

N O T E S

Newsletter of the Victorian Chapter of the Musicological Society of Australia

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the March 2009 issue of *Notes*. The recent AGM produced a change to the Committee of the Victorian Chapter, with Joel Crotty retiring as President and Sue Cole becoming the new President. On behalf of MSA members, I would like to thank Joel for his contribution to the Victorian Chapter and wish Sue well in her new role.

Details of MSA activities for 2009 are listed in this issue. Events planned for the next few months include a session on publishing with Suzanne Ryan of OUP (20 or 21 May), a "practice dry run" day for those presenting at international conferences (30 May), and a mini symposium (23 or 24 July). Further details will be provided later. Also please note in your diaries that the MSA Victorian Chapter Conference will be held on Saturday 14 November.

Members are reminded to continue sending in information relating to recent publications, achievements, and other items of interest. These can be forwarded any time (julie.waters@arts.monash.edu.au), but should reach me no later than 1 August 2009 to ensure publication in the next issue.

Julie Waters

2008 CHAPTER COMMITTEE

President:	Sue Cole	s.cole@unimelb.edu.au
Secretary:	Shelley Hogan	hogans@unimelb.edu.au
Treasurer:	Peter Campbell	pcamp@unimelb.edu.au
Notes Editor:	Julie Waters	julie.waters@arts.monash.edu.au
Conference Convenor:	Kieran Crichton	i.crichton@postgrad.unimelb.edu.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIAN CHAPTER) 2008

Minutes of the MSA Victorian Chapter AGM held on Saturday 8th November 2008, at the Faculty of Music Postgraduate Centre, University of Melbourne, 3.20pm

Chair: in the absence of the President, meeting chaired by Secretary Shelley Hogan.

Present: David Forrest, Alison Rabinovici, Nathan Parry, Stephanie Rocke, Rosemary Richards, Kieran Crichton, Peter Campbell, Kerry Murphy, Christine Mercer, Sue Cole, Paul Watt, Julie Waters, Shelley Hogan.

1. Apologies

Shirley Trembath, Margaret Kartomi, Trish Shaw, Joel Crotty.

2. President's welcome and annual report

Shelley Hogan opened the meeting. She passed on Joel Crotty's apologies for his absence; he was on institutional business in Southern Africa at the time. The president's report was read to the meeting, which noted a lesser level of chapter activities this year and some concern over interest of tenured academic staff regarding the chapter presidency. Motion to accept the report, proposed Kieran Crichton, seconded Julie Waters. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's report

Peter Campbell presented his report noting the continued healthy financial position of the chapter (see attached). The report covered slightly more than a twelve-month period due to the later timing of this year's chapter conference and AGM. The chapter had few outgoings due to the lesser number of events held. The successful Biography Study Day in December 2007 was held at ACU. It was noted

that while this was a venue that charged a fee, the importance of the chapter not being overly Melbourne Uni focused was maintained.

The number of financial members of the chapter was not clear at the time; membership renewals were still being processed by the national committee for the imminent national conference to be held in Melbourne in the following month. Peter expected our numbers to remain stable at around 70+ members. Motion to accept the report, proposed Sue Cole, seconded Paul Watt. Motion carried.

4. Secretary's report

Shelley Hogan noted that the same points had already been covered by the treasurer's report. The secretary's report was not tabled.

5. Events Co-ordinator's report

No report tabled.

6. Newsletter editor's report

No report tabled.

7. Election of office bearers

A single nomination was received by the start of the meeting for each of the positions of President, Treasurer, Secretary, Event's Co-ordinator and *Notes* Editor. The positions were thus filled without need for vote. The 2008 MSA Victorian Chapter committee will consist of President, Sue Cole (new); Treasurer, Peter Campbell (continuing); Secretary, Shelley Hogan (continuing); Event's Co-ordinator, Kieran Crichton (continuing); and *Notes* Editor, Julie Waters (continuing).

