

Minutes of the Society for Music Theory
Business Meeting: November 8, 2014, Milwaukee, WI

1. Call to Order (President Poundie Burstein)

Poundie called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm (after providing opportunity for Philip Duker, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, to present the “Historic SMT Conference Tote Bag Award” to Dora Hanninen). 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 2013 Business Meeting in Charlotte (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. In addition to passing motions regarding fine-tuning SMT Governance Guidelines, this year the Executive Board passed motions devoted to refining our Missions Statement, expanding the purview of our Subvention Committee, establishing new grant programs, adopting the new SMT logo, inaugurating an Endowment fund, and initiating SMT-Pod, a new scholarly podcast journal. The Board has convened a new standing committee, the Accessibility Committee, which will continue to promote making SMT’s programs and services accessible to all, and has also replaced the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee with the permanent position of Sustainability Coordinator.

3. Treasurer’s Report (Treasurer Eric Isaacson)

a. 2014 Financial Report

Eric provided everyone with instructions for accessing the current version of his report online, and provided some highlights.

The Executive Board has voted to provide the Executive Director a 3% cost-of-living adjustment. (In 2015, the same adjustment will apply to others we pay including our journals’ editorial assistants, by the same percentage.) She also had to travel for the Society a little more than usual in the last year, so her reimbursements are higher.

PayPal transaction fees turned out to be higher than expected because of strength in membership payments and solo-year conference registrations. They are much less this year, since registration for this year’s conference has gone through AMS.

In all, our 2013 administration expenses were slightly higher than budgeted for. For 2014 we budgeted a 10% increase in administration costs, which ended up not materializing, but the 2015 budget anticipates that these increased expenses will materialize, so the administration subtotal is about same as in the 2014 budget.

Our 2013 support for *Spectrum* editorial assistants ran a little high because we were transitioning between editors and that meant a bit more editorial assistance, but we spent less than expected for both *MTO* and website maintenance, so overall we spent almost \$4000 less than expected. This year we allocated additional funds to pay a team of graduate students to help retrofit old

issues of *MTO* to the current layout, a project that will continue into 2015, which is why we have increased this line by another \$1500 for next year.

Not all budgeted awards were actually allocated in 2013, so we spent \$1500 less than planned. Our “Conference Access Support” which covers a number of grant programs aimed at making participation in our annual meeting easier for certain of our members (diversity travel grants, international travel grants, and a fund to help offset childcare expenses for those who incur such expenses and to support scholars who do not receive travel funding from their institutions) has been allocated, but the awards have not all been claimed yet. For 2015, the Board has voted to increase the amount allocated to subventions by \$600 and to significantly increase the amount allocated to the unsupported scholar program, for which interest was very high.

The 2013 Charlotte conference turned out to be more costly. The peer learning seminar was added mid-year last year, so the costs for honoraria for the seminar leaders increased to reflect this. Our overall conference expenses were almost \$6500 more than planned. For 2014, we’re making up for this, largely because the program committee expenses were considerably lower. For 2015, we expect hotel expenses to be comparable to 2013 and we have allocated \$1500 to the program committee to use for special programming as they see fit.

Overall in 2013, we ran over budget by about \$2000, and for 2014 we are on track to come in more than \$7000 under budget. Our budget for 2015 is more than 20% higher than for 2013, made up almost entirely by increased services and support to the members of the Society.

On the the income side, donations that were running in the \$4000 range in 2010 and 2011 jumped to nearly \$15,000 in 2013 with the kickoff of the SMT-40 campaign. This year, donations are already approaching \$8000, and this excludes donations made in connection with the conference registration or received during the conference.

Eric reminded us that during odd-numbered years like 2013, we receive income from two conferences: we get a check from AMS for our share of the proceeds from the previous year’s joint conference, as well all of the income from the current year’s solo conference. The 2012 joint meeting in New Orleans proved astonishing, as we ended up, net of all expenses, with \$50,000 in income, almost \$40,000 more than budgeted. We also exceeded projected registration income by over \$7500. For 2014, there is no conference income, though we actually got some late payments from the 2013 conference. For 2015, we are projecting conservatively and plausibly.

