

Minutes of the meeting of the Technical Committee on Musical Acoustics
23 October, 2012
Kansas City, MO

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Thomas Moore, the chair of the TCMU. In attendance were: Peter Hoekje, Roger Hanson, Thomas Rossing, Fatemeh Pishdadian, Jim Cottingham, Judy Cottingham, Punita Singh, William Strong, Antoine Chaigne, Uwe Hansen, Judit Angster, Andy Morrison, Evan Davis, Randy Worland, Wilfried Kausel, Jack Dostal, Whitney Coyle, Kristina Sorensen, and Jim Beauchamp.

The chair acknowledged Jim and Judy Cottingham and thanked them for being the TCMU representatives to the TPOM. Uwe Hansen was also acknowledged for arranging the two organ concerts. The session chairs were recognized (T. Moore, U. Hansen, J. Dostal, A. Morrison, J. Cottingham, T. Rossing), and Joe Wolfe was congratulated on receiving the Rossing Prize.

The chair noted that there were very few people signed up to attend the organ concert on Wednesday night. He stated that if there was not more interest the bus would be cancelled, however, a show of hands indicated that there were approximately 10 people present that were intending to go but had not bought a ticket yet. Uwe Hansen decided to continue with the planned concert.

The chair announced that Brian Monson and Brandon August were the Best Student Paper Award winners from the Hong Kong meeting. He then announced the current students competing for the award and reminded all members of the TCMU to try to attend all sessions and then vote for their top three choices.

The locations of future meetings of the ASA through 2015 were announced and a discussion of the upcoming meeting in Montreal ensued. It was noted that the ICA requires that all presenters also submit an article for the proceedings. It was pointed out by a member of the Committee that there will be a problem because the corresponding author must be the first author, thus a faculty member cannot be the corresponding author and the student the first author. The chair agreed to take this issue to the Technical Council. The question of conference fees for the meeting was also raised. The members of the committee would like to ensure that the ASA pricing schedule will be maintained (e.g., student fees, emeritus, etc.). The chair agreed to bring the issue to the technical council.

The committee then discussed proposed technical sessions for the meeting in San Francisco in 2013. Five sessions were proposed with organizers: Rolf Bader had previously volunteered to chair a session on Inverse Problems in Acoustics; Edgar Berdahl volunteered by email to chair sessions on Digital Musical Instruments and another one on Computational Methods in Acoustics; Tom Rossing and Uwe Hansen volunteered to co-chair a session on the Physics of Bells and Gongs; Jack Dostal volunteered to chair a session on Teaching Musical Acoustics, with a title to be decided upon later. It was suggested that David Wessel may organize a session on World Music if asked. The chair agreed to contact him.

The TPOM representative for TCMU was discussed. The chair had already asked Edgar Berdahl and Julius O. Smith to represent the Committee. Tom Rossing volunteered to do it if those two declined.

Members expressed a strong interest in including a tour of the Exploratorium in connection with the meeting in San Francisco. The chair noted that this had been discussed in the Technical Council meeting, but that he would ensure that our support for the idea was expressed.

The committee then discussed possible special sessions for the Providence meeting in May, 2014. Jim Beauchamp volunteered to organize a session on Automatic Musical Accompaniment Systems.

The chair asked for feedback on the 1st ASA School that was held before the start of the meeting. One student at the meeting had attended the school and enthusiastically expressed her satisfaction. Although this student was interested in bioacoustics, she was attending the TCMU meeting based on hearing Tom Rossing's lecture at the school. She indicated that, in her opinion, Musical Acoustics should be included in the school every year. Some dissatisfaction was expressed by others because the students all seemed to have a research agenda and were most interested in getting help with their research, rather than learning about other areas of acoustics. Student Council representative Whitney Coyle expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that all students in the school had to submit an abstract for presentation at the general meeting. This policy meant that many students who would have benefited significantly could not attend the school, and furthermore that all students attending the school already had a research program and therefore were more focused on getting advice about their research rather than learning about other areas of acoustics.

