

SCSMT 2025 Business Meeting, March 15, 2025

Call to Order at 11:00 am by Clare Eng

Approval of 2023 and 2024 minutes

-Minutes documents displayed by Wesley Bradford. Motion to approve: Madison Stepherson; Seconded by Jennifer Salamone; passed by unanimous acclaim

Secretary Election (presided by Clare Eng (current President))

-The current secretary, Wesley Bradford was up for re-election. No other candidates were nominated. Motion to vote for re-electing current secretary made by Jennifer Salamone, seconded by Anne Delfin. Election was unanimous in favor of re-electing Wesley Bradford.

New Technology Chair – Announced by Clare Eng

-Madison Stepherson has been appointed the SCSMT Technology Chair. Her primary charge is to prepare for the SCSMT virtual conference in 2028. The Technology Chair will ‘shadow’ MTMW technology chair this year and will be advised by MTMW tech chair going into the 2028 SCSMT virtual conference.

Call for Social Media Coordinator

Clare Eng put forth a call for volunteers for Social Media Coordinator. Any interested members should email Clare Eng (clare.eng@belmont.edu).

Program Chair Report – Stefanie Dickinson (program chair)

2025 SCSMT Program Chair’s Report was given by Program Chair Stefanie Dickinson. Text of program chair report follows:

Program Committee

Thank you to this year’s program committee members: Connor Davis (Jackson State University), Stefanie Bilidas (University of Texas at Austin), John Latartara (University of Mississippi), and Jennifer Salamone (University of Tennessee--Knoxville). These colleagues also served as members of the student paper award committee and session chairs.

Proposal Submissions

This year 40 proposals were submitted. (The numbers below sum to 39 since one was submitted twice with different titles.)

- 20 were submitted as 20-minute papers
 - 19 were submitted as either 20- or 10-minute papers
- 28 papers were accepted (72% acceptance rate)
- 20 20-minute papers were accepted
 - 8 10-minute papers accepted
- 23 papers were presented: 8 lightning talks and 15 20-minute papers
- 5 authors of 20-minute papers declined

Proposals were received from: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Israel, Louisiana, Michigan, Montreal, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington.

Proposal and Presentation Statistics

Of 38 proposers who responded, 3 (7.9%) identify as non-binary, 23 (60.5%) as men, 13 (34.2%) as women, 1 (2.6%) as transgender. Of 23 presenters, 17 (73.9%) identify as men and 6 (26.1%) as women.

Of 38 proposers who responded, 6 (15.8%) identify as Asian, 1 (2.6%) as Black/African American, 2 (5.3%) as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish, 1 (2.6%) as middle Eastern or North African, 1 (2.6%) as Native American, and 30 (78.9%) as White. Of 23 presenters, 3 (13%) identify as Asian, 1 (4.3%) as Black/African American, 1 (4.3%) as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish, 1 (4.3%) as middle Eastern or North African, 1 (2.6%) as Native American, and 18 (78.3%) as White.

Of 40 proposers who responded, 4 (10%) identify as Lecturer/Instructor, 6 (15%) as Assistant Professor, 3 (7.5%) as Associate Professor, 2 (5%) as Professor, 27 (67.5%) as Graduate Student, and 1 (2.5%) as Undergraduate Student. Of 23 proposers who responded, 2 (8.7%) identify as Lecturer/Instructor, 4 (17.4%) as Assistant Professor, 1 (4.3%) as Associate Professor, 1 (4.3%) as Professor, 15 (65.2%) as Graduate Student, and 1 (4.3%) as Undergraduate Student.

Of 29 proposers indicating student status, 89.7% expressed interest in being considered for the SCSMT Student Paper Award, however only 6 submitted papers for consideration by the deadline.

Student Paper Award

The program committee is pleased to announce the winner of the SCSMT Student Paper Award for 2025 is Ruixue Hu (Eastman School of Music) for his paper “Understanding Non-Lexical Vocables in Music”. Hu argues the most important attribute of non-lexical vocables (NLVs) is their versatility, which emerges from their amplitude, malleability, and democracy, and presents a detailed topology of NLVs that include multiple eras and cultures. Within this typology, Hu proposes four categories for NLVs that include mnemonic devices, spontaneous expressivity, onomatopoeia, and phonetic manipulation. Both historical and global in scope but also sensitive to the regional cultures from which the musical examples are drawn, Hu’s paper represents a significant step towards a more thorough and analytically precise understanding of non-lexical vocables, as they function in a variety of musics and cultures. (John Latartara)

Acknowledgements

A very special thank you to session chairs. In addition to the program committee, these included Wesley Bradford, Evan Jones, and Jeff Perry. Thank you to Janna Saslaw and Jim MacKay, local arrangements; Olivia Lucas, program chair of the 2024 joint meeting; Jeremy Orosz, SCSMT immediate past president; Trevor DeClercq, SCSMT webmaster; and Clare Eng, SCSMT president.

