



**Minutes of the BFE Annual General Meeting
Saturday 14th April 2018
Newcastle University**

Committee Members Present: Ruard Absaroka (RA); Byron Dueck (BD); Matthew Machin-Autenrieth (MMA); Simon McKerrell (SMcK); Fiorella Montero-Diaz (FMD); Deirdre Morgan (DM); Barley Norton (BN) – Chair; Stephen Wilford (SW); Frances Wilkins (FW); Shzr Ee Tan (SET)

Members Present: Ignacio Agrimbau, Chloe Alaghband-Zadeh, Tat Amaro, Kit Ashton, Cassandre Balosso-Bardin, Liam Bernard, Katelyn Best, Emma Brinkhurst, Joe Browning, Raquel Campos, Alexander Cannon, Kiku Day, Helen Diggle, Elise Gayrand, Helen Gubbins, Tomoko Hata, Solene Heinzl, Samuel Horlor, Jasmine Hornabrook, Christine Horner, David Hughes, Daniel Jordan, Andrew Killick, Tim Knowles, Ahkok Wong Chun Kwok, Justine Loubser, Laudan Nooshin, Lara Pearson, Irfan Rais, Tom Solomon, Jan Magne Steinhovden, Jonathan Stock, Katie Stuffelbeam, Britta Sweers, Ioannis Tsioulakis, Tom Western, Katie Young, Vit Zdralek

1. Apologies (Committee): Ilana Webster-Kogen (IWK), David Wong (DW), Keith Howard (KH)

2. Approval of minutes of last AGM (Sheffield 22nd April 2017)

BN went over the content of the previous minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1** BN thanked Simon McKerrell (SMcK), convenor of the 2018 BFE Annual Conference in Newcastle, and his team for organizing a highly successful event.
- 3.2** BN alerted members to the discussion with regards to the BFE making a public statement on current political issues (see 2017 AGM minutes). The BFE committee had previously agreed that it would be difficult for the BFE to make any overt political statements as an organisation, since it is neither viable nor ethical for the BFE to take sides in political matters as a registered UK charity. SMcK added that the executive committee should decide on this matter. Jonathan Stock said that at the least a public comment was necessary and appropriate for the BFE. DM added that this should be a general, inclusive position statement instead of a political statement. SET asked about ways in which other voices from outside the US and UK might be heard in relation to this discussion, and suggested that the committee could circulate an open letter, inviting people to attach their names. A general vote was conducted and the majority of members present at the AGM were in favour of having a statement of inclusion on the BFE website.

4. Chair's report

- 4.1 BFE Committee Members: BN welcomed new Committee members: Matthew Machin-Autenrieth (MMA); Deirdre Morgan (DM); and Frances Wilkins (FW).
- 4.2 Charity Status: It recently came to the attention of the BFE Committee that the BFE failed to re-register for its charity status after 1993 (when the BFE changed its name from ICTM-UK). The Committee therefore decided to reapply for Charity Status and an application was submitted in December 2017. The Membership indicated its agreement with the chosen trustees and Charity Status application procedure.
- 4.3 Research Excellence Framework 2012: BN informed the membership that he has been appointed as a sub-panel member for REF 2021.
- 4.4 Ethnomusicology Film Prize: BN informed that a call relating to this new prize initiative will be disseminated soon.
- 4.5 Membership: BN reported that the 2017 project to bring membership management in-house has worked efficiently, with BFE finishing the year with a record 343 members.

5. Conferences

The BFE continues to sponsor or cosponsor three 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.

5.1 Past Conferences

5.1.1 BFE Annual Conference 2017

The 2017 Annual Conference was hosted 20–23 April by the Department of Music at the University of Sheffield, with the theme 'Tradition Today'. The conference committee was chaired by Andrew Killick and also included Simon Keegan-Phipps, Helen Gubbins, Timothy Knowles, Kate Walker, and Michael Walsh. Over 100 participants presented their research, and Michael Bakan gave the keynote address. [A full report is available on the BFE website.](#)

