepted for this conference; others were successful at other conferences. Our article and situational mentoring programs are relatively underused thus far, and Laurel encouraged members to stay tuned for announcements about changes to these programs in the coming months. She gave thanks to Rachel Lumsden and to volunteers from the Society for their work in the CSW’s mentoring programs.

The CSW intends to resume the practice of sending advisory documents regarding inappropriate job interview questions to search committees after consultation with the Accessibilities Committees on Accessibilities, Professional Development, and Diversity, and the Queer Resource Interest Group.

Members of the CSW led a plenary session at the annual conference of the Society for Music Analysis at Keele: “Mind the Gap: Women in the Field of Music Analysis.” Laurel gave thanks for grants from SMT to support travel to this event.

Laurel offered thanks to Executive Board for its leadership and support during her tenure as Chair. Applause.

8. Old Business/New Business

Poundie elected to combine the report of the Development Committee with the Old Business/New Business portion of the agenda because of their interconnectedness.

SMT’s endowment passed a major milestone two weeks ago—reaching a point where it could begin to pay out to support Society initiatives—thanks in large part to SMT-40. Poundie took time to clarify the campaign and its future.

Unlike AMS, SAM, SEM, and other societies, most of our grants are funded by our operating budget rather than by donations or endowments. Because of contributions to SMT-40, we have already been able to increase the size and types of our grants and subventions, and SMT-40 has helped to make streaming of conference events possible.

Before last year, SMT had no endowment. Now we have \$210,000 in our endowment, allowing for our first payouts that can continue in perpetuity. Initiatives that can now be supported by the endowment include subventions, travel grants, conferences and workshops, and other types of scholarly projects that advance our discipline. Poundie made comparisons with AMS and SAM—our endowment is significantly smaller. But having an endowment established provides us with the new opportunity to approach foundations to seek additional grants to support our Society and field, and we intend to carefully lay plans toward this eventuality. More information about channeling future contributions to SMT-40 toward particular initiatives will be forthcoming. Poundie gave thanks to all to have contributed.

Poundie asked the membership to note that we have not raised dues in five years, and we have introduced subsidized rates. Now we have over 1300 members in good standing. Our conference rates haven’t changed since 2009, because we want to get as many people participating as possible. Poundie encouraged members who would be willing to pay more for membership or conference attendance to contribute that difference to SMT-40, noting that larger *numbers* of contributors from the Society will make it easier for us to approach foundations for grants in the future.

Poundie recognized Society members who were rotating off of the Executive Board and Committees. Applause followed.

Poundie offered thanks to former President Lynne Rodgers for her advice and guidance. Applause ensued.

9. Awards Committee Report/Awards Presentation (Steven Peles, Chair)

Steve offered thanks to the members of the Committee and to Poundie. He announced the winners of this year’s publication awards:

Wallace Berry Award: Jack Boss, *Schoenberg's Twelve-Tone Music: Symmetry and the Musical Idea* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

Emerging Scholar Award: Seth Monahan, "Action and Agency Revisited," *Journal of Music Theory* 57, no. 2 (2013).

Citation of Special Merit: *Oxford Handbook of Topic Theory*, ed. Danuta Mirka (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Outstanding Publication Award: Joseph Straus, "Harmony and Voice Leading in the Music of Stravinsky," *Music Theory Spectrum* 37, no. 2 (2013).

10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment (Burstein, President-Elect Dora Hanninen)

Poundie introduced and recognized our incoming President, Dora, and lauded her energies and expertise demonstrated in her research and previous service. Applause followed.

Dora offered thanks and expressed her honor at being elected. She thanked Poundie for his tremendous work as President, noting his vision, dedication, and care. Applause.

Dora pointed out that nominations for our next election are already open, and encouraged nominations for President-Elect and Members-at-Large of the Executive Board. She closed by reminding members that many would need passports to attend next year's meeting in Vancouver.

Dora adjourned the meeting at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Kleppinger

Secretary