

CMS GL General Membership Meeting, April 8, 2017

Call to Order and Welcome

- Call to order by Jennifer Muñiz
- 36 members in attendance (about 40 were there for lunch, a few left before the minutes)
- Called to order around 12:50pm

Approval of 2017 minutes

- Moved (Jim Perone) and seconded (Gene Trantham), unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report

- Nick Ross – more people here than anticipated (around 75 attendees), healthy budget, still have a balance (around \$6,000 by end of fiscal year), we don't want a profit, so we will try to come up with ideas to spend it down. Asked for question; no questions
- Moved to approve budget (Molly Cryderman-Weber), and seconded (Jay Batzner), unanimous approval

2018 Otterbein university acknowledgements

- Nick Ross, Jennifer Merkowitz, local arrangements
- Paul Eisenstein, dean of arts and sciences
- Dennis Davenport, Music Dept Chair from Otterbein
- Jennifer Merkowitz, Arts Admissions counselor
- Claire Brock, program and operations manager
- Choral Directors: Gayle Walker, Mark Hutsko, Marla Butke
- Andrew Kovaleski, secretary/receptionist

2018 Program committee

- Chair, Sue Piagentini
- Members, James Perone, Adrienne Wiley, Sara Adams
- Report: wonderful year with the committee, record number of proposals (enriching and invigoration to read), difficulty vetting the proposals, 30% acceptance rate, 91 proposals (a record!), accepted 32, very competitive conference, 5 demos, 9 lecture-recitals, 2 panels, 13 papers, 2 performances, 1 workshop, 6 states in the region (MI, ND, OH, MN, IN, IL) and extend beyond to PA, NY, FL, LA, NC, and TX

2018 Composition committee

- Chair, Jay Batzner
- Christopher Dietz and Jennifer Merkowitz
- Report: also a large number of submissions, 51 submissions, accepted 18, large number helped by generosity of Otterbein choral program, grateful for Otterbein choral faculty, 1/3 to 1/2 of submission were for choir, 1 student submission and 1 retired accepted, CT, IN, IL, KY, MI, MS, ND, OH, PA, NC, and TX, extending beyond the region as with the program committee, good and competitive crop of pieces

Program Editor: Margarita Denenburg

New Officers

- President: Jay Batzner
- Pres. Elect/VP: Nick Ross
- Treasurer: Denise Odello
- Secretary: Katrin Meidell elected but accepted job outside the region, board will discuss but it is protocol for President to appoint the secretary
- Thank you to Molly Cryderman-Weber for service as Secretary and Treasurer in the past

2018 conference at University of Wisconsin-Stout, April 5-6, 2019: Jerry Hui and Aaron Durst, Local Arrangements Chairs

- About an hour from twin cities (Northern part of our region)
- Program Chair, TBA, Composition Chair, TBA: any ideas? Talk to board members, and you can self-nominate!
- Thoughts on Keynote Speaker (this year composer, last year performer, previous year music business, the year before that was music education) – ideas? Maybe time for a musicologist or theorist

New Business

- Report from Presidents' Meeting – Jennifer Muñiz
- VP of National Board is with us – Jim Perone
- Meet via Zoom a few times per year
- Relevant highlights: effort to make Symposium (journal) more high-profile and competitive, have common topic be more extended to the national board president
- National board position for Music Industry Studies person
- Open forum on career development – more informal this year (student and early career people, to get advice from more senior-level people), idea to have more opportunities for this kind of feedback for younger folks
- Award for top student presentation – this year 5 student presentations, always difficult to decide prizewinner, board met and wanted to announce winners, Jamie Evans and Caitlyn Trevor tie winner