5.1.2 BFE One-day Conference 2017

The 2017 One-Day Conference was organised by Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth at the University of Cambridge, with the theme "'Listening to Difference": Music and Multiculturalism'. The conference drew together scholars from the UK, Europe and North America, and featured a keynote from Professor Tina K. Ramnarine (Royal Holloway, University of London). Thanks are due to Matthew, James Gabrillo and Daniel Jordan (all from the University of Cambridge) for their work in organising and running the event. [A full report is available on the BFE website.](#)

5.1.3 Research Students' Conference 2018

The 2018 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference was hosted 5–7 January 2018 by the University of Huddersfield. The theme was 'Music Inside and Out' and keynotes were given by Kevin Dawe and Katherine Hambridge. The conference committee was chaired by Catherine Haworth and also included Monty Adkins, Lisa Colton, James Crackle, Michael Baldwin, Robert Adlington and Steven Jan.

5.2. Forthcoming Conferences

5.2.1 One-day Conference 2018

The 2018 One-Day conference will take place at Keele University on Saturday 3 November, and is being convened by Dr Fiorella Montero-Diaz. The theme is 'Beyond Memory and Reconciliation: Music, Conflict and Social Manipulation in Post-Conflict Contexts' and a call for papers has been distributed with a deadline of Monday 14 May. Full details of the conference (including the call for papers) can be found via: <https://bfeoneday2018.wordpress.com/>

5.2.2 Research Students' Conference 2019

The 2019 Research Students' Conference will be hosted 10–12 January at the University of Sheffield. The conference committee includes Simon Keegan-Phipps, Tim Shepherd, and Helen Gubbins.

5.2.3 BFE Annual Conference 2019

The 2019 Annual Conference will be held at the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen.

6. BFE Awards

6.1 2018 BFE Fieldwork Grants Scheme

As part of on-going initiatives to bolster support for our student members, the BFE recently launched a Fieldwork Grants Scheme to support the fieldwork of doctoral researchers in ethnomusicology. In this third year of the scheme, four fieldwork grants were awarded for fieldwork to be conducted in 2018. We offer many congratulations to Sara Selleri, Georgette Nummelin, Gabrielle Messeder and Soosan Lolavar, who are the 2018 grant recipients. [More information about their research projects can be found on the BFE website](#), and we look forward to hearing more from our winners when they return from the field.

6.2 2018 BFE Book Prize

The biennial BFE Book Prize recognizes outstanding scholarship in ethnomusicology written in English. The 2018 BFE Book Prize is awarded to Noriko Manabe's *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Protest Music after Fukushima*. Her book is an ethnography of music in the antinuclear movement in Japan after the devastating nuclear disaster of 2011. Manabe examines the different kinds of spaces in which protest unfolds in Japan including, crucially, cyberspace, and she shows how musicians and protestors work around significant constraints on their activities. The Commendation goes to David F. Garcia's *Listening for Africa: Freedom, Modernity, and the Logic of Black Music's African Origins*. We offer our great thanks to the 2018 BFE Book Prize Committee for their hard work in judging this competition: Frederick Moehn (Chair), Laudan Nooshin and Frances Wilkins.

6.3 2017 BFE Student Prize

The BFE Student Prize recognises an outstanding paper presented by a student at the

BFE's Annual Conference. In 2017, the annual conference was held at the University of Sheffield, and we would like to thank everyone who submitted a paper this year. The winner of the 2017 BFE Student Prize was **Hamidreza Salehyar** of the University of Toronto, and an honourable mention was also given to **Lyndsey Hoh** of the University of Oxford. Many congratulations to them both.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Membership Report (Ilana Webster-Kogen, with input from Ruard Absaroka)

The project in 2017 to bring membership management in-house has worked efficiently, and BFE finished the year with a record 343 members. The management by a BFE membership administrator makes it easier for us to contact members directly, keep track of lapsed membership, and remind former members of the dates of conferences. The new system makes it easier for us to communicate with current and former members.

The in-house membership system will enable us to maximize our membership through the conferences and awards. Among our 2017 members, 42% were student members and 42% were regular, the balance (16%) being enhanced members. We have substantial potential to maintain and grow our numbers through the conferences and other initiatives. Following the example of similar organizations (like SEM or AAA), we are working to require membership of all conference participants and prize applicants, which will make it easier to communicate with individuals over time.

