

MUSIC THEORY NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Society for Music Theory

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SMT NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1978

The Society for Music Theory will hold its first national conference October 20-21, 1978, at the Hotel Learnington in Minneapolis. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Musicological Society.

A crowded agenda of papers and business awaits theorists who attend! An excellent program (see below in this issue) has been arranged by Program Committee chairman Vernon E. Kliever (Indiana University) and committee members W. Thomas Atcherson (University of Iowa), Wilson Coker (Southern Illinois University), and Douglass Green (University of Texas, Austin). The important business of guiding the emergence of the youngest learned society in American musical circles will also occupy the members in attendance as they review the work of the first year and consider the revised By-Laws (see also below in this issue) to be presented.

The Society's current membership of over 400 — and advance indications of conference attendance — indicate that our first national meeting as an independent organization will be an historic event. The purposes of such a national forum include the airing of professional views in papers and colloquia, the meeting of teachers and students in order to create common and knowledgeable friendships, and the effective building of a structure of meetings and publications which will aid music theorists in their research and educational role.

1978 MINNEAPOLIS PROGRAM

The following is a list of theory events planned for the first national conference of the Society, October 20-21, 1978, in Minneapolis. All theory events will take place in the Twin Cities Room on the lower level of the Hotel Learnington. The final conference program, listing all events of the SMT and the AMS concurrent meetings, will be produced by the AMS and will be available at the conference. Members planning to attend should note the hotel and registration information being mailed with this *Newsletter* and make arrangements as soon as possible. Please note that advance registration and concert tickets must be ordered *before* September 30, 1978.

Friday, October 20

9-12

Views on Schenker (Gerald Warfield, moderator)
"A Response to Schenker's Analysis of Chopin's Etude, Op. 10, No. 12, Using Schenker's *Grund-Gestalt* Concept", Graham H. Phipps (Colorado State University, Fort Collins)

"On Predicating Some Fundamental Progressions: Harmonic Process and the Implication-Realization Model", Eugene Nammour (University of Pennsylvania)

"Schenker: The New Orthodoxy", Gregory Proctor (University of Texas)

12-2

SMT executive board lunch

2-4:30

Questions of Structure (William E. Thomson, moderator)

"Wagner's Parody Technique": *Traume* and the *Tristan* Love Duet", Robert Gauldin (Eastman)

"Temporal Dimensions of Musical Experience", Henry Frager Orlov

"Twelve-Tone Theory Revisited: the Invariance Matrix", Bo H. Alphonse (Yale University)

4:30-5:30

SMT Business Meeting

Saturday, October 21

9-12

Theory in History (Mary Arlin, moderator)
"Harmonic Theory in Musical Treatises of the Early Sixteenth Century", Benito V. Rivera (University of Richmond)

"On the Sources and Interpretation of Analytic Vocabulary in the History of Music Theories", Allan Keller (Brandeis University)

"Concepts of Analysis in the Theories of B.L. Yavorskii", Gordon D. McQuere (Baylor University)

2-4:30
New Analytic Approaches (Gary Witlich, moderator)

“Architectural Control in Josquin’s *Tu Pauperum Refugium*”, Charles M. Joseph (Williams College)

“Toward a Theory of Tonal Coherence: The Motets of Jacob Obrecht”, Ronald D. Ross (University of Northern Iowa)

“Hexachordal Sources of Structure in Beethoven’s ‘Hammerklavier’ Sonata, Op. 106”, Michael L. Friedmann (University of Pittsburgh)

4:30

Special Interest Groups

(exact times and places to be announced)

Depending on time and space contingencies, these sessions will be held more-or-less simultaneously in small rooms near the SMT Twin Cities Room. Topics include:

“Heinrich Schenker’s Graphic Notation: Toward a Standardization”, Herbert L. Riggins (University of Texas)

“Jazz and Popular Music” (Panelists to be announced)

“Some Characteristics of Pitch Perception as Related to Intervals, Triads and Scales”, Marvin S. Thostenson (University of Iowa)

“Teaching Tonal Theory”, Robert I. Hurwitz (University of Oregon)

“Personalized Systems of Instruction and Comprehensive Musicianship”, Merle E. Hogg (San Diego State University)

“A Computer-Assisted Instructional Program for Beginning Music Theory Students”, Richard J. Stanislaw (Bloomsburg State College)

“Pitch Organization in Debussy: Unordered Sets in Four Piano Pieces”, Richard S. Parks (Wayne State University)

Sunday, October 22

9-12

SMT Board meeting

1979 Program Committee meeting

SMT TO PUBLISH JOURNAL

The Board is happy to announce the founding of *Music Theory Spectrum* (The Journal of the Society for Music Theory). The new journal will publish papers of interest selected from our national conference programs and others submitted, as well as offering a *Proceedings* of Society business. The Society is fortunate in securing the services of Bryan R. Simms (University of Southern California) as editor of its journal; Professor Simms' work as editor of the *Journal of Music Theory* assures us of his experience and skill. The journal will be under the supervision of the SMT Committee on Publications, consisting of chairman David Beach (Eastman), Wallace Berry, Bryan Simms, William E. Benjamin (UBC, Vancouver), and Gary Witlich (Indiana University).