Income from membership dues has been increasing steadily, exceeding projections by \$13,000 in 2013 and \$10,000 in 2014.

We established our investment fund just before the 2012 conference, so 2013 was its first full year. The markets have been doing very well, so we’ve done well in both 2013 and 2014.

In 2013 we received slightly more than expected from UC Press as proceeds from their sales of *Spectrum*. Our last payment from UC Press came earlier this year, and we learned this week that we should be getting our first check from Oxford University Press, our new publisher, for something in the neighborhood of \$30,000. (Eric expressed skepticism about this number.)

In summary, our 2013 actual income exceeded our projected income by \$84,000, which is 58%! That gives us a net surplus for 2013 of some \$106,000. For 2014, we are now projecting total income of \$143,000, almost \$60,000 more than anticipated, which is an extraordinary 70%. Rather than ending the year with a planned \$30,000 deficit, Eric was optimistic that we might end up with a surplus exceeding \$36,000. The 2015 budget projects a modest surplus of \$15,645.

Eric called for approval of the 2013 Treasurer's Report; it was approved.

b. Current and Future Finances

Eric noted that in September we moved \$125,000 from our savings account to a new endowment fund that, like our regular investment fund, is being managed by our Investment Committee. Eric read through our current Investment Directive, and indicated that our endowment may reach \$200,000 by the end of the year. This would enable us to begin using endowment funds for membership services as early as next year.

Eric concluded with thanks to Vicky Long and the three Society Presidents he has served alongside during his now-concluding tenure as Treasurer (Lynne Rogers, Harald Krebs, and Poundie Burstein). Poundie thanked Eric for his outstanding service to the Society as Treasurer.

4. In Memoriam (President Burstein)

Poundie eulogized Allen Forte, and noted that the Executive Board and the Development Committee had plans underway to honor his legacy.

Poundie also led us to remember other members of our Society and discipline whom we have lost over the last year, including Edward Largent, Leo Kraft, Helmut Federhofer, Edward Laufer, James K. Randall, and Irna Priore.

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

Michael began by sharing his sorrow for Irna Priore's passing.

In his capacity as liaison to the Society's Interest Groups, Michael reported that there are now eighteen Interest Groups, including two new groups focused on early music and the history of music theory.

As the Chair of the Subvention Committee, he conveyed that \$4400 was dispersed to support a large number of projects, and noted that going forward the scope of those subventions is growing to include projects not related to a publication (workshops, symposia, etc.). He especially encouraged junior scholars to apply for subventions.

Michael explained the Society's new grants for travel and child-care expenses that were awarded in conjunction with this year's conference. We will more than double the budget for these two programs next year, thanks to the generosity represented by SMT-40. Michael reminded the membership that scholars whose income is below \$35,000 are also eligible for a reduced-rate membership in the Society.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. 2015 Nominating Committee (Deborah Stein, Chair)

Deborah explained that the Committee was charged with finding candidates for the positions of President-Elect and two Members-at-Large of the Executive Board. She noted the Committee's discussions of potential nominees' previous service to the Society and the demographics they represent. The Committee consulted with the President throughout this process.

Deborah announced the results of the elections for these positions: our new President-Elect is Dora Hanninen, and our two new Members-at-Large on the Executive Board are Steven Rings and Suzannah Clark. (Jan Miyake is the new Treasurer, nominated through a separate process.)

Next year's Chair of the Nominating Committee is Henry Klumpenhower. Deborah offered thanks to those who put forward names to the Committee for consideration and to the members of the Committee.

b. 2014 Program Committee (Judith Lochhead, Chair)

Judith began by recognizing the members of the Program Committee. The Committee met in Philadelphia in March alongside the AMS Program Committee. A major task of the Committee, in addition to planning the rest of the conference program, is the planning of our conference's plenary session.

Judith noted that statistics related to program submissions would be posted to the web site.

380 proposals were submitted, 107 (28%) were accepted. Some proposals for traditional papers were translated into posters at the request of the Committee. Proposals were submitted by 276 men, 98 women, and six individuals who did not identify a gender. Acceptance rate for both genders was similar, which constitutes an improvement over last year.