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Communication

Concerns were raised by several members regarding the manner and frequency of chapter email communication. Frustration was voiced by Kerry Murphy, Sue Cole and Rosemary Richards regarding members not receiving due notice about activities, or any communication from the chapter at all. One problem may be the inaccuracy of the chapter email list, which needs to be addressed by the committee. The frequency of chapter communications could be increased to maintain a better presence. Christine Mercer further noted concern about the format of emails the chapter sends. As some members may not be able to receive or open attachments, attachments should not be relied on and the key points of an event or communication should be relayed in the text of the email.

8.2. Chapter engagement with tenured academic staff

Following from the president's report, a general discussion about the support of senior scholars to the chapter ensued. Some concern was raised over the suggestions of the president's report given the difficult current conditions of tertiary institutions.

Meeting closed 3.53pm.

Treasurer's Report 2008: Musicological Society of Australia (Victorian Chapter)

The chapter finances continue to provide a satisfactory level of fund to pursue chapter activities at their current level. Again this year, income was approximately equivalent to expenditure, and the overall balance of \$3,500 was maintained.

Expenditure on venue hire for chapter activities was increased this year so that a wider range of venues could be used, and this relieved any concern that the University of Melbourne might be being favoured, even though this is the only institution currently offering us its facilities for no charge. The distribution of membership fees from the national body adequately covered these costs.

Peter Campbell, Honorary Treasurer

Cash Book for 2007-2008

DATE	2007 DETAILS	DOC	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
1-Jul-07	BANK BALANCE				3550.68
11-Aug-07	Chapter Conf Prize - Sarah El-Atm	039		250.00	3300.68
28-Sep-07	Interest		0.08		3300.76
31-Dec-07	Interest		0.08		3300.84
14-Feb-08	ACU - hire venue	040		130.80	3170.04
14-Feb-08	Trinity College - chap conf catering	041		324.00	2846.04
14-Feb-08	Aust Post - post box rental	041		60.00	2786.04
31-Mar-08	Interest		0.07		2786.11
8-Apr-08	Chap conference registrations		170.00		2956.11
17-Apr-08	Monash Uni - hire venue	042		201.30	2754.81
1-Jul-08	Interest		0.07		2754.88
14-Sep-08	MSA National -distribution		752.00		3506.88

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD JUL 2007-OCT 2008

BANK BALANCE as at 1 July 2007		3550.68
PLUS Receipts		
> MSA Nat. chapter distribution	752.00	
> Vic Chapter conf registrations	170.00	
> Interest	0.30	922.30
LESS Expenses		
> Chapter Conference & Events	656.10	
> Prizes	250.00	
> Administration	60.00	
> Bank charges and tax	0.00	966.10
BANK Balance as at 31 October 2008		3506.88

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIAN CHAPTER) 2007

Minutes of AGM held on 11 August 2007, Trinity College, University of Melbourne, 5.00pm

Present: Peter Campbell, Sue Cole, Kieran Crichton, Joel Crotty, Elizabeth Kertesz, Alison Rabinovici, Melanie Plesche, Stephanie Roche, Patricia Shaw, Julie Waters, Paul Watt

1. Apologies

Christine Mercer; Shirley Trembath

2. President's welcome and annual report

Joel Crotty opened the meeting; summarized the year's activities and called for volunteers to fill the vacancies of secretary and events co-ordinator for which no nominations were received (see attached).

3. Treasurer's report

Peter Campbell presented his report noting a healthy financial position (see attached)

4. Secretary's report

Paul Watt presented his report (see attached) noting that the chapter's website was still not live and that progress towards it had been stalled (see AOB, below).

5. Events Co-ordinator's report

Owing to Christine Mercer's recent illness it was deemed acceptable that the President and Secretary's report covered the necessary ground.

6. Newsletter editor's report

Julie Waters commented on the timing of publication of the reports this year (see attached).

