

**MINUTES FOR THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BRITISH  
MUSIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

**SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2008  
SHERATON HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

The meeting was called to order at 12:19 p.m. by Byron Adams, president. In his welcome and opening remarks, Adams indicated that with regret that this would be his last business meeting in the capacity as president, due to professional obligations and for his own personal recuperation from eye surgeries. He was, however, delighted to note that he was leaving on a high note. The AMS program book for 2009 featured not only a specific session on British music, but several British music papers of high order generally that were interspersed throughout the meeting as a whole—a number that may be unprecedented. NABMSA has made significant headway in raising the profile of British music, the financial and membership health of the organization is robust, and he was pleased to hand over a healthy and happy organization to his successor (which would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of the officers and board members).

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2008 business meeting; motion passes.

Treasurer's report (Chris Fuhrmann): NABMSA has 55 regular dues-paying members and 18 student dues-paying members (73 total). These numbers are down slightly, but are still up significantly for a non-conference year. The organization also received donations totaling \$595.00; this helped NABMSA end up with a net financial gain for 2009 of \$547.99. Investments are in good shape as a whole; our CDs paid out \$144.15 on \$10,000.00 invested, and the checking account currently sits at \$5396.12. Fuhrmann also indicated that she will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of her term in 2010; Adams thanked her for her service and indicated that from a financial perspective, NABMSA is in extremely good shape compared to nearly every other similar organization.

Secretary's report (Eric Saylor): Saylor corroborated the membership numbers put forth by Fuhrmann, adding that it was the largest membership number for a non-conference year in NABMSA's short history, which bodes well for next year. He went on to note the improvements in recordkeeping made possible by the revamped website; a second set of membership records is being kept in a Filemaker program as well. Saylor also indicated the desirability (and feasibility) of going completely paperless as far as recordkeeping is concerned in the near future. He also reminded members that NABMSA has a presence on Facebook, and that the listserv is open to member contributions at any time.

Webmaster's report (Kendra Leonard; given by Eric Saylor): the newsletter continues to thrive, and members are encouraged to continue sending in articles and article ideas, and to volunteer as reviewers. Christina Bashford will begin work as chair of the new reviews committee, which will oversee the selection of reviewers and assist in identifying potential reviewers for future publications. Louis Niebur will be taking over as the webmaster and newsletter editor in January; Leonard indicated how much she has enjoyed her tenure in that position for NABMSA.

Awards committee report (Fuhrmann): Ciara Burnell was awarded the Temperley Prize at last year's NABMSA conference at York University. Ideas for future prizes requested.

Book series committee report (Adams): Unfortunately, current economic conditions and the tightening of academic publishing in general have made a NABMSA-sponsored book series unfeasible at the present time. We will continue to watch for opportunities in the future.

Chris Fuhrmann provided a brief overview of the changes made to NABMSA's website—the behind the scenes changes have been the most significant. In the upcoming year, we are hopeful that the following procedures will be instituted:

- Establishment of an independent Paypal system
- Online conference registration form
- Online election form

Eric Saylor reminded members that the 2010 biennial conference will be held July 29-August 1 at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. The deadline to submit abstracts for the conference is February 1; submissions should be sent to Charles McGuire, and more information is available on the website. Bearing in mind that the cost of travel to Des Moines is moderately expensive, the local arrangements committee is doing all it can to keep costs down otherwise.

Old business: Suggestions were solicited for other improvements that could be made to the website. These included a request for member access to other members' names and e-mail addresses, and perhaps their areas of scholarly interest. (Doing so would require an additional security level to ward off bots and spam that troll e-mail addresses.)

New business: As much of our income is based in membership dues, Fuhrmann proposed the opportunity to purchase long-term memberships (10-year, 25-year, or lifetime) in order to build endowments. Christina Bashford indicated that a student travel grant would be a suitable endowment of this type. It was also proposed to consider raising the dues in order to match our increased cope and aim, and other questions were raised regarding how such fundraising would effect future grant writing and day-to-day financial operations. It was recommended that this topic be passed to the development committee for further consideration, a motion that carried.

Election results for 2009 were announced by Charles McGuire:

- President: Ruth Solie
- Secretary: Nat Lew
- Board members: Roberta Marvin and Eric Saylor.

Thanks again to Byron Adams, Eric Saylor, Aidan Thomson, and Nat Lew for their service as President, Secretary, and Board members.

New business: Those interested can pick up a free copy of the British modernism issue of *Musical Quarterly* from the OUP booth.

The Carthusian Trust has decided to stop funding the RVW research fellowship; this was not a financial concern on their part, but an administrative one. Byron Adams supervised this for 24 years; 25 people served as fellows during that time. Attempts are underway to interest the Elgar Society for a subvention of interest in that area of study; Vaughan Williams scholars are directed to the newly-established VW Charitable Trust as a potential source of funding.

Reminder that the British Studies dinner will leave from the hotel at 5:45.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Saylor

Secretary, NABMSA