

Minutes of the Society for Music Theory
Business Meeting: Saturday, November 2, 2013, Charlotte, NC

1. President Harald Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.
2. Secretary's Report (Stan Kleppinger)

Stan called for the approval of the minutes from the 2012 Business Meeting in New Orleans (posted on SMT's web site and shared via smt-announce); they were approved.

Stan read through the motions passed by the Executive Board since his last report in the August 2013 Newsletter, noting that this chronicle of the Board's activity would also be published in the February 2014 Newsletter.

He concluded his report with announcement of the results of the Society's May elections: our new Vice-President is Michael Buchler, and our new Executive Board Members-at-Large are Christoph Neidhöfer and Catherine Nolan. Harald thanked Stan for his work during his first year as the Society's Secretary.

3. Treasurer's Report (Eric Isaacson)

Eric began by reminding everyone of the recently-announced contest to design a new logo for SMT, with a \$500 prize for the selected logo.

Eric pointed out that in the even-numbered years when SMT meets with AMS, AMS processes all income and expenses for the meeting, but SMT does not receive its proceeds until the odd-numbered year. Income from SMT's solo meetings comes in during the same year as the meeting. Thus, in even-numbered years there is no income from an Annual Meeting on the books, but in the odd-numbered years there is income from two meetings—the joint meeting and the solo meeting. Since the 2012 financial report is from an even-numbered year, we passed a budget deficit for that year. The aim is to make sure we don't lose money of pairs of consecutive years.

Expenses for administration, publications, and the Program Committee were all under budget in 2012, contributing to overall expenses more than \$15,000 under budget. Our income exceeded expectations by nearly \$6000, thanks in large part to stronger membership income and better-than-budgeted returns from *Music Theory Spectrum*. Donations and a new investment account (open for the last two months of 2012) also contributed to a strong year. Our projected deficit of almost \$21,000 ended up being a modest surplus of about \$1400.

Eric called for approval of the 2012 Treasurer's report; it was approved.

Eric noted that, while numbers were still in flux in the middle of the conference, it appeared that 2013's expenses would be very close to those budgeted. Meanwhile, donations are significantly higher thanks to the first fruits of the quiet phase of the SMT-40 Campaign. Of special note is the income from the 2013 New Orleans conference, which netted \$40,000 more than budgeted. Income in 2013 from investments and membership continues to be strong.

The 2014 budget, approved by the Executive Board earlier in the week, includes a 3% cost-of-living increase for the Executive Director and funds to hire a student to assist the Executive Director in the ramp-up to the annual conference. This budget also features broader liability

insurance, additional funds for the Development Committee, and moneys to sponsor five conference workshops in 2014. Eric noted that the anticipated enthusiasm for the SMT-40 Campaign is not included in this 2014 budget, which shows a \$26,000 deficit. This still leaves the Society with a net surplus over a two-year period, which is the aim.

Eric concluded his report with notes about our growing savings and plans to manage them. Eighteen months' expenses would be reserved in our bank and investment accounts (six months' expenses in the bank; twelve months' in the investment account). Amounts in excess will be directed either to support specific programming of the Society or to a new endowment fund authorized by the Executive Board earlier this week.

Harald heartily thanked Eric for all his work for the Society and his leadership in managing our growing finances. Applause ensued.

4. Vice-President's Report (Janna Saslaw)
 - a. Liaison with Regional Societies and Interest Groups
 - b. Publication Subventions
 - c. Accessibility

Janna reported that she had an energizing meeting with representatives of our regional societies this morning. She noted the formation of three new Society Interest Groups devoted respectively to Russian theory, post-tonal analysis, and film and multimedia. Janna expressed special enthusiasm for the many Interest Group meetings she has had the opportunity to attend during her term as Vice President.

Janna summarized the year's Subvention Grant Awards. They went to Mark J. Butler (*Playing with Something that Runs: Technology, Improvisation, and Composition in Electronic Music Performance*), Philip Ewell ("Rethinking Octatonicism: Views from Stravinsky's Homeland" in *Music Theory Online*), and Elizabeth Hellmuth-Margulis (*On Repeat: How Music Plays the Mind*). Janna encouraged the membership to keep this funding opportunity in mind, noting that no subventions awards were made in July of this year.