Poundie encouraged membership to consider proposals of unusual format in the future.

c. 2014 Committee on Workshop Programs (John Roeder, Chair)

John reported that this year the Society organized two peer-led workshops and two graduate-student workshops. He offered thanks to the leaders of the peer-led workshops, Pat McCreless and Andy Mead. Forty students participated in the graduate-student workshops, which were led by Betsy Marvin, Jocelyn Neal, and Peter Schubert. He reminded the membership that the graduate-student workshop program was the brainchild of Wayne Alpern and that we owe a debt of gratitude for his pioneering of this program. John noted that acceptance rates for these workshops are much higher than that for conference proposals.

Poundie also recognized Wayne Alpern, who was in attendance, for his vision for the graduate-student workshops. Applause followed.

d. Publications Committee (Matthew Shaftel, Chair)

Matt began by thanking Walt Everett for deftly overseeing the shift for *Spectrum* from the UC Press to Oxford University Press. Over sixty items were published this year in *Spectrum* and *MTO*; fifty pages of the SMT Newsletter were produced.

The Society is opening new venues for sharing research. The new *SMT-Pod* will be edited by Scott Murphy, aided by Associate Editors Anna Gawboy and Bryn Hughes. Matt also recommended the SMT audio archive to everyone's attention.

David Bernstein and Yayoi Uno Everett will be the new Editor and Associate Editor, respectively, of *Spectrum*. Michael Cherlin and Mark Spicer, who currently hold these posts, will end their tenures next year. Matt encouraged everyone to make submissions to *Spectrum*. The editorial team is working hard to speed the journal's pipeline, getting articles published more quickly. Lag to publication after acceptance is now mitigated by publishing articles online as soon as they are ready.

MTO Editor Yonatan Malin and Associate Editor Karen Bottge are completing their terms this year. Three publications from *MTO* won Society publication awards last year. This journal celebrated its twentieth anniversary last year. Older issues being updated to match newer online format. Nicole Biamonte and Stephen Rodgers will begin as Editor and Associate Editor.

Matt offered thanks to Poundie for his leadership and to the Society's members for submitting their work.

e. Networking Committee (Timothy Koozin, Chair)

Tim discussed two projects coming now coming to fruition: SMT-Discuss (a replacement for SMT-Talk) and SMT-Discover (a new meta-blog). Thanks to Brett Yorgason for developing SMT-Discuss. SMT-Discover is being developed by Kris Schaffer and is coming soon.

The Committee improved web forms for proposal submissions for this year's conference. A pilot of live video streams of selected papers at last year's conference proved successful. The Committee worked with Jon Kochavi to do the same this year.

Other functions for members at SMT's web site were also maintained or improved. Traffic to the site is up 3% from last year. SMT also maintains popular presences on Facebook and Twitter.

Tim thanked Jeremiah Goyette for developing and maintaining our operations and for migrating our services to a more stable server. He also offered thanks to thanks to Bob Kosovski and the members of the Networking Committee. Tim's term as Chair of this Committee is expiring; Sean Atkinson, the current Webmaster, will now serve as Chair.

f. Professional Development Committee (Nancy Rogers, Chair)

Nancy began with a summary of the Conference Guides Program. This year the program matched 22 new SMT members with ten experienced members. This represents a dramatic increase in demand for the program.

This year's Student Breakfast attracted about 110 students.

The CV Review Session at this year's conference drew 42 participants—a record. Nancy thanked the reviewers who took part in this event.

This year the Committee sponsored a special session titled “Teaching Writing as a Music Theorist.” Nancy gave thanks to panelists for this session. She concluded with thanks to entire Committee.

g. Committee on Diversity (Cynthia Gonzalez, Chair)

Cynthia described the annual luncheon for travel-grant recipients. Previous recipients of this grant were invited as well. She gave thanks to SMT and SMT-40 for sponsoring the lunch.

There were 24 travel-grant applicants this year, an approximate quadrupling from the previous year. Six international and twelve minority travel grants were awarded. Cynthia introduced the travel grant recipients to the membership.

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

Laurel described the ongoing article and proposal mentoring programs sponsored by the CSW. She offered thanks to the 24 volunteer mentors.

The proposal mentoring program nearly doubled in size this year to 21 participants (from eleven last year). Proposals that went through this program were accepted to regional, national, and international conferences, and one conference paper won a best student paper award.

