



## **Minutes of the BFE Annual General Meeting Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, Sheffield University**

**Present:** Ruard Absaroka (RA); Liam Barnard (LB); Morgan Davies (MD) – Administrator; Byron Dueck (BD); Keith Howard (KH); Andrew Killick (AK); Simon McKerrell; Barley Norton (BN) – Chair; Stephen Wilford (SW).

**1. Apologies:** Fiorella Montero Diaz (FMD), Ilana Webster-Kogen (IWK), David Wong (DW).

**2. Approval of minutes of last AGM (Kent, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016)**

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

**3. Matters arising**

- 3.1** BN thanked Andrew Killick, convenor of the 2017 BFE Annual Conference in Sheffield, and his team for organizing a highly successful event.
- 3.2** BN drew attention to the presence of the BFE physical archive at the RAI, which is accessible as a resource for BFE members to use.
- 3.3** BN alerted members to the creation of a new BFE Ethics statement, drawn from the related SEM online statement and to be amplified by case studies; and he called for BFE members to forward potential related case studies to either Keith Howard or BN for inclusion.

**4. Chair's report**

- 4.1 BFE Committee Members:** BN welcomed Committee members in their various new roles: SET as the new editor of Ethnomusicology Forum; Liam Bernard as Student Liaison; Simon McKerrell as External Relations Officer; and Fiorella Montero Diaz as Development Strategy Officer. BN also thanked FMD for her fantastic work as BFE Administrator over the past three years, and welcomed Morgan Davies as the new BFE Administrator since October 2016.
- 4.2 Membership:** BN reported that, as of April 2017, BFE membership was up to over 300 people – a record all-time high membership for the BFE. BN thanked Ruard Absaroka for his work in bringing the BFE membership in-house, with all of the attendant administrative and financial benefits that this significant move brings.

**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 2016**

The 2016 BFE Annual Conference was hosted by the School of Music and Fine Art at the University of Kent from 14 to 17 April 2016 with the theme 'New Currents in Ethnomusicology'. This marked a return to our traditional spring gathering following two years of summer conferencing. The conference committee included Kevin Dawe, Liam Barnard, Richard Lightman, and Ruth Herbert.

### **5.1.2 BFE One-day Conference 2016**

The BFE's 2016 One-day Conference was hosted by the University of Edinburgh on 22 October, with the theme 'Radio and Ethnomusicology: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives'. Tim Taylor delivered the keynote, and BFE student member Lawrence Davies compiled an excellent conference report, which is available to view on the BFE website. The conference committee consisted of Annette Davison, Simon Frith, J. Mark Percival, Tom Wagner and Tom Western.

### **5.1.3 BFE Study Day 2016**

The BFE sponsored a study day on the theme 'Sounding Ethnicity' at the University of Nottingham on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Martin Stokes gave the keynote address, with papers by ten other speakers featured. The study day was organised by Lonán Ó Briain. Surplus funds left over from the study day are being used to fund the upcoming 2017 Study Day. Lonán Ó Briain thanked the BFE for its input on the 2016 conference and flagged up forthcoming article publications from conference papers.

### **5.1.4 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference 2017**

Canterbury Christ Church University hosted the 2017 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference from Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 January 2017. The conference theme was 'Exploring Musical Practice', and the keynote speakers were Anna Morcom and Kate Guthrie, and the event was a resounding success. The conference committee included Liam Barnard, Erica Buurman, Byron Dueck, Vanessa Hawes, Catherine Haworth, Robert Rawson, Lauren Redhead, James Taylor, Maria Varvarigou, and Matt Wright.

### **5.1.2 BFE Annual Conference 2017**

From 21 to 23 April 2016, the BFE held its Annual Conference at the University of Sheffield. Over 100 papers and two ethnographic films were presented, focussing on the overarching theme of 'Tradition Today'. The Keynote speaker was Michael Bakan, and the programme committee consisted of Andrew Killick, Simon Keegan-Phipps, Helen Gubbins, Timothy Knowles, Kate Walker and Michael Walsh.

## **5.2. Forthcoming Conferences**

### **5.2.1 One-day Conference 2017**

The BFE's 2017 One-day Conference will be hosted by the University of Cambridge on 21 October, with the theme 'Listening to Difference'. Conference Administrator James Gabrillo reviewed the conference aims and Call for Papers (this CfP has already been issued and is available online via the BFE website). The conference

committee is Matthew Machin-Autenrieth, Rachel Adelstein, Thomas Hodgson, Stephen Wilford and Byron Dueck. All BFE members are encouraged to submit papers, and reminded that the deadline for submissions is Monday 8 May. The conference organisers are delighted to announce that Tina K. Ramnarine will give the keynote address. More details are available on the conference website: <https://bfeoneday2017.wordpress.com/>

