

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

**SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2008  
NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER, NASHVILLE, TN**

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 pm by Byron Adams, president. In his official welcome, Adams indicated that the current state of NABMSA's finances would likely make today's meeting one of the cheeriest among the smaller professional organizations holding business meetings in conjunction with AMS. Additionally, he praised Dorothy de Val for her outstanding efforts in coordinating the previous summer's biennial conference at York University, noting that 80 abstracts had been submitted, a 47% increase over the amount for the 2006 meeting in Vermont. Unfortunately, AMS was less generous in their patronage of British music topics in 2008, as there was no session dedicated to any British topic, and only a handful of papers on British subjects of any sort. On the whole, however, Adams indicated that NABMSA was in very good shape, scholastically and financially. Finally, Adams alluded to a few unavoidable problems with the delay of the election of officers, and exhorted members to vote in the upcoming election.

Motion to approve minutes from '07 business meeting (Alyson McLamore moved, Lisa Scoggin seconded). Linda Austern's name was amended on the minutes, which passed by acclamation.

Treasurer report (Chris Fuhrmann): Membership is about double last year, and the matching donation challenge presented at the York conference was successful. Cautious investments have paid off well:

- There is currently an endowment of \$1000 for the Temperley prize in a CD
- The money market earned \$1.00 (one dollar) in interest. There are limited options for business accounts on money markets with our bank.

Fuhrmann proposed investing \$5000 in a CD; given current economic issues, this would be both safe and entail no concerns with liquidity. Postage and insurance fees have been very reasonable this year, and aside from operating expenses associated with the York conference, our major investments included a \$500 subvention for the RVW: 50 Years On conference sponsored at CUNY, and the \$100 Temperley Prize.

Although a great deal of money was spent on the York conference, we came out in the black with a small gain. NABMSA will probably have to start filing taxes, but probably only nominal amounts. This was a very ambitious conference in many ways, which suggests opportunities to expand our scope and scale for participants. Fuhrmann's report closed with a request for 2009 dues.

Kendra Leonard Preston asks about voting on implied request for the CD investment; Adams indicated that investing in a CD is allowable for the Treasurer to do under the bylaws, and thus does not require a formal vote from the membership. Adams also enthusiastically congratulated Fuhrmann on her steady financial management, as we have proven to be the exception among smaller scholarly organizations by not losing money, and called for a round of applause for Fuhrmann's efforts.

Secretary report (Eric Saylor): There are currently 96 members of NABMSA (71 regular members, 25 student members). This is an increase in excess of 100% over 2007, traceable to the requirement of membership for those participating in the conference; the 2009 numbers will be considerably smaller, as they are in non-conference years.

Saylor apologized for the delay in new officer elections, but indicated that ballots for the election of vice-president, treasurer, and two board members would be e-mailed to the membership within the week.

Newsletter committee and Webmaster report (Saylor and Fuhrmann for Kendra Leonard): Leonard's report indicated that the Newsletter published 14 reviews of new books in British music, ranging from medieval Welsh music to contemporary pop music, with 12 more to come in the Spring 2009 issue. Those interested in reviewing a particular title were encouraged to contact her, as well as anyone interested in writing articles or reports for the newsletter generally. Material deadlines for 2009 are March 15 and September 15.

Webmaster report The underlying code reworking is now about 95% complete, done for a bargain cost of \$350. The changes which are anticipated to be introduced to the general membership early in 2009 include:

- A complete online membership database for administrative use
- Secure membership form with automated receipt generation
- The ability for members to update and check information online (membership status, dues payment, update contact or professional information)

Other options (e.g., registering for conferences) are currently under review. Website administrators will be able to enter and modify membership information, including payment histories, which will greatly improve accessibility for the membership and improve transitions between officers and administrators immensely. Any other suggestions for additions are welcome (e.g., RSS feeds).

