

CSTM President's Report at AGM (November 6, 2005)

Norman Stanfield, University of British Columbia

It has been another good year for the CSTM, the fourth in my role as President. Several *Bulletin* magazines and a *Journal* speak volumes about our continuing strong presence in Canada. These publications follow our annual convention in 2004 where we were wined (actually pubbed), dined and stimulated with great papers, thanks in part to excellent arrangements by Carole Carpenter, Heather Sparling, and others.

As your President, I had several interesting sojourns and much interesting correspondence. One of the highlights of my Presidential travels was my flight to Toronto to attend the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Commission for Unesco. Some of you may recall that I provided the CSTM with an extensive report via the CSTM listserv. The challenge they threw at the feet of a room full of representatives like me was to incorporate themes of ecological sustainability into the particular aspect of Canadian culture we represented, no matter how tenuous that application might be. For Canadian traditional music, it's particularly remote. As I indicated in my listserv note, it could be that our very efforts to promote a sense of place will go a long way towards developing a sense of stewardship of that place – Canada. Since that meeting, I have been invited to be a three-year member of the Sectoral Commission of the CCU as a private citizen, but I will most certainly continue to voice the concerns of Canadian traditional music.

One spate of emails struggled with our wafer-thin publication budget. The *Journal* was inching a few pages beyond its severe page limit and desperate measures were sought and debated. Step back and one can easily see that this semi-starvation of Canada's pre-eminent subject, traditional music, is outrageous. But there we have it. We do not live in the palmy days of government handouts of the sixties and seventies. The history of the CSTM can almost be seen in a before-and-after scenario, following the collapse of funding from the SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) in the late eighties. There may be some relief on the way, in the form of another SSHRC funding arm called the Aid to Research and Transfer Journals. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that the awards are presented every three years. We missed the last deadline by a whisker, so the next deadline is 2007. That may be just as well because that gives us almost two years to gather together the support and

resources that we will most certainly need to convince them of our viability. There is no doubt in my mind that this application should be a priority for the next board.

Having expressed some dire misgivings about finances, I should not overlook the generosity of SOCAN who continue to support us with a crucial award every year. We must all thank John Leeder for regularly tending this fire.

For me, the most exciting development in the CSTM has been the establishment of a listserv, which now has 88 members. Without meaning to be overbearing, I would like to take some pride in being an active poster, sometimes distributing timely information, sometimes acting as an agent provocateur. The result has been some excellent exchanges of views and opinions. Having been a member of several listservs in the past (and present) I can attest to their addictiveness and their timeliness. Even if the majority of members are 'lurkers' (i.e., those who prefer to read only), the entire community benefits from the instant exchange of opinions and information.

This is my last year as President. I wish I could have done far more, but my time was limited. And it was free, like all the other board members. When I look at the American Folklife Center (sic) with their board AND their well-paid executive committee who maintain all aspects of American folklore, including music, I am struck by the primitive level at which we function. If you're not certain about my observation, you should have a look at their stellar achievements in a book entitled *American Folk Masters: the National Heritage Fellows*, by Steve Siporin (Abrams, 1992).

Is it time to face some hard truths? The origins of the CSTM seem to lie in the wake of the passion for English and French ballads. Because so many of them can be traced to Ol' Blighty (i.e., Great Britain), the States, and France, the avenues are open for rummaging around in the traditional music of the Old World and Southern North America. Also, because ballads are still a fact of music life, their change is a challenge to track. Example? See Curt Cobain on "Unplugged in New York". Hand in hand with ballads is the instrumental music that would have been heard in the company of the English and French communities of balladeers. Very likely the one type of music that could represent Canada at major gatherings of multicultural exchanges is the fiddle. I

wonder if such a narrow focus would help re-define the role of our society as a forum for examining the roots of Canadian identity, at least as far as the English and French constituencies are concerned.

But how would this sit with 'Trudeau's children', the multicultural community of First and Second Nations that don't trace their origins to Great Britain and France? Would we be neglecting the music of our fellow non-anglo and non-franco neighbours at our peril? Consider for a moment that we are in competition with many ethnic music societies that seem to serve our ethnomusicology members far better. The SEM has a network and support base beyond our imagination. We all know only too well that ethnomusicologists prefer to attend the SEM over our society.

My preference is for the Canadian perspective, no matter what the musical medium. If it was up to me, each and every presentation and article would throw light on the emerging, multifaceted identity of Canadians, now and in the past. There are many, many other places and learned societies that provide opportunities to hear and debate insights about the music of other cultures. I want to hear how those musical cultures have impacted on our place in Canada. I suspect that Canadian funding agencies also know this reality only too well. In short, we need to 'think global, act local'. Otherwise we are ineffective as a society.

All that is left is to thank you for your support of the last four years. I have enjoyed the role, and I wore the position with tremendous pride.

Treasurer's Report, Budget, and Financial Statements

James Prescott, CSTM Treasurer

The financial statements comprise a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ending August 31, 2005. The financial statements are unaudited.

There were several notable financial events during this financial year. First, the down side.

- Individual membership renewals are down sharply, yielding \$2000 less income than expected. Note that any reduction in membership numbers causes an increase in the Society's costs per member.
- Costs continue to rise faster than inflation.
- Both the *Journal* and the magazine appeared late, delaying membership and grant revenue.
- The SOCAN grant for 2003 (\$1500) has not yet arrived. The reason is being investigated.
- The SOCAN grant for 2004 (\$1000) did not arrive during the financial year.
- One of the two GST rebates did not arrive during the financial year.
- The budgets (see below) will anticipate the arrival of these three amounts during the coming year.

Second, the up side. • No up side this year.

Third, the financially neutral side.

• We only printed and mailed three magazines during the financial year just ended, so publication costs were lower than they would otherwise have been. In the coming financial year six magazines would need

to be printed and mailed in order to catch up. The budgets (see below) have been designed to reflect this.

I present two budgets. Both budgets include page count reductions for both the *Journal* and the magazine.

First, a budget that assumes no change in membership rates. For the financial year 2005-2006 the following budget is proposed for administration and publications (that is, including neither the AGM nor the Mail Order Service, both of which are assumed to break even).

• Membership fees of \$6100 plus donations of \$250 plus SOCAN grants for 2005 of \$1000 plus single issue.

Sales of \$50 plus GST rebate of \$200 plus fund-raising of \$100 gives us income of \$7700.

• Administration and general publication expenses \$1000. This leaves us \$6700 to spend.

• One 60 page *Journal* for December 2005, printing expenses \$1250 plus mailing expenses \$1090. This leaves us \$4360 to spend.

• Four magazines, all 40 pages, printing expenses \$3880. Assuming that the December issue is mailed with the *Journal*, mailing expenses of \$1995. This results in an operating deficit of \$1515.

• The fifth and sixth magazines (both 40 pages) are treated as an extraordinary charge, rather than as a