### **5.2.2 BFE Study Day 2017**

SET announced that the BFE is supporting an LGBTQ+ Study Day, with the theme 'Music, Queer, Intersections', This will be the First Symposium of the LGBTQ+ Music Study Group, to be held at Edge Hill University (near Liverpool) from 26-27 May 2017. The event is being organised in collaboration with BFE, SMI, ICE and the RMA. Further details are available from SET and Thomas Hilder, and information regarding the Study Group and upcoming events can also be found on the LGBTQ+ Music Study Group website: <https://lgbtqmusicsg.wordpress.com/conference/>

### **5.2.3 BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference 2018**

The University of Huddersfield will host the third BFE/RMA Research Students' Conference in early 2018. BFE student members are encouraged to make their voices – and our discipline – heard at this event, which is designed to be as affordable as possible for student presenters. The conference committee includes Liam Barnard, Erica Buurman, Byron Dueck, Catherine Haworth, Robert Rawson, Lauren Redhead, James Taylor, Maria Varvarigou, and Matt Wright. Details of the 2018 conference will be announced in May 2017. This is an opportunity for students to give papers in front of a diverse group of peers, and features joint keynote addresses (BFE and RMA). The BFE has committed to always having a BFE keynote at BFE/RMA conference, and supervisors should encourage students to participate and should consider participating themselves. Any enquiries regarding participation should be directed to Byron Dueck, Simon Keegan-Phipps and Liam Bernard.

### **5.2.5 BFE Annual Conference 2018**

Newcastle University will host the BFE's 2018 Annual Conference from 12 to 15 April 2018. BFE Committee member Simon McKerrell is heading the conference committee and announced the Call for Papers, with the overarching theme of 'Europe and post-Brexit Ethnomusicologies'. This theme presents a substantial and topical issue that is not just structural but socio-cultural, and poses a challenge for all within the discipline. The Annual Conference is a key event for BFE members to present work on any aspect of their research, which can (although need not necessarily) intersect with the conference theme. Presentations involving applied ethnomusicology are especially encouraged.

## **6. BFE Awards**

- 6.1 BFE Fieldwork Grants Scheme 2017:** Following a hotly contested competition, three winners of the second BFE Fieldwork Grants Scheme were announced: congratulations to Sophia Frankford, Pablo Infante-Amate and Katie Young. The deadline for the next round of applications will be announced later in the year. This award has a limited pot, but the scheme provides an important function in encouraging and supporting ethnomusicological postgraduate research. Laudan Nooshin asked how many applications had been considered; BN replied that there

were 14 applications to the 2017 round so unfortunately many applicants didn't receive money; but the current increase in BFE members will generate more revenue, so there may be a possibility to increase fieldwork grant funding in the future.

- 6.2 BFE Student Prize:** With the 2016 Student Prize going to Esbjörn Wettermark for his paper entitled “‘Gutting the Listener’: The Vietnamese Shawm and Emotional Expression in Tuong Opera’, submissions for the 2017 Student Prize are now called for. Emails will be sent round shortly after the Annual Conference in Sheffield, with the submission deadline for the next Student Prize being midnight 26 May 2017.
- 6.3 BFE Book Prize:** As the BFE Book Prize is currently biennial, there is no prize for 2017. The call for edited volumes and monographs will be going out towards the end of 2017, with the next award to be presented at the 2018 AGM in Newcastle.

## **7. Other Reports**

- 7.1 Membership:** BN reported that as of April 2017 BFE had over 300 fully paid up individual members. This compares to 256 (2014), 247 (2013), 276 (2012), 253 (2011), and exceeds the peak in 2010 of 285 individual members. Of the 2015 membership, 40% are student members, 47% are regular professional tier, and 13% fall into the new enhanced membership tier. BN thanked members for sharing news and asked them to continue doing so, flagging up existing stories that have been published on the BFE website and social media.
- 7.2 Student section of the BFE:** LB flagged up the increased volume of BFE membership, and highlighted the need for a representative and self-sustaining student voice in the BFE, helping students to develop academic skills and roles. LB proposed a model developed from the SEM Student Union, and informed members that a pilot committee has been formed but that more submissions are needed from BFE student members to grow the steering group and to help the BFE student body develop its own identity. BN pointed to the sizeable number of existing BFE student members, and encouraged members to gather together and share ideas.
- 7.3 BFE Website:** BN previewed the new BFE website redesign, which is currently being undertaken by professional web editor Loz Cliffe. Investment in this much-needed website overhaul has been driven by need, with membership coming in-house and with grants, awards and so forth being increasingly run via online mechanisms.
- 7.4 Ethnomusicology Forum Editor's report:** SET announced that the EF journal is actively searching for a new reviews editor, and appealed for expressions of interest. She reported that the brand new advisory board includes representatives from China and Ghana, highlighting the drive for increased diversity at all levels of BFE operation. The Journal aims to be reflective of institutional spread, to encourage the diversity of representatives and to be reflective of institutional spread. All BFE members are warmly invited to continue submitting their research for publication.
- 7.5 Social media:** BN flagged up increased and rising popularity of the BFE Facebook page alongside MD's creation of BFE Instagram/Twitter pages, all of which helps to further publicise BFE news and events, in turn feeding into the traffic driven towards the BFE website.
- 7.6 BFE High Tea at SEM:** BN reported on the success of the 2016 BFE High Tea at the lavish Omni Shoreham hotel in Washington D.C., and asked that members continue