This year's conference included full day's worth of sessions streamed online in an effort to increase accessibility to our proceedings. Janna encouraged our incoming Vice-President to continue to build on this first venture into streaming conference content. She also reminded conference speakers to provide large-print handouts for those who need them, and to post handouts on the web site prior to the conference when possible to aid with sustainability.

Harald thanked Janna for her work, noting that the Vice-President's duties have gradually grown through her term and that she has handled them with much grace. Those assembled thanked Janna with applause.

5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Nominating Committee (Robert Hatten, Chair)

Robert began by thanking the other members of the committee. Nominations reached an all-time high of 64 last year, thanks to the ease of making nominations online. The number and quality of the nominations reminded the committee of the wealth of talent possessed by our Society—but made for difficult decisions for this committee, which Robert facilitated with multiple rounds of selections for each position. Robert thanked each of the candidates who stood for election.

Deborah Stein will chair the committee next year. Robert closed by encouraging members to make nominations for our next president and members-at-large by December 15. Robert thanked Harald for his leadership and assistance.

b. Program Committee (Michael Buchler, Chair)

Michael announced that the committee received 380 proposals for this year's conference. He spoke warmly about the collegial and broad-minded group that comprised the committee and the vigorous discussions they had while selecting this year's program. The committee accepted 98 papers (for an overall acceptance rate of 27.6%). Proposals by men were accepted at a 30% rate, compared to 20% for women. Michael took special note of this statistic, encouraging us to track it in the future to learn whether it constitutes a blip or the beginning of a larger trend. He also broke down acceptance rates by academic rank, noting that assistant professors outpaced more senior faculty in having their proposals accepted. He offered many thanks to the Networking Committee for help with submission process online. Thanks also went to Jocelyn Neal (last year's Program Committee Chair), Harald, and Vicky Long, Executive Director of SMT, for all the ways they supported this committee's work.

c. Committee on Workshop Programs (John Roeder, Chair)

John noted that this committee was previously known as the Graduate Student Workshop Program Committee. This year, however, the mandate from the Executive Board expanded the committee's mandate to include workshops for post-graduates. The Society sponsored two Graduate Student Workshops (by Janet Schmalfeldt on form and by Justin London on metrical well-formedness) and one Peer Learning Workshop (by Steven Rings on tonal theory and experience). The workshops were once again full to capacity this year, with enthusiastic participation from all.

d. Local Arrangements Committee (Tomoko Deguchi)

Tomoko welcomed everyone to Charlotte. She offered thanks to all the student volunteers, Vicky, and the countless others who assisted with mounting the conference. This year's conference boasted 675 attendees—one of the largest solo conferences in SMT history.

e. Publications Committee (Walter Everett, Chair)

This committee supports the editorial work of the Society's publications. Walter began by giving thanks to Harald and the Executive Board for all the support they've provided during his three-year term. This year, the committee added a new Reviews Editor for *Music Theory Online* and a new Associate Editor for the *SMT Newsletter*. The "big news" was *Music Theory Spectrum's* new publishing partnership with Oxford University Press. Among many other features, this partnership allows for advance access to select articles and a friendly online search-and-browse interface, as well as 50% more content. This new affiliation commences with the upcoming spring issue (vol. 36, no. 1) of *Spectrum*. Walter recognized and thanked Laura Bannon, editor for the humanities division of Oxford University Press. Turning to gender imbalances, Walter noted that representation of published work still does not reflect the proportion of female members of SMT. While this problem is less pronounced for *MTO*, only 17.5% of submissions and 20% of published articles in *Spectrum* were by women this year.

f. Networking Committee (Tim Koozin, Chair)