7. Committee vacancies

The position of Secretary and Events Coordinator were vacant; no nominations were received prior to, or during, the meeting and it was uniformly resolved that nominations should be sought by the existing committee members and the outgoing secretary.

8. Election of office bearers

See (7) above.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Chapter website—Paul Watt commented that despite many efforts the chapter's website had not yet been set up. Sue Cole reaffirmed her willingness to be involved and to set up such a page (and link it to the MSA national site) via the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Music website. It was unanimously agreed this was the best solution to creating the chapter's website.

9.2 Australian Study Group for British Music. Sue Cole asked if the ASGBM could draw modestly on the chapter's funds for holding study days—she suggested \$100 per study day. Peter Campbell noted that this was possible since the chapter was in a solid financial position; Paul Watt commented that it was appropriate since the vast majority of Study Group members were MSA members. Paul suggested that any person or group setting up any study day should also be entitled to such funds. Peter Campbell formally proposed a motion to this effect.

Proposed: Peter Campbell; **Seconded:** Elizabeth Kertesz. Carried by all.

Meeting closed at 5.20pm.

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND LECTURES OF INTEREST TO MSA MEMBERS

Distinguished Afghan Music Scholars visit Monash

In March and April 2009 the Monash School of Music and Monash Asia Institute will host two distinguished scholars of Afghan music, John Baily and Veronica Doubleday. John Baily is Emeritus Professor of Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths, University of London, and is Head of Goldsmiths' Afghanistan Music Unit. Veronica Doubleday is a Visiting Lecturer in the School of Historical and Critical Studies at the University of Brighton. They are both renowned ethnomusicologists who have published books, articles, CDs and films on men's and women's Afghan traditional music.

During their visit they will give two lectures. On 26 March Veronica Doubleday will talk on "Women's music in Afghanistan", and on 23 April John Baily will talk on "Music structure and human movement: Lessons from Afghan lutes". Both these lectures are open to the public and MSA members are invited to attend.

Monash School of Music Research and Work in Progress Seminars Semester One, 2009

The following seminars have been organized for the remainder of this semester. MSA members are invited to attend.

Thursday 9 April, 9:30am - 11:00am, Burchill Rooms (G38), Building 68

Made Hood and Graeme Smith: **'From Bali to Bourke: Tradition, Gender and vocal style in Pop Bali and Australian Country Music'**

Thursday 23 April, 9.30am – 11.00am, Burchill Rooms (G38) Building 68

John Baily: **'Music structure and human movement: Lessons from Afghan lutes'**

Thursday 14 May, 9.30am – 11.00am, Burchill Rooms (G38) Building 68

Paul Watt: **French influences on English Musical criticism in the late Victorian period: the case of Ernest Newman and the Weekly Critical Review 1903 - 1904**

Thursday 21 May, 9:30am - 11:00am, Burchill Rooms (G38), Building 68

Suzanne Ryan: **'A workshop on publishing in Musicology'**

Call for papers

The Society of Organists (Victoria) Inc., will hold its first conference on Saturday 24 October 2009, 9.00am-7.00pm. This conference will focus on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn), exploring themes such as Mendelssohn's place in Australian and international music culture, questions

of cultural identity, and how these shape our understanding of his music. A further theme is the organ as a progressive force in music culture. Papers dealing with other composer anniversaries, organ-related subjects or general topics will also be considered. Following the evening recital, the Society's Annual Dinner will be held, including a keynote address. Speaker, venue and price to be announced.

Proposals for papers (20 minutes) and lecture recitals (35 minutes) are invited from scholars and performers. Abstracts of 250 words should be sent to the conference organiser by 5pm on Friday 25 September 2009. For all enquiries, contact the conference organiser, Kieran Crichton: secretary@sov.org.au; 0407 816 321. (This is not a MSA event, but may be of interest to MSA members.)

CONFERENCE REPORTS

MSA Annual Conference, 4-7 Decemberr 2008, University of Melbourne

The Faculty of Music at the University of Melbourne was the host of the 2008 annual meeting of the MSA held between 4-7 December.