The chair asked for feedback on the ASA Apps that were introduced at this meeting. Strong support was expressed by iPhone users. People using Droid supported the idea, but were unhappy with the interface.

There was significant concern that the itinerary for the current meeting, as well as all past meetings, came out too late. Travel plans had to be made prior to learning the schedule, and therefore several people had to leave the conference before important sessions. This was an especially prevalent problem among members from outside North America. The committee asked the chair to express a strong desire that a tentative schedule be released immediately after the TPOM. While recognizing that a few changes may occur, many more people will be helped than hurt. A preliminary schedule with an appropriate disclaimer is requested. The chair agreed to take this issue to the Technical Council.

The chair explained some upcoming changes to the document classification system. A link to the new classifications will be emailed to all members and feedback solicited. The committee agreed unanimously that a new major subheading called Musical Technology should be added. It was noted that there are now several degree programs in Musical Technology, and a similar classification exists in the European societies. The chair agreed to ensure that this was conveyed to the editorial board.

The chair passed around a preliminary copy of the new list of graduate programs in acoustics and asked each member to ensure that the information about their institution was correct. No corrections were noted.

Members of the Committee were asked to support the two outreach activities occurring on Wednesday. Several people indicated that they would do so.

The committee was asked to comment on the publication *Echoes* and *Acoustics Today*. All members of the committee agreed that the two publications were valuable. When asked if conversion to an all-electronic version of either would be appropriate, the committee opined that paper copies are valuable. Specifically, some members of the committee liked being able to post the publications, or parts of them, on bulletin boards for all to see. There was also some concern expressed that electronic versions would not be read, even by those present. During the discussion, Tom Rossing, editor of *Echoes*, requested that the membership participate more in identifying important items for inclusion, as well as letters responding to articles.

The committee was asked whether they would purchase a complete set of JASA on a thumb drive. Most members thought they might if the price was reasonable. The \$150 cost may be a little high, but lowering the price may entice more non-ASA members to purchase it. Several people believed that a price of ~\$50 may make the project successful, and that at that price both ASA members and non-members would purchase it.

The committee discussed a proposal to move the day of the TCMU meeting from Tuesday to Thursday beginning with the next meeting. A small majority of the committee voted to change the day, with the success of the change to be discussed at the next few meetings.

The committee requested that the chair submit a request for a Technical Initiatives in the amount of \$2,000 each to support a concert in Montreal and San Francisco. Tom Rossing will arrange for the concert in San Francisco. Someone living in Montreal will be asked to arrange a concert at that meeting.

Whitney Coyle was recognized by the chair for her service to the Committee, and announced that she has been elected the Chair of the Student Council. TCMU will therefore need a new student representative beginning with the meeting in San Francisco. She was also congratulated for receiving an NSF grant to pursue Ph.D. work in France working with Jean Kermogard.

The Committee requested that the chair investigate having a joint session with Women in Acoustics for a future meeting. The issue is that WIA is not a TC, but the Committee would like to have a formal association. The chair agreed to address the issue.

Committee reports were then presented.

Medals & Awards- Jim Cottingham reported that the committee was meeting, but he could not report on the confidential discussions.

Women in Acoustics- Judy Cottingham reported on the WIA outreach activities. She specifically asked for support for women who needed mentors. The mentor program for early career women has been very successful and more mentors are needed.

Membership- Jim Beauchamp reported that there is still a drive to get associate members to become regular members. All associate members can become regular members by filling out the appropriate forms. There was a short discussion concerning nominations for fellowship. Specifically, the importance of strong letters of nomination was discussed.

ASACOS- Andy Morrison updated the committee on the current issues before the Committee on Standards. None were of immediate concern to the community of musical acousticians.

Student Council- Whitney Coyle invited all members to the student reception. She announced the establishment of a twitter feed and Facebook page.

POMA- Jim Beauchamp showed a graph with the acceptance rate of POMA and encouraged everyone to submit a paper. A request was made to index POMA by technical committee. It was also suggested that the new POMA papers be listed in JASA so members will know there are new articles. Jim Cottingham agreed to post a list of the papers on topics related to musical acoustics on the web site.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Moore
Chair, TCMU