Adams observed that while the quality of the newsletter's reviews is consistently quite good, he suggested that the opportunity to vet individual book reviewers might be a more professional way of distributing books for review, as opposed to the current *ad hoc* method of volunteering. Adams further suggested a committee of 3 to be appointed as an advisory committee to Kendra. Ruth Solie asked if a selection committee would be more efficient than the individual leading the book review committee? Adams indicates that such a group would help ensure fairness among the distribution of materials to participants. Kitty Preston asked if this meant that this simply meant that the current process of making oneself available to review books on a given topic would be continued? Adams agreed that it would but simply eliminate the free-for-all that occasionally emerged when public announcements were made for reviewers.

Awards committee (Fuhrmann): Ciara Burnell was the recipient of outstanding student paper at the York Conference for her paper on dance idioms in the late works of Frank Bridge. Fuhrmann encouraged additional student participation at future conferences.

Book Series Committee (Adams): Those who may be interested should volunteer and contact Adams. Traditional publishing will be cut down dramatically among the next 5-10 years, which may alter the charge of the committee. If no members volunteer for this committee, one will be appointed by Adams.

Conference report (Saylor for Dorothy de Val): De Val's report covered many of the highlights of this past summer's conference, including Linda Austern's excellent keynote address, the multiple performances and lecture-recitals, the field trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake for an evening of wine and George Bernard Shaw, and of course the exceptional papers delivered over the four days of the conference. Adams appended the report by indicating that he exchanged over 600 e-mails with de Val in his capacity as program chair, and called for a motion to formally acknowledge and thank de Val for her efforts, which was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. The next

conference will be held in 2010 at Drake University in Des Moines, most likely from 29 July to 1 August. Those interested in serving on local arrangements should contact Eric Saylor.

A call was extended for those interested in holding a later conference (post 2010), as well as for questions from the floor. Roberta Marvin asked whether a business meeting can be held at the NABMSA meeting proper; Adams indicated that this was suggested in the past, but turned down in order to focus on the presentation of papers as the highest priority. (Preston further noted that an annual meeting can't, by definition, be held at a biennial conference.) Adams also indicated that he will not serve as program committee chair again, but will work with Saylor to establish an effective balance of papers with opportunities for other social and professional pursuits at the 2010 meeting, much of which depends on how many abstracts are received for the conference.

Renee Clark offered Hillsdale College as a possible locale for a future conference site, though the college's mission may conflict with members' own interests or areas of study; Adams made it clear that the program committee is not a censorship committee, and would not be willing to tailor its agenda to those of any host institution. Anthony Barone offered the possibility of UNLV, a suggestion that provoked considerable enthusiasm from members. It was also agreed that we should attempt to expand the range of conferences to sites outside the Midwest if possible (although relatively low travel costs make Midwest sites attractive), and that future conference should stay in North America—offers to host a conference outside of North America goes against much of the original impetus of establishing the organization in the first place.

New business: Saylor requested permission to purchase a copy of Filemaker Pro in order to assist with secretarial recordkeeping, if deemed necessary to do so after the website upgrade. While this would not be a formal backup to the website, it could function as an information method of keeping internal records for the officers' own convenience or desire. The motion was formally moved and seconded; Preston indicated that anything officers require to make their job easier should be approved. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Adams: motion to formally thank Linda Austern for presenting the outstanding keynote address at York, who in turn thanked Renee Clark for her diligent help in ensuring that she arrived safely at the conference despite the many flight delays. Moved and seconded; approved by acclamation.

Fuhrmann: With the growth of the newsletter and professionalization of the website, should we adjust our officer responsibilities to encompass a joint position of secretary/webmaster, and establish an individual newsletter editor position? Additionally, should newsletter editor be a board position *ex officio*? Adams suggested that the membership should take these questions under consideration, as it would require a restructuring of bylaws., and that a conversation could be started via the listserv on such topics.

Clark indicated a new research grant opportunity at the University of Southampton for postdoctoral fellows; contact Janice Brooks for details.

A reminder was made for the British studies dinner, which would be at Past Perfect, members leaving from the hotel lobby at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned 1:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Saylor  
Secretary, NABMSA