There were a few sessions that I thought particularly stood out. On top of the list was the first bracket of three papers by UWA staff on the papers of John Blacking (I didn't manage to attend the second bracket). The session comprised Kaye Hill, Brian Dawson and Victoria Rogers who spoke about different aspects of the Blacking collection: its archival history; the problems of cataloguing and dissemination; and how today Blacking might be remembered. Clearly the presenters had read and critiqued each others' papers; the powerpoints were expertly designed and shown and all three presenters' public speaking skills were exemplary.

I also enjoyed very much the session entitled 'French topics', consisting of papers by Julia Lu on the Prix de Rome libretti; Kerry Murphy on Saints-Saens' *Hélène*; and Rachel Orzech on Jewishness in *La Juive*. Again, this was a session that was highly polished. The cross-over of content in papers by Julia and Kerry were extremely interesting and entertaining.

For many years there have been murmurs within the MSA to abandon the long and noble tradition of accepting every abstract for the national conference. No other musicological society that I know of does this, and I propose that the MSA falls into line with this practice. Many MSA members have been on abstract committees to other organizations whose expertise should be sought for instigating a method of peer review for our national conference. The chapters should continue the practice of accepting all abstracts, but the national conference I believe should be cut to a maximum of three days with three parallel sessions maximum.

The biggest success of the conference was that it didn't have a theme. I think theoretical or ethnographic topics are much easier to be plied round a theme, but historical work is, I think, less flexible. Personally, I find it difficult for my own research to fit most MSA conference themes. So I say let

there be less themed conferences and may there be much more emphasis on organised panels! All in all, MSA 2008 was a great success—from a good variety of papers to Christine Mercer's home-cooking at morning and afternoon teas. Newcastle in 2009 has a hard act to follow.

PAUL WATT

MSA Victorian Chapter Annual Conference, 8 November 2008, University of Melbourne

There were only four presentations at this year's conference, possibly because presenters were saving their intellectual energy (and work!) for the MSA's national conference in December, or possibly because they simply couldn't be bothered. I find it hard to get motivated for conferences at the business end of the second half of the year and I'm beginning to wonder that I'm not alone. Still, the day was a good success; the papers were interesting and there was much food for thought.

Nathan Perry's presentation was a biographical portrait of Sir John Clerk (1676–1755), an immensely interesting character from Penicuik, Scotland, who dabbled (or really, more than dabbled) in music and medicine and much else besides, including landscape gardening. Nathan discussed Clerk's position in context of his time and discussed the outline or intentions of his five cantatas. Kieran Crichton spoke about Ebenezer Prout's treatises on musical theory: their possible sources of inspiration and distribution and influence over parts of the English-speaking world. Stephanie Rocke's presentation discussed parts of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* (1999) and interrogated its meaning in Christian, Islamic and liturgical situations to suggest why it has become an 'ambassadorial' work. Finally, Julie Waters' paper on Alan Bush examined his role in the 1948 Prague Congress and his relationship with the British Composers' Guild. This was a complex story that was expertly delivered and was awarded the 2008 Musicology Prize.

The MSA Victoria committee are to be congratulated for putting the day on; for so ably managing the AGM and for the superb catering to which MSA Victorian members and their stomachs are becoming accustomed.

PAUL WATT

Conference on 'Tudorism', December 2008, History of Art Department, Bristol University

In December 2008 I attended a symposium organised by Tanya String and Marcus Bull at the History of Art Department of Bristol University, entitled 'Tudorism: Historical Imagination and the Appropriation of the Sixteenth Century.' The symposium ran over three days, and consisted of hour-long presentations by invited speakers from a number of different disciplines, including art history, film, music, design, literature and architecture.