As for 2018 membership, we have launched several initiatives that the membership administrator can manage autonomously: first, a new payment band for retired and life memberships will make it less cumbersome to renew. Second, we are offering a discount for two-year membership, which has proven popular so far. Finally, UK members can pay by direct bank transfer, reducing our reliance on Paypal. We find that the new system works quickly and without as many steps, so members find it easier to renew their membership.

Building on the momentum from these new projects, we would like to see further increased numbers for 2018. Overall, we are in a good position now both to improve member retention and target potential new members. Building on 2017's initiatives and efficiencies, we hope to reach even more people this year as our system becomes increasingly streamlined.

7.2 Web Administrator Report (David Wong)

In the past year, our web presence has served us well, and it's remarkable that we did not have issues or downtime with the hosting provider. On top of this, we have expanded features on the web site in particular the membership system including payment gateways. It is now a very useful platform on which we can easily and quickly publish articles and latest news, and updates to events and conferences that we run. Over the year we have looked into potential updates to the structure and/or design of the web site. This is a critical activity since it is a single system with membership information. The update work will be given increased priority in the coming year. I will ensure that it is done in the safest and smoothest manner.

7.3 Journal Editors Report (Shzr Ee Tan, with input from Abigail Wood)

1. *Ethnomusicology Forum* has experienced a staff change in the past 12 months, with the departure of Reviews Editor Dr Lonán Ó Briain, and the appointment of Dr Lara Pearson in the same role in 2017. We would like to express our thanks for the excellent work and advice Dr Ó Briain has given us in allowing the journal to keep up its profile and quality. We are especially grateful for his guidance during the handover period. Dr Ó Briain has joined the journal's Editorial Board following his departure.

2. Issue 26.3 was published slightly later than scheduled in early 2018, due to a bottleneck in submissions over the summer/ autumn period, and delays in Special Issue proposals. We are now getting back on track with 27.1 underway.

We would also like to encourage researchers from a wide spectra of ethnographic specialism, gender representation, sub-discipline and stage of career development to submit to the journal at all times of the year.

3. Two Special Issues on Radio and Ethnomusicology, and Music and Affect are being planned for the 2018 – 2019 issues. The volumes are expected to cover a broad range of geocultural and thematic expertise.

4. Dr Abigail Wood and Dr Shzr Ee Tan will be holding a workshop on preparing and submitting articles to *Ethnomusicology Forum* at the forthcoming BFE Annual Conference in Newcastle.

5. We are in the process of recruiting for a new Co-Editor, as Dr Abigail Wood prepares to depart from her role as current Co-Editor at the end of 2018, following a fruitful and busy three-year term. We are extremely grateful to Dr Wood for her clarity of direction, maintenance of high academic standards, wide academic knowledge and creative approach to collaborative scholarship in her running the journal to date.

7.4 ICTM UK National Liaison Officer Report (Keith Howard)

BFE is an Affiliate National Committee to the ICTM, formerly known as the ICTM (UK Chapter). In 2013, Keith Howard took over from Tina Ramnarine as the UK National Liaison Officer for the ICTM, and was initially co-opted then elected onto the BFE Committee. His responsibilities are to attend ICTM meetings, where he reports on BFE activities; to circulate BFE conference announcements, reports, and member news, primarily through submissions to the ICTM Bulletin; and to promote one organisation to the other. At the 2015 and 2017 ICTM international congress, BFE has organised 'High Teas'; at Astana in 2015, this necessitated taking biscuits from Britain to Kazakhstan, and at Limerick in 2017 the event was held in the book exhibit room where, since some book exhibitors had decamped to the central congress circulation space, we morphed a tea-and-scone event into a spontaneous open stage that mirrored our annual Saturday evening jamborees at BFE conferences. Having helped Razia Sultanova set up the ICTM Turkic Music Study Group in earlier years through a symposium at SOAS, in 2015-2016 Keith assisted Amanda Villepateur and others to set up the UK Chapter of the ICTM African Music Study Group, working with the ICTM Study Group at the Astana congress to set up a constitution, and in 2017 established, with Sara Selleri and James Nissen, the ICTM Music,

Education and Social Inclusion Study Group after hosting a symposium at SOAS.

Keith is the Co-Chair of the Programme Committee for the 2019 ICTM international congress in Bangkok. As Keith leaves the BFE Committee, he will retain his ICTM National Liaison role until 2019, when he will pass it on to a BFE Committee member.