Laurel said that the article mentoring program has capacity for more participants. She encouraged eligible members to take the opportunity to get their articles vetted through this program.

An online situational mentoring program has just launched (for all SMT members, not just women). Laurel encouraged members to make use of this resource.

The CSW sponsored a special session on self-advocacy for women at this year's conference.

Laurel thanked the Executive Board for its commitment to increasing diversity in the Society. She reported that child-care grants were especially appreciated by those who received them.

She noted that a recent discussion on SMT-Talk about sexist terminology, alongside other anecdotal evidence, suggests we have a way to go as a Society. However, this was a banner year in that acceptance rates for SMT publications by gender finally matches gender makeup of the Society itself.

i. Accessibility Committee (Jon Kochavi, Chair)

Jon noted that this is a newly permanent committee, and offered thanks to Poundie and the Executive Board for their commitment to accessibility. An ad hoc committee on disability issues was formed in 2008, when we were behind in issues of accessibility and accommodations. Guidelines have been established since then to maximize accessibility. The Society's approach has already become a model for other societies.

Jon encouraged the membership to contact him about accessibility issues they may have noticed—feedback is crucial to addressing needs and concerns.

This year is the second that selected conference sessions have been streamed (nine hours' worth this year). Jon reported that there were 150 unique viewers on that stream this year, and that video files of those talks will be archived for a short time on the web site. He gave thanks to those who helped with streaming and to the Committee.

j. Development Committee (Betsy Marvin)

Betsy noted SMT-40 was publically announced one year ago. Its silent phase raised \$52,000. Since then, 65 more people have pledged to SMT-40 for a total of 129 members and over \$70,000. This represents an 11% participation rate in the campaign by the Society's membership. Betsy stated that we would need a higher percentage of membership to participate before we would become eligible for grants and fellowships from outside foundations.

She noted some current initiatives already helped by SMT-40, including a larger number and variety of travel grants, an expansion of workshop programs, and the Society's first child-care grants.

New initiatives linked with the campaign include the establishment of a Society endowment by the Executive Board. The Committee has established a student task force to spur more participation in SMT-40 from student members of the Society. Betsy described a targeted campaign by to accept donations in Allen Forte's name as part of SMT-40. She recognized a leadership gift for this part of the campaign by Jane Clendinning.

Betsy closed by encouraged everyone to consider the advantages of giving to SMT-40.

7. President's Remarks (President Burstein)

Poundie reminded the members that ours is a society not for music theorists, but music theory. This should include those who self-identify as musicologists, performers, composers, etc. His comments lauded the diversity of scholarship represented by our conference programs and publications, and indicated that this diversity should be better broadcasted to the larger musical community. He articulated an ongoing concern for the issue of gender balance in the Society, noting that this imbalance was a detriment for the entire field, not just for women.

Poundie advocated the idea that all teachers of music theory, whether they self-identify as "music theorists" or not, should be members of SMT. He urged members to reach out to such people and encourage them to join the Society. He also asked members to communicate with him about areas that seem underrepresented, and to submit their work in those areas to our journals and conferences.

Poundie recognized and thanked the members who are rotating off of the Society's committees and boards.

8. Old Business/New Business

There was no old business.

Poundie announced that the keynote address of the conference was to begin at 3:30.

Poundie reminded everyone of the new SMT meta-blog about to launch. He encouraged those present to speak to him if they wanted to volunteer to serve or to offer ideas.

Poundie concluded with special thanks Poundie to Harald Krebs, Past President, and Victoria Long, Executive Director. Much applause ensued.

8. Awards Committee Report/Awards Presentation (Mary Arlin, Chair)

Mary announced the winners of the Society's annual awards. They are:

Wallace Berry Award: Elizabeth Hellmuth Margulis: *On Repeat: How Music Plays the Mind*, Oxford University Press.

Outstanding Publication Award: Nathan Martin, "Rameau's Changing Views on Supposition and Suspension" in the *Journal of Music Theory*.

Emerging Scholar Award: Benjamin Steege, *Helmholtz and the Modern Listener*, Cambridge University Press.

9. Adjournment

Poundie adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Kleppinger

Secretary