The symposium got off to an great start (in my unbiased opinion) on the afternoon of Friday 5 December, with an opening paper by Prof Patrick Collinson (Cambridge) on perceptions of the Tudor church, followed by my own paper on the Tudor Church Music Revival, and Stephen Banfield on the impact of 'Tudorism' (a term that appears to have been coined by the organisers) on British composition, 1837–1953. We then broke for dinner before attending an excellent concert of Tudor and 'Tudorist'

choral music in the neo-Gothic Great Hall of the University, by the local group the Exultate Singers, conducted by David Ogden. The concert, which included works by Byrd, Warlock, Vaughan Williams, Rutter and others, began (and ended) with *Pastime with Good Company*, ostensibly by Henry VIII, sung in procession accompanied by tambourine and drum. While this was certainly dramatic, I was slightly apprehensive that we were drifting uncomfortably close to the type of fancy dress early music performances favoured by Arnold Dolmetsch and his disciples. Such fears were, however, unfounded, and the concert was very enjoyable. The highpoint, both for myself and for most people that I spoke to, was a performance of the Bristol-born Robert Lucas Pearsall's exquisite madrigal *Lay a Garland*, composed around 1840. Again, I was slightly alarmed when the choir rearranged themselves around the perimeter of the Great Hall for the performance of this piece: in my experience complicated spatial effects often lead to ensemble problems. But on this occasion the effect was entirely satisfactory, and the experience of being surrounded by the wash of sound was extremely moving.

The focus moved away from music on the second day, with papers on topics as diverse as 'The Pleasures of Tudor Horror' (Billie Melman, University of Tel Aviv); 'The Popular Cult of "Olden Times"' (Peter Mandler, Cambridge) and the Tudors in film, including the catchily titled "'A Good Man with his Chopper?" Representing Henry VIII on Screen', by Greg Walker, of the University of Edinburgh. The day's program concluded with a public lecture in the Great Hall by the controversial historian David Starkey. This event drew a large crowd of locals, who were, presumably, entertained by Starkey's engaging and polished delivery, though the conference delegates were, on the whole, less enthusiastic.

The Sunday morning saw another four papers, including a discussion of 'The Tudors Viewed by French Romantic Artists' by Stephen Bann (University of Bristol); twentieth-century Tudor design as an ideological battleground, by Jonathan Woodham (University of Brighton) and a quick romp through edited highlights from the recent Showcase series 'The Tudors' and other popular culture manifestations of 'Tudorism' by Jerome de Groot (University of Manchester).

As with all conferences, the papers were something of a mixed bag. I found attending this symposium very beneficial as so many of the papers were on areas about which I knew nothing, and I came away with a long list of things to follow up. Yet I also found it frustrating. Many of the papers appeared to me to be rather generalist overviews of their areas, with little detailed research. I had hoped that the attendees would, like myself, be primarily engaged in studying historical perceptions of the Tudors and their culture, but I suspect that many of the presenters were actually more interested in the Tudors than the 'ism.' But then it is difficult to know how to pitch a paper at a cross-disciplinary event such as this. Just how much can you assume that the audience will know? Perhaps a broad overview is what is required, rather than discipline-specific minutiae.

I also wondered, however, whether the pressure to publish a great deal might not have contributed to this situation. The bibliographies of the presenters were all extremely impressive: multiple monographs seemed to be the order of the day, even for younger researchers such as Jerome de Groot, a state of affairs that was attributed to the RAE, the British equivalent of the ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) initiative currently being introduced by the Rudd government. Perhaps when there is a great deal of pressure to produce in volume, in-depth research will often be sacrificed? These are, however, minor quibbles. This conference provided me with an invaluable opportunity to get a sense of what is going on in disciplines other than music, and to place my own research on Tudor music revivals in a

much broader context. I am extremely grateful for the British Academy funding that allowed me to attend.

SUE COLE

MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are some of the achievements, publications and activities of MSA members in the Victorian chapter. However, we are sure that many other members have been equally as active, so please write in with any items of interest about yourself or others:

Kerry Murphy, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Music, Melbourne University, has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities. As noted on the Faculty of Music webpage: "This reflects Kerry's national and international standing as a musicologist, and the high esteem in which she and her work are held by leading humanities scholars throughout Australia."

