

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at SOAS.**

**Present:** Byron Dueck (BD), Keith Howard (KH), Fiorella Montero Diaz (FMD), Amanda Villepastour (AV), Trevor Wiggins (TW), Ruard Absaroka (RA), Barley Norton (BN) – Chair, David Wong (DW), Ilana Webster-Kogen (IWK), Liam Barnard (LB).

- 1. Apologies:** Hettie Malcomson (HM), Noel Lobley (NL), Lyndsey Hoh (LH)
- 2. Approval of minutes of last meeting, SOAS, 4 July 2014**

BN went over the content of the minutes. Minutes approved with no corrections

### **3. Matters arising**

- 3.1** Book Prize announcement. KH informed the membership that the 2015/2016 Book Prize announcement would come out in the next month or so. AV said that the BFE is working out a deadline. KH said that there would be another book prize so he encouraged members and their contacts to submit books. AV said that the BFE would launch an itinerant Book Prize and that the BFE is planning to invite David Novak (first prize winner) to be on the prize panel. BN invited the membership to volunteer to sit on the Book Prize panel. John Baily asked the Committee about the actual procedure. Anna Morcom explained that members can send their books directly, but that the publisher can also send in books. Anna suggested including a permanent section about the Book Prize on the BFE website.
- 3.2** Celebrating new appointments and the success of our members: BN congratulated Anna Morcom on winning both the Alan Merriam Prize and the Marcia Herndon Prize (Gender and Sexualities Section) for her *book Illicit Worlds of Indian Dance: Cultures of Exclusion* • In August 2015, Noel Lobley will begin a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Virginia. Also, many congratulations to Noel for being invited to give the RAI Curl Lecture. The lecture will take place at 5pm on Friday 18 September 2015 at the Stevenson Lecture Theatre at the British Museum • In September 2016, Fiorella Montero Diaz will take up a position as Lecturer in Music at Keele University. • Jenny McCallum will start a postdoctoral position in Australia • Deirdre Morgan started a postdoctoral fellowship • Cassandre Balosso Bardín started a postdoc at the Sorbonne in France • Adrian Poole started a postdoc for the comparative gatherers and hunters project at UCL.

### **4. Chair's report**

#### **4.1** Committee Members:

BN welcomed incoming members: Ruard Absaroka, the new Treasurer; Liam Barnard, co-

convenor of the 2016 annual BFE conference in Kent; and Ilana Kogan-Webster. BN thanked Amanda Villepastour, previous BFE Chair for her assistance in the transition phase. He also thanked Anna Morcom and Henry Stobart for their invaluable support and work on the BFE Committee, as they stepped down. BN thanked Fiorella Montero, who is continuing as the BFE Administrator, for doing an excellent job of negotiating the increasing demands of a growing and developing organisation.

## 5. Conferences

The BFE is increasing the number of conferences and collaborations it is involved with. BN announced that the BFE student prize this year goes to Jennifer McCullum. KH said that she had passed her viva and is now starting a postdoc in Australia. BN also suggested organising a film festival with a prize.

### 5.1 Past conferences:

**5.1.1. Annual conference, 2014.** From 1–4 July 2014, the BFE held its annual joint conference in tandem with the third annual conference on *Analytical Approaches to World Music*. The event was hosted by the Department of Music at SOAS and the Institute of Musical Research (IMR) in association with the Centre for Music and Science at the University of Cambridge and the Society for Music Analysis. BN thanked the Programme Committee Chair, Richard Widdess (SOAS) and the Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Rachel Harris (SOAS) and their team. Nearly 120 papers were presented; there were keynote talks by Nicholas Cook, Martin Clayton, and Laudan Nooshin; and a closing plenary panel featuring Martin Stokes, Richard Cohn, and Ian Cross. The conference was well attended and successful. It presented some truly exciting research while exploring both complementarities and tensions between analytical and ethnographic approaches to music.

**5.1.2. One-day conference 2014.** The 2014 one-day conference was hosted by City University London and was themed 'Music and the City'. Nine papers were presented, and the day closed with a response panel featuring Richard Elliot, John Drever, and Byron Dueck. The conference notably gave attendees an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the research of several PhD students doing work on urban music making.

