



**Minutes of the BFE Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 13th April 2019  
Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen**

**Committee Members Present:** Ruard Absaroka (RA); Matt Dicken (MRD); Morgan Davies – Administrator (minutes); Matthew Machin-Autenrieth (MMA); Simon McKerrell (SMcK) – Chair; Deirdre Morgan (DM); Stephen Wilford (SW); Frances Wilkins (FW); Shzr Ee Tan (SET).

**Members Present:** Ignacio Agrimbau; Chloe Alaghband-Zadeh; Tat Amaro; Kit Ashton; Cassandre Balosso-Bardin; Katelyn Best; Liam Barnard; Emma Brinkhurst; Katherine Butler Schofield; Raquel Campos; Alexander Cannon; Tim Cooley; Kiku Day; Matt Dicken; Helen Diggie; Elise Gayrand; Hyelim Kim; Sue Miller; Rachel Harris; Tomoko Hata; Solene Heinzl; Samuel Horlor; Jasmine Hornabrook; Christine Horner; David Hughes; Daniel Jordan; Tim Knowles; Ahkok Wong Chun Kwok; Justine Loubser; Sue Miller; Laudan Nooshin; Lara Pearson; Irfan Rais; Tom Solomon; Jan Magne Steinhovden; Katie Stuffelbeam; Britta Sweers; Ioannis Tsioulakis; Amanda Villepastour; Tom Western; Katie Young; Vit Zdralek.

1. **Apologies (Committee):** Fiorella Montero-Diaz (FMD); David Wong (DW)
2. **Chair's report (SMcK)**

SMcK formerly thanked Frances Wilkins and Ian Russel for organising of the 2019 BFE Annual Conference in Aberdeen and complemented the Local Arrangements team in helping to run a highly successful event. SMcK also thanked the serving BFE Committee members for their hard work throughout the year and sent a vote of thanks to all awards and prize panellists on the BFE Committee and amongst the membership for their important voluntary work in judging submissions. SMcK gave a vote of sincere thanks to Shzr Ee Tan, Henry Stobart, Lonán Ó Briain and Lara Pearson as Co-Editors for BFE's flagship journal *Ethnomusicology Forum*. SMcK also noted BFE's thanks to Taylor and Francis, who continue to act as positive and supportive publishers and to recognise their support of our conferences.

SMcK welcomed Matt Dicken (MJD) onto the committee as a new student Liaison Officer. MRD thanked SMcK and appealed to the BFE student members to send new ideas to him with regards to developing BFE membership activities.

### **Mentoring**

SMcK reported that, after consulting with a range of members, BFE has decided to implement a "light touch" mentoring approach beginning with the annual conference at Aberdeen. This has been intended to support the development primarily of early career ethnomusicologists and our subject in general. Several members have stepped up to offer mentoring meetings during the annual conference and SMcK will take any

feedback from this back to the committee for further consideration as to how BFE can develop positive mentoring relationships between its members. SMcK extended his thanks to mentors and mentees, asking the members present for feedback and ideas.

Amanda Villepastour (AV) raised the possibility of throwing the mentoring scheme wider, beyond academia, by having mentors from other music industries. AV suggested that academics could broker these relationships, matching input from mentees coming from outside academia, and noted that ethnomusicologists need to look carefully at their own training. Cassandre Balosso-Bardin (CBB) suggested that it might be useful to have a page on the BFE website to pool knowledge of BFE membership skillsets, sharing transferable skills between staff and student member spheres. Response to this idea from the membership was favourable. SET added that various institutions have active career development outlets, suggesting that we could link those with the BFE website. SMcK noted that the Committee will be discussing how to carry this scheme forward.