Members of the Society for 1978 will receive the first issue of *Music Theory Spectrum*, now being edited, shortly after January 1. Four papers from the Evanston 1977 meeting have been selected for publication. They are “Pitch Structure in Atonal Music: An Evaluation, Interpretation and Application of Allen Forte’s Theory of Sets and Set Relations”, by David Beach; “Ideas of Order in Motivic Music”, by William E. Benjamin; “Articulation of Tonal Structure as a Criterion for Analytic Choices”, by Joel Lester; and “The Subconscious Language of Musical Time”, by Lewis Rowell.

SMT NEWSLETTER FOUNDED

This is the first issue of the Society’s *Newsletter*, to be compiled and edited by SMT secretary Richmond Browne (University of Michigan). In addition to disseminating information about the Society, its programs and publications, and publishing from time to time a *Directory* of SMT members, the *Newsletter* hopes to act as a clearing house for news about *regional* or *state* activities, formal or informal, which music theorists may wish to make known. Please send such items to the secretary.

The editor wishes to thank Claire Boge (University of Michigan) for assistance on this *Newsletter*.

SOCIETY INCORPORATED; SMT BY-LAWS RECEIVE SCRUTINY

The By-Laws of the Society were drafted by James Harrison (Hunter College, CUNY). At the direction of the executive board, Professor Harrison prepared a Certificate of Incorporation which has now been signed by the appropriate officers, and will lead to the registration of the Society as a non-profit corporation in the State of New York.

As the board has gone about the business of building the Society and directing its operations, a number of features of the original By-Laws have been discussed. A committee consisting of Professor Harrison, Gerald Warfield (University of Illinois), Leo Kraft (Queens College, CUNY), and Allen Forte has produced a number of recommendations for alterations to several articles of the By-Laws. Those recommendations, after discussion by the board, will be brought to the business meeting of the Society in Minneapolis for action. Both the existing and proposed By-Laws are printed in this *Newsletter*; please take some time to compare them and be prepared for discussion at that meeting.

SAN ANTONIO 1979 WITH THE CMS

Even before the Society holds its first national conference this October, the executive board has begun to lay plans for the future. Our meeting *next* year will be held in conjunction with the College Music Society at the University of Texas, San Antonio, October 19-20, 1979.

The program committee for the 1979 meeting will issue a call for papers soon. The committee consists of Stefan Koska (University of Texas, Austin), chairman; Carlton Gamer (Colorado College), Douglass Green (University of Texas, Austin), and Ann K. Gebuhr (University of Houston).

Looking at the geographical distribution of the membership, the board decided to plan even farther ahead by setting Los Angeles as the site of the Society's 1980 meeting, and announces its intention to hold the 1981 conference in the East. Whenever possible, SMT national conferences will be held in conjunction with other musical societies.

SINCE EVANSTON 1977

The Society for Music Theory was formed by vote of nearly 300 persons attending the 2nd National Conference on Music Theory in Evanston last November 19. At that meeting By-Laws were adopted and an executive board elected. The board met immediately and elected its officers — and has met twice since: in Ann Arbor in January and in New Haven on June 30-July 1. As one can well imagine, a great many letters and phone calls have also taken place as the board has worked to set in motion the various institutions needed to keep a national organization functioning and planning ahead. President Allen Forte (Yale University) has directed these activities, which have required the delegation of functions to many of the board's members. The three most critical sub-committees on the 1978 program (Society publications and incorporation and By-Law revision) were carefully chosen and have been working hard for several months. A letter inviting the some 4000 theorists listed in the CMS Directory to join the Society has resulted in over 400 founding memberships to date. Close cooperation with the College Music Society (coordinated by vice-president Wallace Berry) has amicably dealt with the follow-up of the Evanston meeting and the planning ahead to San Antonio in 1979. Work on the Minneapolis conference this October 20-21 has been much facilitated by the efforts of the American Musicological Society, particularly its local arrangements chairman, Robert Laudon (University of Minnesota).

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to announce the tragic death of Professor Thomas J. Clifton, in Buffalo last June 15. Educated at Yale and Stanford, Professor Clifton had taught at the University of Michigan, Yale University, and SUNY/Buffalo. Those present at the Evanston meeting will recall his presentation there; he was a gifted theorist and phenomenologist who will be sorely missed. Plans are underway to complete the publication of his remaining papers.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Those of you who have followed the history of music theory organization over the past few years will share my sense of excitement now that the Society for Music Theory is off and running! From Boston in 1976, to Washington, D.C., and then to Evanston last November, the sense of a deliberate progression toward a needed institution became ever stronger. The encouragement and support evidenced by the words of the presidents of three sister societies — CMS, AMS, and ASUC — at Evanston has been a crucial part of our story.

There are entirely friendly and well-meaning professional colleagues who did not and perhaps still do not think it was a good idea to form a separate society for theorists. They were kind enough to make that view known so that we might consider what we were doing carefully. Many of them have joined the SMT — surely in order to continue to advise and assist in a responsible way, and for that we are greatly indebted.

SMT treasurer Mary Wennerstrom and I have been delighted with the range and distribution of the memberships thus far received. The Society is going to be truly representative of every region and every interest!

I would appreciate receiving news items of interest from all members, particularly with regard to theory activity in any region or state. Your comments on any facet of SMT work will of course be welcomed by any member of the executive board or standing committees — whose willingness to put forth hours of effort seems unbounded and whose collective good judgement I can only admire.

— Richmond Browne

SOCIETY FOR MUSIC THEORY**EXECUTIVE BOARD 1977-79**

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