to bring biscuits to future events. BN thanked MD for supplying an excellent music playlist for the Omni Shoreham event, and once again thanked T&F for payment with half of the costs.

- 7.7 BFE High Tea at ICTM Limerick:** KH reported that another High Tea event is scheduled to happen in July at the 44<sup>th</sup> Congress of ICTM in Limerick.
- 7.8 Ethnomusicology/RAI Committee:** Chaired by John Baily, this organisation represents a drive to bring ethnomusicology and anthropology closer together. The Committee puts on a series of seminars at the RAI and elsewhere, including the prestigious Blacking Memorial Lecture (which will be hosted by Aberdeen University in 2018). Lecture demonstrations by performer/researchers have been successful, and opportunities are there for members to present their research – BFE members should get in touch with SW if they wish to be involved.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

RA reported that both income and expenditure has increased substantially year-on-year, and that the current figures conceal recent structural changes concerning the BFE membership coming in-house. On paper the BFE has spent more cash than usual in 2016-2017, but this has been because we have been able to anticipate certain costs: with membership money coming directly in-house, expenditure can be planned for. The SEM High Tea at the Omni Shoreham in Washington D.C. was particularly expensive, partly due to the unfavourable exchange rate; moreover, money spent on prizes and bursaries has increased dramatically. Hopefully these costs are sustainable and can grow. RA is cautious but is confident that increased financial independence will lead to a further increase in money spent on bursaries, prizes, and other immediate benefits to membership.

RA stood in for IWK to discuss membership figures: in addition to the record number of BFE members, data drawn from the BFE website CRM system shows useful information such as membership demographics and membership history. Implementation of the new membership system has been cost-mutual, and has evidently increased membership whilst also providing better hands-on management. There will also be added functionality in the new website currently under construction: RA flagged up the continued development of the “back end” of the website, and called for more feedback from members. He also raised point of Paypal being problematic for some members, and flagged up different possible ways of paying for membership in the future. RA asked for BFE members to contribute more to the website, so that it could develop as a community hub.

## **10. AOB**

- 10.1 BFE responses to international political issues:** BFE member Katia Chornik (KC) raised the issue of a disconnection between the BFE as an organisation and certain current events, with reference to the major political changes happening around the globe. KC reported that she had approached the BFE Committee with regards to endorsing an SEM statement opposing the US Government's Muslim travel ban. BN pointed out the BFE Committee had been asked to endorse the SEM statement, but that the Committee had felt uncomfortable giving support on behalf of all the membership. BN also raised issues with regards to how the BFE can address such issues as a scholarly organisation. There was additional concern about the BFE

remaining politically neutral, since we are in the process of re-registering as a charity. It was agreed that the Committee should have a full discussion on this matter at a forthcoming meeting.

- 10.2** SEM Announcement and Ice Cream Social: BN thanked Stephen Stuempfle (SS) for putting on this popular event at Sheffield 2017, and welcomed the coming Social. SS gave thanks to BN and the BFE for the opportunity to reciprocate for the BFE High Tea at SEM. He praised AK for organizing a fantastic conference, and also thanked the Sheffield caterers for help with putting on the Ice Cream Social. SS gave some background detail of SEM, which is now based in Indiana with 1800 members, 32 Sections and Special Interest Groups, and 10 Regional Chapters. The SEM produces a journal 3 times per year and an electronic newsletter 4 times per year, along with several other electronic publications. Around a dozen SEM prizes are awarded each year, and BFE members are warmly encouraged to submit articles for the various competitions. BFE members are also encouraged to check out the SEM website and to consider joining the organization, which offers a number of attractive membership benefits. SEM is currently working on a new strategic plan (running from 2017-2021) in an effort to increase impact in public sphere, to more effectively prepare students for careers in various fields, and to more fully engage colleagues around the world in collaborative works. SS called for suggestions and ideas in relation to this substantial initiative. The SEM Annual Meeting is a major event in the global ethnomusicology calendar, typically attracting around 1000 attendees; and all BFE members are cordially invited to attend SEM 2017 (to be held in Denver, CO. from 26-29 October).

**11. Next AGM: April 2018, Newcastle University**