SMcK noted that UK secondary music education is in a very precarious situation now and appealed to members for ideas. Laudan Nooshin (LN) reported that the RMA has been involved in started up a working group on this, suggesting that BFE should link up with them. Katherine Butler Schofield (KBS) noted that the music teachers' associations are also looking carefully at this, suggesting that it would be useful to co-ordinate with them. SMcK suggested that BFE could take an advocacy role in these initiatives, noting that new charitable status helps with this, but also stating that the BFE membership needs to have its voice heard and that a survey will be forthcoming.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

SMcK reported that the Committee has discussed more granular understanding of equalities of our members and SMcK welcomed any input from members into that discussion. SMcK suggested that the focus on EDI should not only be reflected in the BFE's own membership but more substantially in how the BFE works, and in the face that BFE presents to the world. To that end, the Committee will be working on incorporating EDI as a core part of our strategic plan which will be presented to all BFE members in due course. SMcK noted that the Committee has now drafted up a fieldwork Ethics Statement and a Statement of Inclusion, which are presented for ratification. SMcK appealed for members to get in touch with ideas about how best to take forward an egalitarian and inclusive agenda in the work of the BFE.

SMcK noted that approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of BFE membership based in the UK and  $\frac{1}{4}$  non-UK based, pointing out that membership numbers have been largely stable over the last decade. The opportunity to increase the membership exists, and this is something for members to consider, and what the advantages and disadvantages of growing our subject association might bring. Thanks to the good work of Barley Norton, the BFE is now a registered charity again under UK law. This has in the first instance allowed us to benefit from a better flow of international payments directly for membership fees, but has the potential for us to take forward the BFE in more robust health in future years.

Sue Miller (SM) reported that the recent PRAG group meeting was very positive, and that members were open to different forms of research outputs – not just text based. All of this info has been sent through to SMcK for dissemination. SM noted that the

RMA was represented predominantly by white male composers, and that ethnomusicology and practice-led/based research was marginalised. This was fed back in SM's report. SM noted that BFE needs to have a more public practical role in advocacy and to raise the profiles of members that are doing practice-led research. Hyelim Kim (HK) brought up issues regarding intercultural context, asking for more flexible formats for submissions. HK noted that it is challenging as a native Korean researcher, with formats often coming across as being largely monocultural. AMcK noted that the REF panel are supportive of multimodal formats. LN reported extensive email discussion on PRAG email network regarding these matters recently. SMcK called for a vote of hands, asking: does the BFE need to do more work in this area? A majority of members present (roughly 70%) were in favour.

### **Looking Ahead**

SMcK noted that 2019-2020 will bring a set of significant challenges not just for ethnomusicologists working in a rapidly changing HE sector with increasing audit culture and in a challenging recruitment context, but for the UK as a whole. Within and (potentially) beyond Brexit, SMcK anticipated that there may well be issues relating to travel for BFE members and for visas for academic research, and where the BFE can help, we will. SMcK further encouraged members to feed into these discussions.

SMcK stated that recruitment of international students remains a core area of challenge where the BFE can make interventions as the recognized subject association. Noting that BFE's international collaborations are particularly important, SMcK acknowledged the close and fruitful relationships that the BFE is currently engaged in with SEM and with the Société Française d'Ethnomusicologie. SMcK thanked Tim Cooley and to Steve Stuempfle, the President-elect and Executive Director respectively of SEM for their participation at this year's conference at Aberdeen and the ever-popular SEM ice-cream social. Tim Cooley (TC) spoke briefly in response, saying that it was very nice to be in Aberdeen and inviting members to come to Indiana. SMcK reported that the BFE Committee has also recently agreed with SEM to instigate sponsored scholarly panels at each other's annual conference, and that we look forward to working with SEM on this as well as in other areas where we share mutual interests.

## **3. BFE awards (SMcK)**

### **3.1 2018 BFE Student Prize**

SMcK congratulated Katie Young (RHUL) who was the BFE Student Prize winner for 2018 for her paper "If You Know Arabic, Indian Songs Are Easy For You": Hindi Film Songs and the mawlid in Tamale, Northern Ghana'. SMcK encouraged all student presenters at the Aberdeen conference to make a submission for the 2019 BFE Student Prize award.