Common Topic Discussion – led by Jay Batzner: Diversity and Inclusion

- This has come up a lot in his background as composer and serving as chair of composition committee
- Jay's mission on committees is to not get the "all male panel" award (Tumblr spoof "award")
- Jay appreciates the umbrella nature of the organization, we all belong to specialist organizations (there is definitely a value in that), but CMS gives opportunity to come together across disciplines and to have works heard by people other than other composers
- Diversity of disciplines in CMS as a strength and opportunity – on broad scale, we're poised to do a lot related to diversity and inclusion
- How to avoid the "all male panel" syndrome – encourage more diversity and inclusion ("a rising tide lifts all boats"); we all benefit from including more types of people

- 51 submissions for compositions (5 were women); submissions are anonymous for CMS which is good; no other details about race/ethnicity; only 1 woman was accepted and was a cancellation (sadly we ended up with an “all male panel” on the composition side); the general program doesn’t reflect this problem (seems to be more of a composer-based issue at CMS)
- Jay wonders what can we do as a region to encourage more diverse submissions; adjudication process is pretty good with it being anonymous; maybe a more diverse panel; how to get more different people to submit? Other ways to encourage more diversity and inclusion in the conference?
- Discuss by table and then share by table with the whole group
 - Christopher Gable – has CMS reached out to SAI? Women’s music sorority, put out call directed to specific organizations (IAWM)
 - Marilyn Shrude – IAWM awards in many categories, they give about 10 categories of awards for women composers but no performances linked it (could winners be performed at a CMS? Give opportunity to have performances)
 - And market CFP to facebook groups for women composers – Denise Ritter
 - Sue Piagentini – could we have a composition award? Help spend down the budget?
 - Jennifer Muñoz – don’t want to discriminate against composers from other categories
 - Joshua May – Can we define diversity and inclusion for our chapter, with direction from national, write a call for works that are relevant to that notion of diversity/inclusion (or a focus day of conference) –
 - Robert Jones – question about demographics; is there a preponderance of men in composition specifically (because rest of program was rather diverse); Jay – yes, anecdotally mostly men in Central Michigan U’s program (we talk about it at CMU to try to get more women and POCs to see themselves as possible composers); Bob – could be a few years until we see results of aim for more diversity and inclusion; Jay – definitely need to think about the “long game”; but we need to get the word out and promote CMS to more people to have them consider it; Bob – not many schools have student chapters; having a student chapter helps you encourage interest and more submissions; Jay – student CMS chapter could support students with interests in academic topics (musicology, theory)
 - Jennifer Muniz – double-edged sword as not wanting to identify as a “woman composer”; do women want to be a torch-bearer or representative, asked Marilyn to comment (Marilyn – she feels it more now, not as much in the beginning, but now feels need to encourage women specifically); Jennifer – worry about tokenism; Marilyn – it might offend some, but if you want to make it more inclusive, you need to encourage more women
 - Jay – acknowledges that there is only so much that he can do to encourage people that aren’t like him to do what he does
 - Christopher Gable – can we use some money for scholarship; for women students or POC for next year? Waive conference fee or give them some money? Jay – we discussed some ideas at the board meeting (but not tied to a demographic), and we want to use money smartly to encourage changes; more support for student chapters (such as startup money for students); Bob Jones – good idea to invest in the future; how to get the word out to composers? Suggests get the word out quickly (website or whatever)
 - Christine D’Alexander – Loves student chapter idea, how to start one – is there info about that?

- Gene – co-chair of student advisory council – there is a step-by-step process on national website to tell you process for starting a student chapter and there was a panel about it at national conference; some challenges – we want students at national and regional meetings but finances are a problem; last year a fundraiser for endowed travel – we reached the level and will start distributing next year (student funds for national conference); key to get faculty advisor and get students involved who aren't immediately graduating; good chapter at Appalachian State as a model
- Matthew Sanders – NAFME chapters – they do a good job of engaging students
- Nick Ross – need to wrap it up, but next year we are going to give money for president to travel to conference; we might not have money for something every single year (we don't have a surplus every year)
- Jay – send ideas to Jay
- Need new student representative – Catherine Tlusty is graduating; any ideas for next student representative? Share with board members

Adjournment