Rideshare report – Wesley Bradford (SCSMT secretary)

SCSMT Secretary Wesley Bradford reported that there was a rideshare/roommate locator available on SCSMT website prior to the conference. With only 6 respondents, the form was not successfully implemented, with one respondent providing negative feedback. Wesley Bradford suggested that SCSMT executive board will work next year to improve visibility and publicity for rideshare locator.

Treasurer Report – Doug Rust (SCSMT treasurer)

Treasurer Doug Rust provided the treasurer report. The text of the treasurer report follows:

SCSMT Treasurer’s Report

Century First FCU

Balance before 2024 Conference: \$2,809.07

	Payment	Deposit	Balance
3/9/2024	\$100 Student Paper Award		\$2709.07
3/20/2024	\$500 workshop		\$2209.07
5/6/2024		\$66.71 (PayPal transfer)	\$2275.78
5/7/2024		\$642.79 2024 Conference Registration	\$2918.57
5/24/2024	\$275 Form 1023EZ		\$2643.57
11/18/2024		\$300 Donation from LSU	\$2943.57
3/12/2025		\$250 Donation from UCA	\$3193.57
3/14/2025	\$1000 two workshops		\$2193.57
3/15/2025	\$100 Student Paper Award		\$2093.57
3/15/2025	\$239.39 conf. food & coffee		\$1854.18

Compared to 2024, our current balance is - \$954.89

PayPal

Balance from 2024: \$318.43

	Deposit	Balance
Donations ¹	\$52.48	\$370.91
2025 Conference Registration (net gains as of Sat. morning 3/15/2025)	\$941.79	\$1,312.70

Compared to 2024, our current balance is + \$994.27

BOTTOM LINE:

Between both accounts we have \$39.38 more than we had at this time last year.

-In addition to the above report, Doug Rust noted specifically that SCSMT paid \$275 to reclaim tax exempt 501c status. As long as the society maintains proper records, this will not be a recurring fee. Doug Rust also noted a \$50 charity registration paid by an anonymous donor.

-Clare Eng pointed out that, despite registration raises, SCSMT conference still needed two donations to cover costs. She stated that she hopes for the conference to be self-sustaining in coming years.

Bylaw Amendments

-Clare Eng presented six bylaw amendments to be considered by the society. The text of the original document and proposed changes is included below. The numbered list indicates the results of the discussion for each proposed change.

1. Janna Saslaw moved to pass the proposed change, Wesley Bradford seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.
2. Doug Rust moved to pass the proposed change, Janna Saslaw seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

¹ SCSMT also received an anonymous gift of \$50 to pay our registration as a charity with the MS Secretary of State. This was never entered into one of our accounts, so it does not appear in the account reports.