### **3.2 2019 BFE Fieldwork Grants Scheme**

SMcK congratulated the winners of the 2019 Fieldwork Grants prize, which this year was shared between Graihagh Cordwell (St John's College Oxford), Alice Rose (St

Hilda's College Oxford), Chrysi Kyratsou (Queen's University Belfast), and Jaana Serres (St Anne's College Oxford). Well done to you all and good luck with the fieldwork!

### **3.3 2019 BFE/RAI Film Award**

Finally, SMcK reported that the inaugural 2019 BFE/RAI Film Award was won by co-directors Anushka Meenakshi and Iswar Srikumar for their short film 'Up, Down and Sideways': this was a musical portrait of a community of rice cultivators and their memories of love and loss, created from working together in the fields. SMcK congratulated the winners and noted the Committee's particular thanks to Barley Norton for facilitating the creation of this new biennial prize with the RAI.

## **4. Treasurer's report (RA)**

RA reported that the BFE is doing pretty well financially, noting that a number of new initiatives were introduced in 2018 including different membership tiers, which has increased revenue. This has allowed BFE to increase bursaries, such as for the fieldwork award. RA noted the need to develop sustainable funds in the long term, appealing to eminent senior colleagues for legacies, donations, and so forth. New membership bands, including low-income band particularly helpful for early career scholars. New payment processor being introduced for 2019, which will improve reach of membership to countries where Paypal is not easily accessible.

## **5. Web Administrator report (DW)**

DW noted that a BFE website revamp and redesign happened in 2018, leading to an improved website experience with more content and more accessibility. DW noted that BFE members could now add more of their own content and be increasingly engaged with the website. DW also noted that improvements were ongoing, and that further testing and updates would be necessary in the coming months.

## **6. Journal Editors report (SET)**

**6.1** SET gave thanks to Abigail Wood for her 3 years of service and welcomed incoming co-editor Henry Stobart. SET urged members to send in articles for consideration, noting that if members wanted a book review they should speak to Lonán Ó Briain.

**6.2** SET reported that *EF* has just launched a new platform designed for everyone to contribute on things that are happening in the field. SET noted that this platform is peer reviewed but designed for conversations that can be put out quickly.

**6.3** SET flagged up the new mentoring programme, noting that we would like to encourage members to apply for positions both as mentors and mentees.

## **7. BFE Membership Liaison update (DM)**

DM reported that there have been various discussions for options to continue conversations between members online, noting that we have been waiting for the website revamp to happen so that we can move these conversations forward. Now that the website updates are complete, there is potential to use online forums to continue

these conversations between members. DM noted that the BFE is ultimately what the members make of it, and she encouraged both tenured and student members to be more actively involved in the organization and to apply for competitions where applicable. DM also noted that the Membership Liaison role is a new and developing role, inviting members to approach her with feedback on how this role might develop in the future.

## **8. BFE Conferences (MMA)**

The BFE continues to sponsor or cosponsor three main conferences per year. In addition to the One-day Conference in autumn and the four-day Annual Conference event in spring, we continue to cosponsor an annual three-day research students' conference in January, organised jointly with the Royal Musical Association. MMA thanked all conference organisers and helpers, also thanking members who write conference reports for the BFE website. MMA also noted that an Expression Of Interest has gone out for hosting future BFE conferences – do please contact MMA or SW if you are interested in hosting an event.

### **8.1 Past Conferences**

#### **8.1.1 BFE Annual Conference 2018**

The 2018 Annual Conference was hosted from 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April by the Department of Music at Newcastle University, with the theme 'Europe and Post-Brexit Ethnomusicologies'. The conference committee was chaired by Simon McKerrell and Britta Sweers gave the keynote address. The conference featured various workshops and a number of highly popular live music events. Thanks are due to SMcK and his local team for their hard work in organising and running this event. A full report, written by Solène Heinzl and Katie Young, is available on the BFE website.

