

South-Central Society for Music Theory Business Meeting Saturday 20 February 2021

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM by Jeremy Orosz (University of Memphis), President.

28 attendees

Approval of Minutes

- Meeting minutes from 2020 had been made available to view online.
- Doug Rust (USM) moved to vote to approve 2020 minutes, seconded by Rebecca Long (Louisville). Minutes were approved by acclamation.

Reports

- Jeremy Orosz (Memphis), president, thanked everyone for participation in our first virtual conference and issued a thank you to presenters and hosts.
- Joe Brumbeloe (USM) presented the treasurer's report. The report shows a balance of \$1998.46 as of Feb. 21, 2021 following payments made for the keynote speaker and graduate student paper award. Jeff Yunek (Kennesaw State U.) moved to accept the treasurer's report and Rebecca Long seconded.
- Trevor de Clercq (MTSU), webmaster, reported 69 registrations for the conference resulting in a PayPal balance of \$621.70. He noted that links to full papers will be active until presenters take their videos down. Lori Burns's keynote was recorded and will be archived. Jeremy Orosz noted the links were very successful and worked well. Jordan Lenchitz noted that the registration and conference was very smooth. Stefanie Dickinson (Central Arkansas) expressed thanks for scheduling a late start in the afternoon instead of morning. Ellen Bakulina (UNT) expressed thanks for posting text, slides, and presentation, noting it was very inclusive and helpful.
- Rebecca Long, program committee chair and social media reported 24 total submissions by 25 authors. She reported the following statistics on submissions:
 - 12 grad students
 - 7 full time faculty
 - 4 undergrads
 - 1 university staff
 - 1 independent scholar
 - 16 White
 - 2 Asian/Pacific Islander
 - 2 Hispanic, white
 - 1 Not Provided
 - 1 Asian/Pacific Islander, white
 - 1 Native American/First Nations, White
 - 1 White, Race/Ethnicity unknown
 - 1 Black, Hispanic

64% male 36% female

Of those submitted papers, 18 were accepted papers and 17 were presented (1 declined because of multiple acceptances). There were 19 presenters as one paper had dual-authorship. She reported the followings statistics on presenters:

1 Ind. Scholar
1 University staff
3 Full time faculty
4 Undergrad
10 Grads

12 White
1 Not provided
2 Hispanic, white
1 Black, Hispanic
1 Asian/Pacific Islander, white
2 Asian/Pacific Islander

57.9% male; 42.1% female

Long also reported on outreach efforts and how people heard about the conference:

16 Through SMT
9 colleague / friend / peer
7 social media
6 prof / advisor

Outreach included: SMT announce, Facebook, Twitter, E-mail campaign

- Jeremy Orosz noted that submission volume was down from recent years. Other societies report similar volumes. Rebecca Long expressed a desire to continue outreach to those in our region. The Google forms for submissions worked great. Douglas Rust (USM) asked, "Did you save a list of contacts for outreach?" Rebecca responded that she had. Janna Saslaw (Loyola University) asked how successful was the campaign since many heard from SMT announce? Rebecca responded that it at least put SCSMT on many new people's radar. She recommended reaching out to those in your own state/area.

Other Business:

- Best student paper award (Rebecca Long, program committee chair) – The Voice as Trauma Recovery: Vocal Timbre in Kesha's "Praying" (Emily Milius, University of Oregon)
- Election of Secretary – no nominations from floor. Nathan Fleshner (Tennessee) was re-elected via acclamation.
- Jeremy Orosz reminisced that our last business meeting was on March 1, 2020. A week or 2 later, an in-person meeting was not possible. He is hopeful to meet in person next year. The plan is to meet in Memphis since that was the previous plan. He is pursuing a co-event with CSM South or South Central AMS. He announced Matthew Boyle (Alabama) as next year's program committee chair. Other program committee members to be announced at a later date.

He reported on coordination with other regional societies. New England cancelled their virtual conference. All 8 of the other regions are doing virtual conference this. Can we limit multiple submissions? Can we have them on different weekends?

Many are free and/or cheap. Additionally, SMT vice-president Gretchen Horlacher will be a liaison to regional societies with the purpose to tighten up the regional societies somewhat like AMS does.

- Jeremy Orosz asked how might regional societies coordinate our efforts better?

Ellen Bakulina (UNT) expressed support for preventing same paper at multiple conferences and for not having to travel. Alexander Martin (Stetson University) expressed concern for expectations for CV requirements may change at a slower pace, especially for job applications, etc.

Jeremy noted that an absolute ban on multiple presentations is not heavily supported. The sentiment seems to remain "be judicious in how you apply" Jeff Yunek (Kennesaw State University) added that multiple presentations is also a financial equity issue.

Ivan Elezovic (Jackson State University) noted that travel funding is shrinking. The future should have at least some option for online presentations.

Jeremy Orosz responded that about the possibility of coordinating so that one of the conferences in the south is virtual or includes a virtual conference.

Trevor de Clercq emphasized the job market points as an important element in this. The counterpoint is that other voices get to be heard. We're a very diverse society including even undergrad submissions.

Wesley Bradford (University of Louisiana, Lafayette) recalled the North American Conference on Video Game Music as a particularly nice conference. Everything was synchronous, which eliminated any pre-conference preparation for those not presenting, although many were prerecorded. Chat/Q&A was live during the paper which was nice. The format of the presentations should be considered.

Ellen Bakulina noted the effect of reduced presentations on CV appearance. It's important that expectations change from the top down starting at an SMT level.

Rebecca Long moved to close meeting; Jeff Yunek seconded.