

RMA Council Meeting Report

2:30pm, Tuesday 8 September 2020

The meeting was again held by Zoom, during the online conference hosted by Goldsmiths, University of London,

Tom Attah was welcomed to the meeting, attending as convenor of the newly established Popular Music Study Group.

President's report. [Simon McVeigh](#) offered his written report to the AGM in lieu of the usual oral report. Council voted thanks to Warwick Edwards for his long contribution to the governance of the RMA, most recently as a Vice-President. It was noted that [Andrew Kirkman](#) was taking over the leading role in our fundraising initiative. Further thanks were extended to Ordinary Members of Council whose terms would be ending on 31 December: Chris Collins, Natasha Loges, and Deborah Mawer. Barbara Kelly, on behalf of Council, thanked Simon McVeigh for his service as President over the past three years, a period of significant change for the Association.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. [Laudan Nooshin](#) explained that the original RMA/MusicHE working group had evolved into an independent network; the response had been overwhelmingly positive. A wide-ranging discussion moved on from organisational matters to perceptions of inequality, both within the RMA and from an external perspective. It was decided that the Mission Statement should be updated to emphasize the commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion; and that a new Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee should be constituted, with the possibility of a members' survey among its first actions.

Music Education. [Deborah Mawer](#) reported on the new website and the forthcoming conference round-table, emphasising the importance of collaborating with other bodies as this initiative moves forward.

Awards Committee. [Elaine Kelly](#) put forward recommendations for the various awards, which were all confirmed by Council: the Jerome Roche Prize to Amanda Hsieh (already announced), with an honourable mention to Peter McMurray; the RMA/CUP Monograph Prize to Florian Scheduling, with an honourable mention to Berta Joncus; and the RMA/CUP Outstanding Edited Collection Prize to a volume edited by Gavin Williams. Full citations can be seen on the website. Council agreed to change the criteria for the Outstanding Edited Collection Prize to include a commitment to diversity and inclusion, with the possibility of co-opting external panel members.

Finally there was discussion about the criteria for the Tippett Medal in view of the current situation regarding public performances. Council agreed that Small Grants might be applied to performance.

Finance and Membership Committee. [Sarah Hibberd](#), Jeffrey Dean and Valerie James presented for adoption the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2019, and the draft budget for 2021 was approved. Discussion about communications resulted in agreement that the statement of benefits to members could be improved, especially in connection with equality, diversity, and inclusion; and the question of images on the website was referred to the new EDI committee.

Student Committee. [Patrick Huang](#) introduced his written report, and it was agreed that Ashley Westmacott's question about renaming the Student Blog should be referred to the Publications Committee.

Early-career mentoring: [Annika Forkert](#) introduced her draft outline of a mentoring scheme. A lively discussion focussed on issues of eligibility, and a working group was set up to finalise the scheme, with a view to launching it at the Research Students' Conference in January 2021.

Search Committee. [Pauline Fairclough](#) noted that the results of the Council election would be made public the following day.

Publications Committee. [Rebecca Herissone](#) reported on the transition to publishing the *Journal of the RMA* and *RMA Research Chronicle* with Cambridge University Press. The *Research Chronicle* was being rethought, as part of discussion about the look and nature of both journals. There had been a good response to the publications questionnaire: 70% reported using the print editions either alone or together with the online versions, while students were more likely to use online alone.

Events Committee. [Natasha Loges](#) congratulated and thanked the organizers of the online Annual Conference. She highlighted the formation of the Popular Music Study Group, and reported that (in the current challenging circumstances) several additional applications for conference funding had been approved remotely by the committee.

Practice research. It was noted that [Scott McLaughlin](#) had progressed the relevant page on the RMA website; and that our contribution to the REF consultation had produced a good outcome with regard to practice research.

Council will next meet in January as part of the Research Students' Conference. If you have any questions about the proceedings of Council, or want to be involved with any of the initiatives mentioned, please email the relevant Council Member by clicking on their name.

[Ellen Falconer](#)

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