#### **8.1.2 BFE One-day Conference 2018**

The 2018 One-Day Conference was organised by Dr Fiorella Montero-Diaz and hosted at Keele University, with the theme 'Listening to Difference: Music and Multiculturalism'. The conference drew together scholars from France, Spain, Japan and the United States, as well as the UK, and featured a keynote roundtable with presentations by Professor John Morgan O'Connell (Cardiff University) and Felicity Laurence (Newcastle University). Thanks are due to Fiorella and her team for their fantastic work in organising and running the event. A full report, written by Andrew Green, is available on the BFE website.

#### **8.1.3 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference 2019**

The 2019 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference was hosted by the Department of Music at the University of Sheffield. Thanks to Laudan Nooshin for representing BFE as keynote speaker, and to Jerome Roche Prize Winner Yvonne Liao for giving the RMA keynote address. A full report, written by Elsa Marshall, is available on the BFE website.

MMA also thanked the organisers of the highly successful December 2018 BFE/RMA Study Day in Oxford on the subject of ‘Music and the Internet’ (keynote speaker Prof. Georgia Born), noting that the 2019 Study Day and workshop is scheduled take place at the Hereford College of Arts on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This event is being co-organised by BFE, RMA, NAMHE and Hereford College of Arts, and the theme is ‘Music and Health’.

## **8.2 Forthcoming Conferences**

### **8.2.1 BFE-SFE Joint Autumn conference 2019**

In place of the 2019 One-day conference, LN announced that there will be a BFE-SFE Autumn conference: this will be a 2.5 day reciprocation of 2015 event hosted by SFE in Paris. LN noted that the CFP has gone out and that there will be dual language panels, with the event providing a great opportunity to link up with continental colleagues. This conference coincides with the 31<sup>st</sup> October RAI annual John Blacking lecture at British Library on the theme of sound, which will be folded into the conference. Further details will be forthcoming.

### **8.2.2 BFE-RMA Research Students’ Conference 2020**

MMA announced that the next research students’ conference will be hosted by Martin Clarke and Byron Dueck at the Open University in January 2020, and that a call for papers will be forthcoming. Katherine Butler Schofield will be giving Keynote representing BFE, and the keynote speaker for RMA is to be confirmed. MMA encouraged student members to submit papers for this conference.

## **9. BFE Annual Conference 2020 (Matt Dicken - MJD)**

The 2020 Annual Conference will be held at Bath Spa University in April 2020. Incoming Student Liaison Officer Matt Dicken (MJD) reported that Prof. Amanda Bayley (AB) and her local team will be organising the event, with the provisional theme for the conference being ‘Music, Culture and Nature’. SMcK thanked AB and MJD for taking on organization of the next annual conference, noting that FW will be stepping down as Annual Conference Liaison and AB will be incoming in that role from April 2019.

## **10. BFE Ethics Statement and Statement of Inclusion (SMcK)**

SMcK noted that the new BFE Ethics Statement has already been approved unanimously and is now published on the BFE website. SMcK then asked for members’ feedback on the draft Statement of Inclusion. Raquel Campos moved to alter first part of the Statement of Inclusion so that it does not appear that there was not an issue prior to two years ago. Ruth Hellier: potential to include decolonization and the phrase “legacies of colonialism”. All agreed to these changes and the Statement of Inclusion was approved subject to minor amendments.

Amanda Villepastour noted that David Hughes had previously suggested an idea for a blog or discrete space to run alongside an ethics statement, where members can put up comments about ethical issues they have encountered. DM agreed to pursue this.

### **11. Approval of minutes of last AGM at Newcastle University, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

SMcK went over the content of the previous minutes. The minutes were approved with minor corrections from BFE member Liam Barnard.

### **12. Matters arising** (Committee decision confirmation concerning Partha Ray)

SMcK raised the issue of complaints made against BFE member Partha Ray and reported that Committee members had unanimously decided in December that his membership should be revoked immediately. The BFE members present acknowledged and ratified this decision.

### **13. AOB**

LN encouraged BFE members to think about standing for RMA council; SMcK extended his sincere thanks to Mellonee Burnim for a fantastic and moving keynote.

### **14. Date of next AGM: Bath Spa University, April 2020**