**5.1.3. Study Day, 2015.** The second joint BFE-RMA Study Day was held on 15 May 2015 at the Faculty of Music at the University of Oxford. The day was themed 'Music and Mobilities' and included nine papers and keynote talks by Jason Stanyek and Laura Tunbridge. Feedback from both speakers and participants was overwhelmingly positive. Expenses were fully covered by registration fees. The event was co-organized by Lyndsey Hoh (BFE student liaison officer), Peter Atkinson and Stephen Millar (RMA student representatives).

### 5.2 Forthcoming conferences

**5.2.1. Annual conference, 2015.** The 2015 annual conference, 2–5 July in Paris, is a joint event in partnership with the Société Française d'Ethnomusicologie and hosted by the latter organisation at the Musée du Quai Branly. The theme is *Border Crossings/Boundary Maintenance*. It will be a smaller annual gathering than the BFE is used to, with around 60 papers to run in two parallel sessions and a maximum attendance of just over 130. This will also be the BFE's first bilingual conference, with papers in both English and French. BD reported that the conference panel received 150 or

160 paper proposals, and that the panel, therefore, had to reject 60% of them.

**5.2.2 One-day conference, 2015.** The 2015 one-day conference has the theme ‘Ethnomusicology and Policy’ and will be hosted by the International Centre for Music Studies at Newcastle University on Saturday 31 October. The keynote speaker will be Naila Ceribašić. The conference has been convened by Simon McKerrell, who sits on the conference committee with Noel Lobley, Nanette De Jong, and Darren Fenn. A call for papers has been published (with a recent reminder); abstracts are due by Friday 3 July, and decisions are to be communicated by Friday 24 July.

**5.2.3. RMA-BFE student conference, 2016.** The RMA invited the BFE to join in sponsoring the annual student conference it holds each January. Working with representatives of the RMA (including Warwick Edwards, Emily Payne, and Peter Atkinson), James Butterworth, Lyndsey Hoh, and Byron Dueck helped to organise the collaboration and agreed on a set of guidelines to serve as a framework for the yearly event. The very first joint RMA–BFE student conference will be hosted by the Bangor University School of Music from 6–8 January 2016. The theme will be ‘Disciplines in Dialogue’. A call for proposals is forthcoming.

**5.2.4. Annual conference, 2016.** The 2016 annual conference will be hosted by the School of Music and Fine Art at the University of Kent from 14–17 April 2016. This marks a return to our traditional spring gathering following two years of summer conferencing. The conference committee will include Liam Barnard and Kevin Dawe. We plan to release a call for papers in the coming weeks.

**5.2.5. Study Day, 2015.** The BFE-sponsored study day, “Mouth Blown and Bellows Blown’: Free Reed Instruments in their Social Contexts”, will be held at the Elphinstone Institute in Aberdeen on Friday 6 November, 2015. Alistair Anderson has been confirmed as keynote speaker for the study day.

**5.2.6. Annual Conference, 2017.** The BFE has agreed to hold the 2017 BFE Annual Conference at Sheffield University returning to the usual Easter slot. The exact dates and other details are to be determined.

## **6. Journal Editor’s Report**

**6.1** TW reported that the BFE is looking for another editor. People have started applying for this position, mainly from outside the UK. People in the UK are just not applying. Anna Morcom suggested that the BFE Committee could communicate this to the REF Committee and heads of university departments. It would help if editing duties were valued at universities and for the REF. BN agreed, but added that maybe the BFE should also be lobbying more actively for these positions. Anna Morcom insisted on the importance of reporting this as a subject association, so something can be done about it.

