

Report on the *Canadian Journal for Traditional Music/La Revue canadienne de la musique folklorique*

Gordon E. Smith, Editor

Volume 32 [2005] of the *Journal* is taking shape. The *Journal* copy should be ready to submit for printing by the beginning of March, and the issue can be mailed out with the next issue of the *Bulletin*, as per last year.

I am planning for either four or five refereed articles on topics including aspects of identity in Franco-Ontarian music making, and time, memory, and performance among the Polish Górale in Canada. Space permitting, I also hope to include a version of the paper on the *Journal* I am presenting at the Society for Ethnomusicology conference in November in Atlanta. The title of the paper is “*The Canadian Folk Music Journal / The Canadian Journal for Traditional Music – La Revue canadienne de musique folklorique: Reflections on Thirty Years of Writing about Folk and Traditional Music in Canada.*” In addition to these articles, there will be two book reviews.

Given the financial constraints facing the CSTM, and the fact that the *Journal* ran over the budgeted limit of pages again last year, I will do my best as *Journal* Editor to produce an issue in the range of sixty pages. While a *Journal* of the length of the issue two years ago [eighty pages] is, in my opinion, preferable, I recognize that the Society simply cannot afford to produce *Journal* issues of that many pages. I also think that a

Journal of much less than fifty pages is not worth the effort, and worse, does not make for a creditable scholarly result. That said, in last year’s issue, a smaller font and some creative layout strategies helped to cut down the length from over eighty pages to sixty pages.

As I have mentioned in each of my reports from the past two years, I reiterate that it remains a struggle to generate serious interest in the *Journal*. I spend considerable amounts of time persuading possible contributors that the *Journal* is a serious, worthwhile venue for publishing their work. I would appreciate help from the Society executive and wider membership in spreading a positive message about the *Journal*, and directing possible publishable texts to me. Recent issues of the *Journal* demonstrate the broad approach we have taken to ‘traditional’ music studies in Canada, as evidenced in the publication of articles on popular music topics, and the musical ethnographies of Canadians working in transnational contexts. An important point that should be emphasized in recruiting articles for the *Journal* is the fact that the *Journal* is refereed, an aspect that is sometimes forgotten.

Finally, any ideas the Society executive has about promoting the *Journal* would be most welcome.

Report on *Canadian Folk Music/Bulletin de musique folklorique canadienne*

David & Rosaleen Gregory, Editors

Since our last report three issues have been published, and one more is currently at the printers. Issue # 38.3 (Fall 2004) was forty pages in length and featured Janice Tulk’s lead article on *Medicine Dream* and an in-depth review of the Calgary Folk Festival. Issue # 38. 4 (Winter 2004-05) was also forty pages and, (thanks to the efforts of Sandria Bouliane), was a special issue devoted to the folk music of Quebec, although it also carried a report on the CSTM conference/

AGM at York University. Issue # 39.1 (Spring 2005) was again forty pages in length and included three main pieces, on Chinese traditional music in Vancouver, on singing union songs at the CAW convention in Toronto, and on the Newfoundland folk-rock band *Great Big Sea*. Issue # 39.2 (Summer 2005) is a special issue featuring Canadian songs, and we trust that it will be printed in time for this year’s conference/AGM in New Westminster. We are currently at

work on issue # 39.3 (Fall 2005), which will include an article on Inuit drumming and a review of the Ottawa folk festival. If all goes as planned, issue 39.4 (Winter 2005-06) will be a special issue on the folk music of British Columbia.

The magazine has, in our opinion, been blessed with sufficient, appropriate and good quality copy since we took over as editors in the summer of 2002. We are occasionally forced to reject submissions that ideally we would like to print, and we sometimes have difficulty in finding room for all the CD and book reviews that we have in hand. It would therefore be possible to expand slightly the number of pages per issue if more funding were available, but we are nonetheless comfortable enough with our current size. We have in the past occasionally added four or even eight extra pages, and we may do so again in the future. This year, however, we expect to keep within our budget without too much difficulty. At present we are one issue behind our publication schedule, owing to a combination of unusual circumstances: a major computer problem, followed by the editors' absence from Canada for over two months. But we expect to catch up in due course.

Canadian Folk Music already meets most of the criteria for a 'transfer journal', in SHHRC-speak. We therefore intend to apply for a grant when applications are again accepted, that is, in 2007. Since SHHRC does not fund Society bulletins, we believe that it would be prudent to modify the French version of the magazine's title, and we plan to make that adjustment with issue 40.1. We also intend to make more systematic use of the editorial board (and other academics) to peer-review main articles. We hope that other editorial board members will follow Sandria Bouliane's lead in co-editing special issues, and we encourage each of them to begin planning their own issue. We have a vacancy on the editorial board that we are having difficulty in filling: we would like to add a musician/academic from the Canadian north or someone with a special interest in aboriginal and/or northern traditional music.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles, reports or reviews to *CFM/BdMFC* over the past twelve months, and a special 'thank you' is due to John Leeder, who not only organizes the review section but also takes charge of printing and distribution.

Website Report: www.yorku.ca/cstm

Heather Sparling, Webmistress

Listserv

The big news this year is that we have a CSTM listserv (CSTM-L@yorku.ca). Seventy-eight people are currently subscribed. I am indebted to Beverley Diamond, who collected a list of names and email addresses of Canadian scholars involved in ethnomusicology at the 2004 SEM Conference. Her intent was to start a Canadian Ethnomusicology listserv, particularly in light of the SEM President's (Tim Rice) suggestion that the Society for Ethnomusicology's name be changed to the American Society for Ethnomusicology. Given that CSTM has been Canada's primary ethnomusicology-related society for decades and that we had intended to start a listserv anyway, I took the opportunity to use Bev's list to start the CSTM listserv.

At the time the listserv was created, the CSTM had not been collecting data on members' email addresses and therefore we could not automatically subscribe members, or send an

electronic invitation for them to do so themselves. Since the listserv's creation, membership forms have been amended to include a request for member email addresses. However, many CSTM members are not currently subscribed to the listserv.

I get the occasional request for membership as a result of advertising the service on our website, and I occasionally get a request from John Leeder, membership co-secretary, to add a new member's email address.

If you are not already on the listserv and would like to be, or if you know someone who might be interested, send an email to listserv@yorku.ca with the word SUBSCRIBE in the body of the message. All subscription requests must be vetted by the owner (currently me) in order to prevent spammers from misusing the listserv. All messages are archived. All subscribers may search them.

CSTM members may wish to discuss the role they see the listserv playing in the Society.