David Bennett has recently published *Sounding Postmodernism: Sampling Australian Composers, Sound Artists and Music Critics*, Australian Music Centre, 2008. Susan McClary writes of the book: "In this book, David Bennett offers an unusually lucid, jargon-free exposition of the theories and debates surrounding this concept, arguing persuasively for its continuing relevance to contemporary music and culture."

Graeme Smith, John Whiteoak and Aline Scott-Maxwell have contributed chapters to *Sounds of Then, Sounds of Now*, edited by Shane Homan and Tony Mitchells.

The following news about MSA members is reproduced from the March edition of Monash University School of Music's Newsletter

Joel Crotty and Kay Dreyfus have been commissioned to edit a special issue of *Musicology Australia* (2010) with the theme 'The 1960s'. Their most recent collaboration, a Special Issue of *Music and Politics*, an online journal, has just been published, including three articles by School authors (Kay Dreyfus, Nino Tsitsishvili and Julie Waters). See: <http://www.music.ucsb.edu/projects/musicandpolitics/>

Margaret Kartomi has been invited to join the Editorial Board of *Ethnomusicology Forum*, published by Routledge. She has recently been to Aceh, Indonesia, where she delivered a paper at the Second International Conference on Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies, sponsored by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

Margaret Kartomi was also a Guest of Honour at a celebration in the Matheson Library on Monday 30 March 2009. This notable event was held to mark the inclusion of the Kartomi Collection of Traditional Musical Arts in Sumatra in the Library's online ARROW repository. The digitisation of the recordings in this collection, which is the product of 40 years of field work activity by Professor Kartomi, was made possible by an Australian Research Council Grant dedicated to the cataloguing and preservation of unique music collections. Called Sound Footings, the aim of the project was to make hitherto

inaccessible resources available universally for future research. The project represents external collaborations – between Monash University, The University of Western Australia and the National Library of Australia – and also internal collaborations within Monash's Matheson Library, Information Technology and the School of Music.

Julie Waters was the recipient of the prize for the best postgraduate paper at the 2008 meeting of the Victorian Chapter of the Musicological Society of Australia. Her paper was entitled 'Alan Bush, the 1948 Prague Composers' Congress and the British Composers' Guild'.

Paul Watt has been awarded a Monash Europe Travel Grant to fund two months' research on a visiting fellowship to the Institute of Musical Research, University of London. Paul joins Sue Cole (Melbourne) and Kate Bowan (ANU) as a Corresponding Member of the Centre for the History of Music in Britain, the Empire and the Commonwealth in the University of Bristol. Kerry Murphy (Melbourne) is an Honorary Associate.

Katrina Dowling, an MA student, recorded a radio broadcast for 3MBSFM on 24 February called 'The Sweet Flute: The Recorder and its Musicians'.

WHAT'S ON 2009

- 20 or 21 May** **MSA session on publishing with Suzanne Ryan**, Music Commissioning Editor of OUP (New York). Further details will be confirmed later.
- 30 May** **MSA Practice "Dry-run" Day**. Further details will be confirmed later. This day would be open to MSA members who are proposing to present papers at international conferences. The idea is that they would have an opportunity to present their papers to each other in a mutually supportive environment before presenting them overseas.
- 23 or 24 July** **MSA Mini Symposium**. Details will be provided later.
- 5 Sep** **Fourth Study Day of the Australian Study Group for British Music**, to be held at Barry Street, University of Melbourne. Details will be provided later.
- 26-29 Sep** **Musicological Society of Australia, National Conference**. This is to be held at the University of Newcastle, NSW.
- 14 Nov** **MSA Victorian Chapter Conference**. Details will be provided later. A call for papers will go out in September.

See this newsletter for details of other events. Details of international conferences may be accessed at:
<http://www.sun.rhbnc.ac.uk/Music/Conferences/>