## **7. Membership Liaison’ Report**

**7.1** RA reported that by the end of 2014, BFE had 256 individual members. This compares to 247 (2013), 276 (2012), 253 (2011), and remains far below the 2010 peak of 285 individual members. Of the 2014 membership, 101 are student members, 122 are professional tier, and 33 in the new enhanced membership tier. There is work to be done to ensure members are in

the appropriate bands, which are self-declared and not checked by T&F. Greater efforts should be made, particularly at conferences, to sign up new members and ensure existing members are in appropriate membership tiers. Given the growth of student numbers and interest in ethnomusicology across other domains of music scholarship there remains untapped potential. Recruitment following SEM high teas shows there is a global potential (28% of 2014 members paid in dollars). As the BFE is dependent on data from T&F, it remains difficult to ascertain precise membership numbers at any particular point throughout the year, or to know who the lapsed members are. Meanwhile, a meeting with T&F in March 2015 discussed some of the continuing areas of dissatisfaction and frustration experienced by members in the service provided by T&F. T&F promised to address these issues and also implement a marketing strategy to recruit new members (both institutional and individual).

7.2. BN also announced that the BFE is still looking into how to take membership in house. KH said the BFE needs to profit from conferences and have a permanent membership table at High Teas. AV said that at the SEM High Tea the BFE had a system to sign up members at the conference. RA announced that the BFE had redefined BFE membership perks. BN informed the membership that the BFE committee had agreed to try taking membership in house in order to see if this is possible. BN asked if anybody in the room had problems with T&F, and a few reported having membership problems. BN concluded by insisting on the urgency of addressing these problems.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

RA reported that in 2014, BFE made a small overall loss, in cash-accounting terms, of £1,068, a small but not representative deficit. Expenses have risen (administration/website, etc.), but it is all looking fine. The BFE currently has £44,957.73, so the accounts are looking pretty healthy. The BFE is in a position to increase student assistance. RA went through the income and expenses (see Treasurer's Report). T&F increased payback rates. BN thanked RA and FMD for their outstanding work on this.

## 9. Other reports

9.1 LH, BFE student representative, reported having been extremely busy organising conferences. She has served on either the organising or programme committee for the BFE–SFE Annual Conference 2015, the BFE–RMA Study Day 2015, and the BFE–RMA Research Students Conference 2016.

9.2 Promoting BFE. FMD is doing a great job keeping the BFE Facebook site updated and active. She also administrates the Facebook group Ethnomusicologists in the UK, which she set up before she was appointed BFE administrator. AV reported that the High tea at SEM is becoming a major event. In 2016 the SEM will host an Ice Cream Social event at the BFE Annual Conference. The BFE will shortly be introducing an ICTM High Tea.

9.3 BFE Archive. The BFE has embarked on the exciting project of building its first institutional archive. For this purpose FMD is gathering, cataloguing and summarising documents from 1973 onwards. **This constitutes a major contribution not only to the UK, but to the entire music world. The BFE is pleased to report that the BFE archive has progressed significantly and is now approximately 75% complete.** BN reported that the BFE is looking for a new home for the archive, the RAI is hosting it at the moment.

## **10 AOB**

**10.1** RAI Ethnomusicology Committee – JB introduced this Committee saying that it was first convened in 1953. It was an RAI initiative to recognise music and dance, and lasted for about 10 years before becoming a smaller RAI committee (Jeremy Montagu). With the new dynamic director David Shankland, who in 2011 wanted to expand the RAI's activities, there was a drive to revive the RAI Ethnomusicology Committee in collaboration with the BFE. This RAI committee is not intended to compete with the BFE. Whereas in the past ethnomusicology has largely been supported by anthropology, that kind of connection has faded away. The present Committee brings together anthropology and ethnomusicology with the Blacking Lecture and other activities, including RAI seminars. This is aimed at anthropologists, as ethnomusicology is not receiving recognition. There is also a move to have lunch recitals at the RAI. John Baily reiterated that it is important not to view this Committee as a competing committee, but just as something that fills in the gaps.

**10.2** FMD also reported that there are not many people who have accessed the members-only area. FMD encouraged membership to log in.

**10.3** AV and TW have been organising an African ethnomusicology study group. They put in a proposal and hope for a positive outcome. They have a list of people who are involved on African Studies (students and postdocs). AV asked any interested members to contact her in order to enhance the African interest list.

**10.4** BN thanked the membership for attending and invited them for wine and snacks.

## **11 Next AGM: 16<sup>th</sup> of April, Kent**