A major push for this committee was redesigning the conference proposal submission mechanism. Further improvements are coming. Another recent addition to the web site is a page where

handouts for conference presentations could be downloaded in advance—there were only four such handouts last year, but 40 this year! We streamed all the sessions from a single room of this year’s conference for one day. There were 205 views of the stream from 122 unique visitors. Tim gave thanks to the support of the Committee on Disabilities for their help with this streaming experiment. Current Networking Committee projects include creating a threaded discussion board and a meta-blog to enhance the Society’s online discourses. There were 53,000 visits; 25,000 unique visits to the web page this year. The committee offered a conference session this year on applications of “flipped” instructional technology. This was the first time this committee has offered a session! Tim concluded with thanks to Jeremiah Goyette, Sean Atkinson, and Bob Kosovsky for maintaining our electronic presence, and to Harald.

g. Professional Development Committee (Nancy Rogers, Chair)

The committee offered two 90-minute sessions at this year’s conference: one on teaching videos for job applications, and one on technology-enhanced instruction. Nancy proffered thanks to the members who led those sessions. This committee also runs the Conference Guides Program and the Graduate Student Breakfast (about 80 students participated in the breakfast this year). The committee additionally sponsored a CV review session with 35 participants and uniformly positive feedback. Nancy thanked who reviewed CVs at this session, as well as her predecessor, Alfred Cramer, and the entire committee.

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

The committee continued this year to offer its long-running proposal-mentoring program. Eleven participated this year. Six responded to the committee’s request for feedback after mentoring; four of those had their proposals selected by their target conference. Laurel encouraged women of the Society to take advantage of this program. The committee also started an article-mentoring program; it has assisted six mentees thus far, with no report (yet) as to whether those articles have been accepted for publication. Laurel gave thanks to the fifteen volunteer mentors who have participated in these programs, and to Inessa Bazayev, who managed both programs. Laurel described a large bibliography of resources on women and music that will be transformed into a wiki that can be continuously updated. The committee also intends to develop a five-year strategic plan. Laurel concluded by giving thanks to Harald, Poundie, and the other committee members.

i. Committee on Diversity (Horace Maxile, Chair)

[Andrew Pau read this committee’s report on behalf of Horace, who had laryngitis.] Horace thanked the members of this committee for all their work during his term as its chair. There were five grant recipients this year: three in the international category and two in the minority category. These grant recipients were individually recognized by the chair. Horace invited members to contact the incoming chair of the committee, Cynthia Gonzales, or any of its members with questions about its work. Horace also gave thanks to Vicky for her help with the committee’s administrative needs.

j. Development Committee (Elizabeth Margulis, Chair)

Elizabeth issued a challenge from the committee to the Society’s membership for a new fundraising campaign called SMT-40. To succeed, the campaign needs major gifts from outside donors and foundations—but that would prove impossible without demonstrated support from a large proportion of the Society’s membership, whatever the amount pledged by individuals. Elizabeth noted that SMT-40’s “silent” phase, which had just concluded, had already raised \$66,000 in pledges. The chair drew attention to pledge cards for SMT-40 that had been placed on each chair in the room prior to this meeting. She thanked the committee, the Executive Board,

the donors who had already pledged support to SMT-40, and every SMT member who was about to fill out a pledge card.

6. Special Award Presentation (Rick Cohn)

Rick read a citation awarding an Honorary Lifetime Membership to Lee Rothfarb, Founding Editor of *Music Theory Online*, “for his selfless generosity of behalf of the community, and for his magnificent vision, energy, organizational skill, and persuasive powers.” Applause ensued.

7. Old Business

Harald stopped at this point to recognize Vicky and her tireless efforts for the Society. Applause followed. He also recognized the University of Chicago for supplying office space and other resources for the Society’s benefit.

Harald thanked outgoing board members Evan Jones and Gretchen Horlacher. He also identified and thanked each individual rotating off of a committee this year.

8. New Business

No new business from the President.

9. President’s Remarks (President Krebs)

Harald gave thanks for the opportunity to experience “the two most exciting years of my life” during his term as President. He then passed the gavel to our incoming President, Poundie Burstein, after making laudatory remarks about Poundie’s scholarship, leadership, and ideas for the Society.

Poundie thanked Harald for his long-standing service to our community and Society. Poundie also issued an open invitation to the membership to speak with him about ways to improve the Society.

10. Adjournment

Poundie adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Kleppinger, Secretary