3. Jennifer Salamone moved to pass the proposed change, Janna Saslaw seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.
4. Janna Saslaw moved to pass the proposed change, Madison Stepherson second. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.
5. Janna Saslaw & Rust discussed history of election committee. Wesley Bradford proposed making an election officer rather than committee. Janna Saslaw & Timothy Chenette noted that removing election committee from bylaws doesn't prevent formation of ad hoc committee. Anne Delfin suggested "up to three" verbiage. Tabled by Clare Eng for further discussion via email.
6. Doug Rust moved to pass the proposed change, John Latartara seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Proposed changes	Current text	Proposed text
1. Add the filing of IRS postcard 990-N and renewal of Mississippi charity status to Treasurer's duties.	<p>Section III, subsection 3:</p> <p>The Treasurer shall maintain accurate and timely records of the Society's income from all sources and of its expenses, and shall be authorized to disburse funds and pay all bills on behalf of the Society. The Treasurer shall maintain accounts in which the Society's funds will be deposited and shall make a financial report to the membership at the Annual Meeting and other such reports as the Executive Committee may direct. The Treasurer shall collect membership dues and other monies. The Treasurer shall perform other duties appropriate to the office, as directed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer, with the consent of the Executive Board, may delegate various duties of his or her office to the President, including the authority to disburse funds in the name of the Society.</p>	<p>Add to subsection 3.</p> <p>The Treasurer shall maintain accurate and timely records of the Society's income from all sources and of its expenses, and shall be authorized to disburse funds and pay all bills on behalf of the Society. The Treasurer shall maintain accounts in which the Society's funds will be deposited and shall make a financial report to the membership at the Annual Meeting and other such reports as the Executive Committee may direct. The Treasurer shall collect membership dues and other monies. The Treasurer shall file annual paperwork and pay fees necessary to maintain the Society's legal status with relevant federal and state-based institutions. The Treasurer shall perform other duties appropriate to the office, as directed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer, with the consent of the Executive Board, may delegate various duties of his or her office to the President, including the authority to disburse funds in the name of the Society.</p>
2. Clarify Executive Board term limits and durations.	Section V, amend subsections 1, 2 and 3.	<p>Amend subsection 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete "No person shall be elected to the Executive Committee for more than two consecutive terms" from the end. <p>Amend subsection 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No person shall be elected to the Executive Committee for more than two consecutive terms, except for the Treasurer, who shall have no constraints on election eligibility for term renewal. <p>Amend subsection 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of the Treasurer, all Officers shall be elected for terms of two years. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years. The President shall be elected in even years, and the Secretary in odd years.

3. Amend Section IX to add position of Technology Chair and clarify how Social Media Coordinators and Technology Chair positions are filled	<p>Section IX title</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Social Media Policies” <p>Subsection 1a</p> <p>a. The Social Media Coordinator(s) oversee the curation of the SCSMT social media accounts on various platforms.</p>	<p>Section IX title</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Social Media and Technology” <p>Amend subsection 1a, and add subsections d and e.</p> <p>a. The President may appoint or replace Social Media Coordinator(s) without election, as long as all (or a majority of) elected officers agree to said appointment or replacement.</p> <p>d. The President may appoint or replace the Technology Chair without election, as long as all (or a majority of) elected officers agree to said appointment or replacement.</p> <p>e. The Technology Chair shall oversee and manage technological aspects of hosting virtual SCSMT meetings, as well as advise the Executive Committee of relevant technology needs and issues.</p>
4. Dues	<p>Sections III, IV, and VI mention dues. Payment of dues is the criterion for a member “in good standing,” and Section V states that in the event of an election tie, absent members in good standing may be canvassed for their votes to break the tie.</p> <p>Propose to make it explicit in Section VI that registering for a conference registration is the same as paying membership dues</p> <p>Current Section VI Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons interested in any aspect of music theory. <u>Application for memberships shall be made to the Treasurer of the Society.</u> The rates and schedule for payment of membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Membership shall be required of anyone making a presentation at a conference sponsored by the Society. <u>Anyone whose dues payment is current shall be considered a member in good standing of the Society.</u></p>	<p>New Section VI Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons interested in any aspect of music theory. The rates and schedule for payment of membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Membership shall be required of anyone making a presentation at a conference sponsored by the Society. <u>Anyone who registers for a conference sponsored by the Society shall be considered a member in good standing whose dues are current until the date of the next conference.</u></p>
5. Election Standing Committee 6. Create Technology Standing Committee	<p>Section VIII, subsection 2 defines an election committee:</p> <p>2. The Election Committee, which shall collect and announce nominations for Officers and manage the election at the Annual Meeting. The Election Committee shall comprise of three members of the Society.</p>	<p>We don’t currently have a standing election committee. Do we create one or delete this committee from the bylaws? <u>Need poll.</u></p> <p>Add new subsection:</p> <p>The Technology Committee shall manage the website and the society’s social media presence, oversee virtual conferences, and advise the Executive Committee on technology matters. The Technology Committee shall comprise the Technology Chair, Webmaster, Social Media Coordinator(s), and other members as deemed appropriate by the President. All members of the committee shall be appointed or replaced by the President with</p>

		<p>the advice of the Executive Committee. There are no term durations or limits for any member of the Technology Committee. Anyone who registers for a conference sponsored by the Society shall be considered a member in good standing whose dues are current until the date of the next conference.</p>
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Announcement by Clare Eng, President

SCSMT 2026 will be held at the University of Louisville on March 20-21. Rebecca Long is serving as Local Arrangements Chair.

Madison Stepherson made a motion to adjourn, Timothy Chenette seconded. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation at 11:52 am.