8. Treasurer's Report (Ruard Absaroka)

In 2017, BFE made a substantial nominal surplus, in cash-accounting terms, of £8,716.89. This is an important boost to BFE cash-flow, but is largely a consequence of significant changes in the structure and timing of both income and expenditure (partially netted off). Membership subscription income will *not* henceforth be received in arrears the following year. Indeed, much of it is now received in advance. Thus, although 2016 was the final year in which T&F managed BFE membership, individual subscription money, net of costs, was returned as membership 'payback' only in arrears, i.e. in 2017. For the third year BFE received a more favourable payback rate (£3.8k on 2016 memberships). Throughout 2017 BFE also received 2017 renewals subs directly as part of the new 'in-house' membership management. The £5.4k received directly during calendar year 2017 must be added to the £4.7k received prior to the beginning of the year for the full gross figure relating to 2017 memberships. On the expenditure side, and as part of the changes in membership management, the BFE created a new in-house Membership Administrator post, but payment for this has been made in arrears (in early 2018), which further improved the nominal bottom line for 2017. Related to these developments, the BFE is investing in on-going website redesign, but work on this is proving incremental and time-consuming and related payment has also not yet fallen due.

The BFE receives royalties from three organizations (Taylor & Francis, JSTOR, and the Publishers Licencing Society). T&F royalties of c. £2.4k (5% of institutional subscription revenue once revenues exceed a threshold of £35k) continue to slowly increase, with a guaranteed £1k paid in advance and the balance received the subsequent year. Royalties from JSTOR, c. £2.3k, are more volatile (depending on fluctuations in both assessment and the USD to sterling exchange rate). Publishers Licensing Society Ltd royalties have now basically tailed off. Since 2011 T&F has paid towards BFE editorial costs (the related income and costs both increase slightly year-on-year). T&F also contribute towards the costs of the promotional BFE 'High Tea' at SEM and ICTM – the figure in these 2017 accounts relates to the 2016 SEM conference recharge. The annual conference (Sheffield, Apr. 2017) returned a tidy surplus of £1.7k, earmarked to support future bursaries and grants.

BFE's expenditure decreased on the previous year, in cash-accounting terms, from £15.6k to £11.5k, but again this is due to timing rather than excessive cost-control! In addition to expenditure timing issues already mentioned above, a payment for one fieldwork grant was called upon after year end as fieldwork was only undertaken very late in the year, and not all event sponsorship was requested before year end. Nevertheless, a robust bank balance continues to allow for additional expenditure on conference support, bursaries and grants. In 2017 BFE again awarded £1,500 of fieldwork grants, divided between three awardees (a figure that has increased to £2k for 2018), awarded £100 for the Student Prize, and offers a number of £100 Student Bursaries for annual conference. 'High Tea' at SEM (Denver, Nov.2017) remained costly this year (£2.1k) partly due to adverse currency movement.

The development of the comprehensive in-house CRM/Membership system is ongoing, as is a sustained membership drive. They ultimately bring both greater financial independence and organizational effectiveness. The aim is to facilitate the renewals process and improve membership retention while delivering important benefits for members too.

9. BFE Student Liaison – Committee Decision Confirmation

BN asked for membership decision confirmation on the removal of former student liaison Liam Bernard for having broken Rule 22nd of the BFE's constitution. The BFE Membership confirmed the decision, and a new call for student liaison will be prepared in due course.

10. AOB

10.1 RMA representatives

BD reminded the membership there will be a RMA Study Day this year, and that it is necessary to have a student liaison. Laudan Nooshin stated that there is a need to have more ethnomusicologists in the RMA council. She announced that she has just finished her term serving on the council, and she encouraged ethnomusicologists to put themselves forward for election.

10.2 BFE support for parents

Laudan Nooshin, who organised a panel on Ethnomusicology and Parenting at the 2018 Annual Conference, requested that the BFE invest in returning mothers or new parents to avoid losing talent due to maternity/paternity. She suggested having bursaries to support non-affiliated mothers/fathers. The BFE committee agreed to discuss the matter. DM will follow up.

12. Next AGM: Saturday 13th April 2019 at The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen