

World Conferences, General Assemblies, and Festivals

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After its founding in 1947 and until 2019, the International Folk Music Council / International Council for Traditional Music has held forty-five world conferences. Typically, a conference programme includes scholarly papers, roundtables and workshops, a meeting of the membership called the General Assembly, as well as performances. Until 1962, a number of festivals of traditional music and dance were organized by the Council and held in conjunction with the conferences.

In this essay, Krister Malm has written about conferences, General Assemblies, and festivals that took place 1947–1987, and Ursula Hemetek about those that took place 1989–2019. The sources for this report are mainly the IFMC/ICTM *Bulletins*, which are all available on the ICTM website, supplemented by our personal memories, of course, as we were participants in many of the events. Further information can be found in issues of the Council's journal that published proceedings or papers from these conferences. These have been indicated below, where appropriate. Lists of participants and reports from the General Assembly also frequently appear in the *Bulletins* following such conferences. Finally, the ICTM website is constantly being updated to provide additional material from and information about world conferences.¹

The event we are calling a “world conference” here has been known by a variety of names: general conference, congress, conference, international conference, and finally world conference. The latter name has apparently only been used since the 1991 event. Details can be found in relevant *Bulletins*.

1947: London, UK, founding conference

The International Folk Music Council (IFMC) was founded at the International Conference on Folk Song and Folk Dance in London, held 22–27 September

1947, with delegates from twenty-eight countries.² The meeting was convened by the International (Advisory) Folk Dance Council which had been founded at a meeting in London in 1935, but by 1947 had almost ceased to exist. A vice president of the Commission internationale des arts et traditions (CIAP), Albert Marinus, opposed the formation of IFMC, and said that folk music could be included in the domain of CIAP. His motion was not carried, and the IFMC was formed with the stipulation that IFMC should be affiliated to CIAP.

The aims of IFMC adopted at this first conference were:

1. to assist in the preservation, dissemination and practice of the folk music of all countries;
2. to further the comparative study of folk music; and
3. to promote understanding and friendship between nations through the common interest of folk music. (Karpeles 1965:308)

These aims very much reflect the issues regarding folk music in Europe at the time. The third point was prompted by the recent World War II and the subsequent division of Europe into East and West. The Council was later to have a role in bridging the gap between East and West by holding conferences and having members on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Officers and Board members were appointed at the 1947 conference. Already from the start, Maud Karpeles was the decisive person of the organization. This is illustrated by the opening remark by Ralph Vaughan Williams at the conference:

He [Vaughan Williams] said that he had not been elected as Chairman but with the permission of those present he accepted the invitation of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Maud Karpeles, to take the Chair. It was agreed by acclamation that he should do so. (Karpeles 1972:6)³

- 2 Further information about this conference can be found in various chapters within the present volume, particularly, “The Origins and Establishment of the International Folk Music Council” and “Maud Karpeles: Her Contribution to Dance Research and the Council.”
- 3 This *Bulletin*, issued to celebrate the 25th anniversary of IFMC, also contains a number of quotes from previous IFMC *Bulletins*.

1 Including programmes, books of abstracts, videos, etc. (<http://ictmusic.org/past-world-conferences>).

Until 1967, IFMC conferences were held every year with the exception of 1965. Beginning in 1967, conferences have generally been held every other year, in odd-numbered years.

1948: Basel, Switzerland

The first “Meeting of the General Conference” was held in Basel, Switzerland, 13–18 September 1948, at the invitation of the Société suisse des traditions populaires and the Fédération des costumes suisses. Forty-seven delegates participated. They came from Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad, Turkey, and the UK. Luiz Heitor Corrêa de Azevedo from Brazil represented UNESCO at this conference and many subsequent ones as well.

Eleven papers were read and another seven papers were presented, but not read. The papers were in English, French, and German.

Officers and Board members were all re-elected.

Maud Karpeles reported, inter alia, that 140 correspondents, representing thirty-five countries, had been appointed by the Board. These correspondents were representatives of folk-music organizations as well as individual experts. The countries and regions represented were: Africa, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China,⁴ Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ireland, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA, West Indies, and Yugoslavia.

There was a heated discussion regarding the affiliation to CIAP and the constitution of the Council, especially as regards the name:

ARTICLE 1. Proposed Alteration: – Add “(Dance and Song)” after “Folk Music” and delete second sentence.

Miss Karpeles said the reason of the proposed alteration was that members of the public sometimes assumed that dance was not a form of music. The Executive Board had however agreed that rather than adopt a somewhat awkward title it would be better to try and educate the public by means of the Council’s activities. It was therefore now proposed that Article 1 should remain as stated in the Provisional Constitution. (*BIFMC* 1, Oct 1948:9)

The proposal to add “dance” to the name of the Council has been put forward several times later. Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 1 (1949).

Edric Connor from Trinidad invited IFMC to hold the next conference in Trinidad. However, this invitation was not accepted by the delegates. It would not be until 1971 that a conference was held in the Caribbean.

1949: Venice, Italy

The second conference was held in Venice in conjunction with the International Folk Music Festival and Congress at the invitation of Ente nazionale assistenza lavoratori – Comitato italiano arti e tradizioni popolari, 7–11 September 1949. This was the first time a festival was organized by the IFMC.

A total of 131 delegates from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, France, French Equatorial Africa, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and USA took part in the conference. IFMC then had a total of 189 members, of which 55 were “correspondents.” Not all of the conference participants were individual members, but rather represented institutional members. During the conference, twenty-nine papers were read in English, French, and many in Italian.

For the festival, there were performers from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and USA.

Maud Karpeles reported that the IFMC now was included among the international non-governmental organizations approved by UNESCO for consultative arrangements. Furthermore, it had the honour of being one of four international organizations invited to serve on the committee for the establishment of an International Music Council. She also reported that there was pressure from the Commission internationale des arts et traditions (CIAP) that IMFC should become an organization affiliated to them, as had been decided in the inaugural conference in 1947. Maud Karpeles reported that “the question of the affiliation of the Council will be referred to the Bureau of CIAP in due course” (*BIFMC* 2, Nov 1949:12). Such an affiliation never took place.

The formation of national committees had been discussed at the inaugural conference, but no provision for their affiliation had been made in the constitution. The Executive Board was of the opinion that the formation of national committees was to be encouraged, especially to act as agents for the Council in their respec-

⁴ From the founding of the United Nations in 1945 until 1971, the Republic of China was the sole representative of China in that body. In 1971, however, the People’s Republic of China took over this role.



Figure 1. From the 1950 Bloomington conference: (seated) Adnan Saygun, Mrs. Saygun, Sigurd Erixon, Reidar Christiansen (?), Walter Anderson, Maud Karpeles, and Otto Andersson; (standing) unknown (photo courtesy of Indiana University Archives, Bloomington; identifications by Bruno Nettl).

tive countries, for only in this way could the dangers of decentralization be overcome. The Board, therefore, recommended the gradual formation and recognition of national committees, but advised leaving the question of constitutional affiliation to a later stage.

Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC 2* (1950).

1950: Bloomington, USA

The third conference was held in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 17–21 July 1950 (figure 1). There were fewer participants compared to the conference in Venice. There are only a few lines about the Bloomington conference in *BIFMC 4* (Jan 1951), which has only four pages for the whole issue. In contrast to all other world conferences, no General Assembly was held during this conference, hence subsequent General Assemblies are numbered one less than the number of the conference at which they are taking place: for example, the 25th General Assembly took place at the 26th world conference.

This was the first conference held outside Europe and had originally been planned for Montreal (*BIFMC 2*, Nov 1949:26).

Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC 3* (1951), along with a photo and list of participants, programme, etc. The photo depicting all participants

is reproduced with full identification of individuals by Cowdery (2009:806).

1951: Opatija, Yugoslavia

The fourth conference was held in Opatija, Yugoslavia, 8–14 September, 1951 in conjunction with the Yugoslav Folk Music Festival, which actually was not organized by IFMC, in contrast to other festivals in this period that were held in conjunction with some conferences (cf. *BIFMC 5*, Nov 1951). There were participants from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Ceylon, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Switzerland, UK, USA, and Yugoslavia. The majority were from the UK and Yugoslavia. The membership had now grown to 308 members.

For the first time there were themes suggested for papers at the conference. The suggested themes were: The style and technique of traditional singers, dancers, and instrumentalists (Analysis of the essential elements; Their reproduction in the revival of folk music); Eastern and Western aspects of European folk music; Migration of folk-themes (historical and geographical); Authenticity in folk music; The interdependence of folk music and art forms.

The Netherlands National Committee was recognized as the first affiliated national committee. The decision

was made to establish what was later to become the radio committee.

Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 4 (1952).

1952: London, UK

The fifth conference took place at Cecil Sharp House, London, UK, 14–19 July 1952. It was attended by 170 delegates and members from forty-nine countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, East Africa, Egypt, Finland, France, French Equatorial Africa, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Persia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad, Turkey, UK, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia. Twenty-one broadcasting organizations were represented. The main theme of the conference was the significance of folk music (song, dance, and instrumental music) in the cultural life of the present day, with particular reference to its role in education and recreation. There was also a focus on African music, and a statement in support of the preservation of it was adopted.

The conference also adopted the following definition of “folk music”:

Folk Music is music that has been submitted to the process of oral transmission. It is the product of evolution and is dependent on the circumstances of continuity, variations and selection. (*BIFMC* 6, Sep 1952:5)

The concept of “liaison officers” was launched. Liaison officers from the following countries were appointed: Belgium (Albert Marinus), Cyprus (Solon Michaelides), Denmark (Erik Dal), Ireland (Donal O’Sullivan), Israel (Edith Gerson-Kiwi), Japan (Genjiro Masu), Switzerland (Antoine E. Cherbuliez de Sprecher), USA (Charles Seeger), and Yugoslavia (Zoran Palčok).

This was the only conference that President Ralph Vaughan Williams attended during his term, 1947–1958. Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 5 (1953).

1953: Biarritz, France, and Pamplona, Spain

The sixth conference was held in conjunction with the IFMC Second International Festival in Biarritz, France, and Pamplona, Spain, 9–15 July 1953. It was the first conference to be held in two countries. More than 200

delegates attended the conference, and 400 performers from fifteen countries participated in the festival. Four public performances were given in Biarritz, and two in Pamplona. In addition, special performances of Basque dancers were arranged for the members in both cities.

The Council’s finances had been in a bad shape, but had now improved:

On August 31st, 1952, the Council was faced with a debit balance of £2 8s. 3d. By December 31st, 1952, this was changed to a credit balance of £87 18s. 6d., and on June 1st, 1953, the balance stood at £172. This happy change in the Council’s financial position is due very largely to the generosity of the broadcasting organizations which have contributed a total of £437. The immediate financial crisis has been overcome, but there is no ground for complacency. As the Council grows in prestige and importance, it is bound to take on new commitments, all of which mean added expenditure. The need for additional subscriptions is therefore still very urgent. (*BIFMC* 7, Sep 1953:16)

Later in the General Assembly meeting,

Miss KARPELES estimated that there might be a credit balance of £100 at the end of the year provided that all anticipated subscriptions were paid. She said that although there was an improvement in the finances, the position was still critical. The Council could not afford to pay an organizing secretary and she would be unable to continue to carry the increased burden of the Council’s activities. (*ibid.*:19)

This resulted in a decision later in an Executive Board meeting that Maud Karpeles should receive an honorarium.

Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 6 (1954). Wang (2018) considers the importance of this conference in relation to the study of Taiwanese music.

1954: São Paulo, Brazil

The seventh conference took place in São Paulo, Brazil, 16–22 August 1954. Only twenty-six members attended, including seventeen from Latin America.

Renato Almeida pointed out the difficulty of transferring money from one country to another to pay the membership fee.

The first volume of the *International Folk Song Book* containing 183 songs from all countries of Europe had been compiled under the editorship of Maud Karpeles and was awaiting publication. The melodies of the songs were given with the original text and verse translations in English.

The Secretary reported on various suggestions that had been offered by members of the Council. In general the view had been expressed that Festival and Conference should be better co-ordinated. The most important concrete suggestions were:

- (i) That festival programmes should be more selective and shorter, and that programme notes should be available.
- (ii) That festivals should serve to promote the comparative study of folk music and that there should be greater discrimination in the selection of groups. (*BIFMC* 8, Jan 1955:11)

In previous conferences, there had been criticism regarding the “authenticity” of performances in the festivals.

It was also suggested that papers should be more serious in character and should be more strictly selected and that more time should be given to discussion on given themes. Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 7 (1955).

1955: Oslo, Norway

The eighth conference was held in Oslo, Norway, 29 June – 5 July 1955 in conjunction with the third International Festival (cf. *BIFMC* 9, Oct 1955). There were 127 “members of the Conference” from twenty-one countries, most of them from Europe, some from USA, but none from Latin America, Asia, or Africa. Groups of dancers, singers, and musicians from fourteen countries participated in the festival performances. Apart from the General Assembly meeting, there were five paper sessions and three meetings of the Radio Committee, at which papers were also read.

The following members were elected to form the Executive Board: Ralph Vaughan Williams (president); Antoine E. Cherbuliez de Sprecher, Albert Marinus, and Ole Mørk Sandvik (vice presidents); William Stanley Gwynn Williams (treasurer); Maud Karpeles (honorary secretary); Renato Almeida, Douglas N. Kennedy, Egon Kraus, Jaap Kunst, Laszlo Lajtha, Claudie Marcel-Dubois, Solon Michaelides, Ahmed Adnan Saygun, Charles Seeger, Klaus P. Wachsmann, Louise Witzig, and Vinko Žganec (members). Giorgio Nataletti and Walter Wiora were co-opted to the Executive Board.

It was reported that the recording of the Biarritz–Pamplona festival performances had, after some delay, been issued on a record from the Westminster Recording Company. Also, that Karpeles represented the IFMC at the General Assembly of the International Music Council. The IMC Assembly had agreed to continue its grant of \$500 towards the cost of the *Journal* and to make a second and final grant of \$500 towards a second volume of the International Folk Song series, *Folk Songs of the Americas*.

The secretary reported that the Council had been criticised for holding its international festivals at too frequent intervals. It was agreed that there should be three years between festivals.

It was also reported that the Board had appointed a subcommittee to examine the question of “copyright in folk music,” which mainly concerned the rights of the recorder/collector.

A resolution regarding “the rapid disappearance of traditional songs, dances and instrumental music” was formulated and adopted. Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 8 (1956).

1956: Trossingen and Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany

The ninth conference was held in Trossingen and Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany, 25–31 July 1956. Some eighty people participated. Seven paper sessions took place with nineteen papers including papers by Joseph Hanson Nketia from the Gold Coast and Abdel Rahman Sami from Egypt.

The international broadcast programmes organized by the Radio Committee continued. The subject of the third programme was to be songs and instrumental music connected with marriage ceremonies. The Board acknowledged with gratitude the continued support of radio organizations, of which eighteen were corporate subscribers.

The Westminster Recording Company had agreed to issue a 12-inch long-playing record consisting of selections from the music performed at the Oslo festival. A 16 mm sound film of the festival was made by Norsk Film A/S, and a copy was presented to the Council.

The “Oslo resolution” concerning the preservation of folk music had been sent to UNESCO and to all national governments. UNESCO’s reply was evasive:

This reply together with the resolution was communicated to all National Commissions of Unesco with the suggestion that they request Unesco to place on the Agenda of its next General Conference

- (1) Confirmation of its approval of the Oslo resolution.
- (2) Assistance to the International Folk Music Council in carrying out a world-wide survey of folk music in order
 - (a) to find out which regions are in most urgent need of technical or other expert assistance in the collection of material;
 - (b) to pool information with regard to existing material;
 - (c) to facilitate the exchange of such material. (*BIFMC* 10, Oct 1956:11)

Proceedings from the conference are published in *JIFMC* 9 (1957).

1957: Copenhagen, Denmark

The tenth conference took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 22–27 August 1957. There were around sixty participants, almost all from Europe, except three from the USA (Bruno Nettel, Willard Rhodes, and John D. Robb). This conference was originally scheduled to be held in Budapest, but due to problems caused by the Hungarian uprising against the Stalinist kind of government and domestic policies imposed by Soviet Union in the autumn of 1956, it had to be moved to Copenhagen at the very last moment. The result was a reduced programme.

Four sessions were devoted to meetings of correspondents at which eight papers were read, and a discussion on the policy of IFMC was held. There were two general sessions at which records with commentary and a film were presented.

In the General Assembly, it was reported that there were now 571 members and four national committees (Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Yugoslavia). The Assembly adopted a statement on copyright in folk music aimed at improved protection of the rights of the collector.

A resolution was put forward by the folk-dance organizations of the four Scandinavian countries, requesting IFMC

- (i) To pay more attention to the folk dance aspect of its work;
- (ii) To control more strictly the dance groups offered for the festival performances, since too many of the groups hitherto shown have had too much to do with theatrical and stage performance and too little with genuine tradition. (*BIFMC* 12, Sep 1957:12)

The chairman, “in summing up the discussion, said that the Council should do its utmost to get rid of undesirable elements and that the Executive Board would take note of the resolution” (*ibid.*:13).

Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 10 (1958).

1958: Liège, Belgium

The eleventh conference was held in Liège, Belgium, 28 July – 2 August 1958, with about eighty participants (*cf.* *BIFMC* 14, Oct 1958). The Radio Committee had a meeting during the conference. Originally it was planned to hold a festival in cooperation with the

Exposition universelle et internationale that took place in Brussels. However, the IFMC withdrew from this festival due to disagreements regarding the choice of participating countries.

It was reported that the sale of *Folk Songs of Europe* now had reached a thousand copies. A revised edition of *Manual for Folk Music Collectors* had been published, and supplements to the *International Catalogue of Recorded Folk Music* were compiled.

A resolution regarding African music proposed by Hugh Tracey from South Africa, and a resolution regarding “The study, demonstration and dissemination of folk music traditions,” proposed by Tom Nabeta from Uganda, were both approved.

Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 11 (1959).

1959: Sinaia and Bucharest, Romania

The twelfth conference took place in Sinaia and Bucharest, Romania, 11–17 August 1959.⁵ Around a hundred delegates participated, most of them from Europe, but also some from North America and even from Vietnam and Mongolia (*cf.* *BIFMC* 16, Oct 1959). Among them, quite a few represented broadcasting organizations, who were members of the Radio Committee and, through their fees, contributed much to the assets of IFMC. The Radio Committee had a meeting during the conference.

The death of the president Ralph Vaughan Williams had earlier been reported in the *Bulletin*, and it was noted that the Council had suffered an irreparable loss. Jaap Kunst was elected as new president. However, he was not present at the conference. The following members were elected to the Executive Board: president, Jaap Kunst (the Netherlands); vice presidents, Marius Barbeau (Canada), Antoine E. Cherbuliez de Sprecher (Switzerland), Albert Marinus (Belgium), and Ole Mørk Sandvik (Norway); treasurer, William Stanley Gwynn Williams (UK); secretary, Maud Karpeles (UK); and members, Renato Almeida (Brazil), Arnold A. Bake (the Netherlands and UK), Samuel P. Bayard (USA), Erik Dal (Denmark), Douglas Kennedy (UK), Egon Kraus (Federal Republic of Germany), Laszlo Lajtha (Hungary), Claudie Marcel-Dubois (France), Solon Michaelides (Greece), J. H. Kwabena Nketia (Ghana), Donal O’Sullivan (Ireland), Willard Rhodes (USA), Ahmed Adnan Saygun (Turkey), Klaus P. Wachsmann (UK), Walter Wiora (Federal Republic of Germany), and Vinko Žganec (Yugoslavia).

5 The conference was followed by “whole-day expeditions” from Sinaia on 18–19 August, and a stay in Bucharest, 19–21 August (*JIFMC* 12, 1960:8).

Members of the Radio Committee were Matts Arnberg (Sweden), Gaston Brenta (Belgium), Lise Caldagues (France), Hermann Josef Dahmen (Federal Republic of Germany), Maud Karpeles (UK), Jerzy Kołaczkowski (Poland), Claudie Marcel-Dubois (France), Solon Michaelides (Greece), Giorgio Nataletti (Italy), Jaideva Singh (India), Marie Slocombe (UK, secretary), Fela Sowande (Nigeria), Josip Stojanović (Yugoslavia), and Ovidiu Varga (Romania).

There was a discussion on “new folk songs” prompted by papers from Romanian delegates. “Miss Karpeles could not agree with Mr. Pop that in a class society folk songs necessarily reflected the struggle against the ruling classes” (Karpeles 1960:50).

In Sinaia, there were several performances by Romanian folk performers “unspoiled by radio or television appearances” (Picken 1959:15). Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 12 (1960).

1960: Vienna, Austria

The thirteenth conference was held in Vienna, 24–28 July 1960. About 140 delegates were present, all from Europe and North America (*BIFMC* 18, Sep 1960). Due to illness, the president, Jaap Kunst, could not attend the conference. IFMC now had 803 members and six national committees (Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, and Yugoslavia).

The Board had appointed a small advisory committee, consisting of the president and treasurer and other members of the Board residing in or near London: Arnold Bake, Douglas Kennedy, Donal O’Sullivan, and Klaus P. Wachsmann, together with Gilmour Jenkins and Laurence Picken. Its terms of reference were to advise the Secretary and to make recommendations to the Board.

At the meeting of the Radio Committee, a discussion on the preservation of folk music took place.

There was a decision to create a Folk Dance Commission, a reconstitution of the Radio Committee was made, and resolutions regarding the roles of radio organizations and folk-music research were adopted. Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 13 (1961).

1961: Quebec, Canada

The fourteenth conference took place in Quebec, Canada, 28 August – 3 September 1961. More than 200 delegates attended, most of them from North America. Jaap Kunst was now deceased without having been able to attend a conference as president. Zoltán Kodály, 79

years old, was now elected president, but could also not attend the conference. Five vice presidents were elected or re-elected: Marius Barbeau (Canada), Antoine E. Cherbuliez de Sprecher (Switzerland), Albert Marinus (Belgium), Donal O’Sullivan (Ireland), and Ole Mørk Sandvik (Norway).

For a couple of years there had been the possibility of being a joint member of IFMC and the Society for Ethnomusicology. It was reported that there were now 170 such joint members.

The Secretary reported that the manuscript of “Folk Songs of the Americas,” containing 150 songs (70 from North America, and 80 from South America), had been delivered to the publisher.

At the invitation of the International Music Council, the IFMC had submitted proposals for cooperation with UNESCO in furthering its major East/West project. The Board hoped to be able to cooperate in this project by means of radio programmes. Azevedo said that UNESCO would be prepared to give some small financial aid towards the cost of compiling these programmes. He also said that UNESCO expected to publish a new series of folk-music records, and that the International Folk Music Council would be invited to cooperate in this venture (*BIFMC* 20, Jan 1962:12–13).

Proceedings from the conference were published in *JIFMC* 14 (1962).

1962: Gottwaldow, Czechoslovakia

The fifteenth conference was held in Gottwaldow, Czechoslovakia, 13–21 July 1962. About 220 members from twenty-four countries attended, including President Zoltán Kodály (cf. *BIFMC* 22, Oct 1962). On the two opening days of the conference, the participants attended the Folklore Festival of the Balkan and Adriatic Countries, held under the auspices of IFMC, in the small town of Strážnice. This festival was an annual event, but in celebration of the IFMC conference, it was extended to include ensembles from Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Sweden, and USSR. The IFMC Folk Dance Commission held its first meeting during the conference. There was also a meeting of national committees and liaison officers (formerly called “correspondents”).

Maud Karpeles announced that she was going to resign as secretary and her successor, Robin W. I. Band, was introduced. Karpeles had attended a meeting of the International Music Council. The financial difficulties of the voluntary international organizations concerned had been stressed by her. She had urged that more of their activities should be sponsored by the International

Music Council, and that they should form the basis of an appeal to UNESCO for an increased grant.

The Board reported that it regrets that the holding of international festivals has had to fall into the background. Such festivals were expensive and difficult to organize, and their usefulness was to some extent diminished on account of the great number of festivals now being held by other agencies.

The Radio Commission had been dissolved and a Radio and Record Library Committee had been formed, including thirty-one radio organizations and twelve folklore institutions with record libraries of folk music. This committee held its first meeting during the conference.

After the conference, a Folklore Festival of the Balkan and Adriatic Countries was held 27 July – 4 August, under the auspices of the IFMC in Bucharest, Romania. The participating groups were from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Yugoslavia, and many regions of Romania, a total of over 350 performers.

Proceedings from the conference were published in *JIFMC* 15 (1963).

1963: Jerusalem, Israel

The sixteenth conference took place in Jerusalem, Israel, 5–12 August 1963,⁶ with some 120 participants (cf. *BIFMC* 24, Oct 1963). Meetings with papers of the Folk Dance Commission and the Radio and Record Library Committee were held during the conference. There were later some complaints that many papers read at the conference were not directly concerned with folk music. National committees of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and the USA were affiliated to IFMC.

A main feature of the conference was many votes of thanks to the resigning honorary secretary, Maud Karpeles, who now was appointed honorary president with a permanent seat on the Board. Zoltán Kodály was present and was re-elected as president.

Proceedings from the conference were published in *JIFMC* 16 (1964).

1964: Budapest, Hungary

The seventeenth conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, 17–25 August 1964. Around 200 people

participated, including seventy from Hungary (cf. *BIFMC* 26, Oct 1964). As might be expected, Zoltán Kodály participated. This was the first time a president had attended two conferences. As in previous conferences, the General Assembly was not chaired by the president, but by an elected chair, in this case, Willard Rhodes. The Radio and Record Library Committee and the Folk Dance Committee (as it was re-named) met during the conference. Both also had meetings open to all conference participants. The Radio and Record Library Committee held a discussion on “Folk music in educational broadcasting.” A Study Group on the Systematization of Folk Songs was tentatively formed.

It was reported that Barbara Krader had been appointed as new secretary. Furthermore, the Board had decided to experiment with the holding of conferences biennially, instead of annually. Amongst other things, this would mean that in the years when there was no conference, the journal could consist of special articles.

A planning committee consisting of Maud Karpeles (convener), Peter Crossley-Holland, Willard Rhodes, and Erich Stockmann was formed to look into future policies of IFMC.

A resolution was adopted to request UNESCO to assist the Council in compiling and publishing a catalogue of films of authentic folk music, song, and dance.

Proceedings from the conference were published in *Studia Musicologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 7/1–4 (1965); only reviews appeared in *JIFMC* 17 (1965).

1966: Legon, Ghana

The eighteenth conference was held in Legon, Ghana, 26 July – 3 August 1966.⁷ There were some ninety participants, including thirty from ten African countries.

There were two meetings of the Committee on Radio-Television and Sound/Film Archives (a new, augmented name). An amusing incident during the discussions was when Corneel Mertens (Belgian Radio), asked whether broadcasting jazz programmes on Ghana’s radio did not influence the taste of villagers. George Akrofi of Radio Ghana replied that jazz was played when villagers were asleep.

Willard Rhodes reported that the Council was considering the possibility of moving its headquarters from London. If an offer came from an institute with compatible interests, which included financial support to

6 While *BIFMC* 24 (Oct 1963:8) notes the dates as 5–12 August, the programme published in *JIFMC* 16 (1964:6–7) only lists activities on 6–9 August. Perhaps arrival dates, registration, concerts, post-conference activities, etc., account for the other days.

7 This conference is sometimes incorrectly listed as being in 1965, e.g., Karpeles (1969:20, 23, 32), Stockmann (1988:7).

cover office space, secretarial help, and administration, such an offer would be given serious consideration.

It was announced that Barbara Krader had opted to resign as executive secretary and that IFMC had secured the services of Felicia Stallman as new secretary. She was an old friend of Maud Karpeles's, who had assisted in the organization of the international folk dance conference in London (1935).

The next conference in Ostend, Belgium, was announced. New procedures were launched such as forms for application for accommodation and registration. Previously, the themes of conferences had been very tentative. Now, themes were announced in the *Bulletin*. They were: The concept and practice of folk music, including dance, in the twentieth century; Techniques in the study of folk music; Performing styles in folk song, instrumental music and dance; with the instruction that "communications on theme three should consist of the presentation of recordings and films, together with short explanatory comments" (*BIFMC* 29, Nov 1966:[ii]). It is likely that this "new order" was introduced by Barbara Krader.

Proceedings from the conference were published in *JIFMC* 19 (1967).

1967: Ostend, Belgium

The nineteenth conference took place in Ostend, Belgium, 28 July – 3 August 1967. There were c. 120 participants (cf. *BIFMC* 31, Nov 1967). President Zoltán Kodály had died, and Honorary President Maud Karpeles announced that Willard Rhodes had been appointed as the new president, a decision ratified by the Assembly.

The Secretariat of the Council was moving from London to the Danish Folklore Archives in Copenhagen. Christian Ejlers had been appointed the new executive secretary (he would be succeeded by Connie Matthews in 1968), and Poul Rovsing Olsen as new treasurer. The Advisory Committee continued with slightly altered terms of reference and with its members drawn from Denmark. The new members were Nils Schiørring (chair), Eric Dal, Torkild Knudsen, and Poul Rovsing Olsen. The Planning Committee had been discontinued and replaced by the Steering Committee, with the duty to advise on policy and programme. Erich Stockmann was the chair, with members Poul Rovsing Olsen and Klaus Wachsmann. The committee also had the power to co-opt. The Folk Dance Committee was discontinued.

Maud Karpeles reported on the project to produce an Anthology of Records of Authentic Folk Music with the support of UNESCO and under the general editorship of Peter Crossley-Holland. There was also a discussion

on collaboration in fieldwork between radio-television and specialized scholars.

Plans were reported for a conference in Tokyo, Japan, in 1968, but these plans were later abandoned.

Proceedings from the conference appear in *JIFMC* 20 (1968), the last issue of that journal.

1969: Edinburgh, Scotland

The twentieth conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 6–13 August 1969, with some 180 participants. This was also the first meeting in the biennial schedule. The Secretariat had been moved to Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario, Canada), with Graham George as the new executive secretary. The conference had a total of six plenary sessions for reading and discussing papers. There were now 544 members. There were nine sessions with papers, recordings, and films. There also was a meeting of the Radio-Television and Sound/Film Archives Committee.

There were motions in the General Assembly to the effect that the General Assembly rather than the Executive Board should appoint the programme committee, and that this committee should also determine themes for conference papers. Nevertheless, in a compromise proposed by Dieter Christensen—chair of the programme committee for this conference—it was decided that the Board should continue to appoint the programme committee, and that this committee should decide the themes "in consultation with the Executive Board" (*BIFMC* 35, Oct 1969:34).

Another area of discussion was the necessity of paying attention to the needs of young people. It was felt that changes in the organization of conferences were needed. After intensive discussion, a number of motions were adopted:

- (a) That [the] Programme Committee be instructed to solicit student papers for the next Conference ...
- (b) That a Committee be appointed to study revision of the dues of the IFMC, to establish other classes of membership (with special reference to students) and for the present the Executive Board be empowered to institute this arrangement as the General Assembly would not meet for another two years ...
- (c) That the Executive Board instruct the Programme Committee to rearrange the activities and format of the next Conference so that a substantial part of the programme is devoted to workshops, seminars, panels and a number of other activities. (*BIFMC* 35, Oct 1969:18)

There was also a discussion on the work and aims of the IFMC opened by Maud Karpeles, with Alexander Ringer and Erik Dal as panel discussants.

Erich Stockmann announced that the report from the second meeting of the Study Group for Folk Music Instruments, entitled *Studia Instrumentorum Musicae Popularis I* containing fifteen articles, had recently been published.

1971: Kingston, Jamaica

The 21st conference was held in Kingston, Jamaica, 27 August – 3 September 1971, with around a hundred participants.

There were three themes: Folk music and dance in education; The process of acculturation in folk music and dance; and Electronic equipment and computer, accompanied also by some workshops. Twenty-two papers were presented, more than half on the acculturation theme. For the first time, there were a few parallel sessions.

A first was also the report on the fun had by participants in Jamaica, most likely written by Honorary Executive Secretary Graham George. This report starts:

“Somebody should write about all the fun we had,” said the Honorary President. “All right, Maud—you do it,” said the President. “No,” said the Honorary President. “You refuse the President?” said the President. “Yes,” said the Honorary President. (Laughter).

And so it came about that another Honorary functionary sat down one evening, in another Kingston, to recall, with nostalgic pleasure and affection, all the fun, he had. (*BIFMC* 39, Oct 1971:25–26)

Selected papers from the conference appear in *YIFMC* 3 (1971).

1973: Bayonne, France

The 22nd conference was planned to be held in San Sebastian, Spain, but due to poor preparations had to be moved with only three weeks' notice to Bayonne, France, where it was held as planned, 26 July – 1 August 1973, with some eighty participants from twenty-seven countries. There were more than fifty additional registrations, which were cancelled because of the sudden change of place. In *BIFMC* 43 (Oct 1973), Secretary General Graham George wrote a report:

on Tuesday, July 3rd—the day after Canada's national holiday, when no office opens and no post moves for three days—a cable was received at the secretariat from Dr. Karpeles, who had it from a friend in Scotland, who had it from friends in Spain, that cancellation of the San Sebastian conference had been announced in some Spanish newspapers. A letter from the San Sebastian authorities, confirming this, was received that afternoon ...

The real heroine of that frantic week, as I pointed out in Bayonne, was Dr. Claudie Marcel-Dubois, to whom I phoned as our senior vice-president, residing in the chief city of the country nearest to San Sebastian, who on July 6th replied by cable that I should phone to Monsieur Pagola, secretary of the Musée Basque in Bayonne. I did, and the crisis was over—though not without continuing inconvenience to our intending participants, of whom those who had registered in San Sebastian hotels had received those now famous—but truly infamous—cables from COFEX-CAT, starting: “Agreed with Mr. Graham IFMC postponed ...” ([George] 1973:23).

This shows that Maud Karpeles, 88 at the time, and Claudie Marcel-Dubois still made up the backbone of IFMC.

The themes were: The role of folk music in education; Urban popular music and its relation to traditional folk music; Vocal styles; and Spanish folk music: Its worldwide diffusion. Twenty papers were presented and there were three film sessions. The Radio-Television and Sound/Film Archives Committee held a meeting.

For the first time there were more than a thousand paid-up members of the Council.

Klaus P. Wachsmann was elected as president to succeed Willard Rhodes. Maud Karpeles, “remarking that she knows better than anyone what work is involved in the presidency, paid tribute to Professor Rhodes as a worthy successor to Vaughan Williams, Kunst and Kodaly” (*BIFMC* 43, Oct 1973:11). The other members of the Board were now: honorary president: Maud Karpeles (UK); vice presidents: Claudie Marcel-Dubois (France), Willard Rhodes (USA), Walter Wiora (Federal Republic of Germany); treasurer: T. H. R. Parkinson; secretary general: Graham George (Canada); ordinary members: Tiberiu Alexandru (Romania), Luiz Heitor Corrêa de Azevedo (Brazil), Dieter Christensen (USA), Peter Crossley-Holland (UK), Oskár Elschek (Czechoslovakia), Akin Euba (Nigeria), Edith Gerson-Kiwi (Israel), Charles Haywood (USA), Nazir Ali Jairazbhoy (Canada), Douglas Kennedy (UK), Egon Kraus (Federal Republic of Germany), Olive Lewin (Jamaica), Salah el-Mahdi (Tunisia), Poul Rovsing Olsen (Denmark), Radmila Petrović (Yugoslavia), and Benjámín Rajeczky (Hungary).

Selected papers from the conference appear in *YIFMC* 5 (1973).

1975: Regensburg, Federal Republic of Germany

The 23rd conference took place in Regensburg, Federal Republic of Germany, 14–21 August 1975, with some 210 participants. For the first time, the full programme

was announced in advance in the *BIFMC* 46 (Apr 1975). The Radio-Television and Sound/Film Archives Committee held a meeting during the conference.

Themes were: Improvisation: Idea and practice (concepts and realizations); Musical instruments and change (historical, social, aesthetic, organological); and Recent trends in the study of orally transmitted music. There were twelve paper and roundtable sessions and also workshops and recordings/film sessions.

John Blacking wrote in a commentary to the conference:

Parts of Bruno Nettl's valuable key-paper on "The State of Research in Orally Transmitted Music" were very well reflected in the discussions. The Conference brought into the open contrasts between folk-music study and ethnomusicology; between a concern for the ethnography of areas and theoretical issues; between European (and especially East European and German) and American scholarship; between the reading of European and American scholars and their occasional lack of familiarity with each others' work. In this respect, I would suggest that the IFMC might consider a regular publication of abstracts in English or French, and Spanish, of papers printed in Hungarian, Rumanian, Polish, etc. (Blacking 1975:22)

Selected papers from the conference appear in *YIFMC* 7 (1975).

1977: Honolulu, USA

The 24th conference took place in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 13–18 August 1977, with some 170 participants. Themes were Folk music and dance in education and socialisation; Music: Change, innovation and acculturation; Music and dance in national and ethnic identity; and The interrelations between folk music and other forms of music. The programme had twelve paper sessions, four roundtables, seven workshops, and six audiovisual sessions. There also was a display of published and recorded materials, including items featuring local traditions.

For the first time, Maud Karpeles was not present at a conference. She had attended a Board meeting in Warsaw in August 1976, and died shortly afterwards on 1 October. A memorial tribute was made by retiring President Klaus P. Wachsmann during the General Assembly meeting. Poul Rovsing Olsen was elected as president. He stressed that "IFMC is international—not a westernised, or Anglo-Saxon or British or American organisation—and that he would work to ensure that it remains so" (*BIFMC* 51, Nov 1977:21). This was the first step leading to the change of name of the Council.

There were now sixteen national committees and seventeen liaison officers.

Selected papers from the conference were published in *YIFMC* 9 (1977), but the next five issues of the Council's journal would focus on articles not deriving from world conferences.

1979: Oslo, Norway

The 25th conference was held in Oslo, Norway, 28 July – 4 August 1979, with approximately 160 participants. Themes were: Cooperation between local researchers and those from abroad and the methodological and ethical problems involved; Social, aesthetic, and physiological factors in vocal technique: Problems of typology and terminology; The value of intensive study of individual folk musicians; and Methodology, analysis, and description.

At the beginning of the General Assembly, President Poul Rovsing Olsen stated:

Our Council is the International Folk Music Council, and *Folk Music* is a term which has served us well in Europe for a couple of centuries. But the IFMC does not—and should not—restrict itself to folk music. We are just as concerned with—for example—Korean and Japanese Court music or Arab and Indian classical music as we are with folk-music. And furthermore there are organisations in African as well as Asian countries hesitating to collaborate with us because of our name. If you don't consider your national music a folk music it is difficult to understand why you should have anything to do with an international organisation apparently focused on folk music. So our name is misleading and creates misunderstandings which are not to our advantage.

On the other hand, even if it is perfectly possible for our Council to change its name to—for instance—the International Council of Traditional Music we should not forget that it may prove problematic to change the name of a well-established institution, known in the world as the IFMC for more than 30 years. (*BIFMC* 55, Oct 1979:15–16)

A new kind of event announced was a symposium, later renamed colloquium, on "Music and language modes" in Poland.

1981: Seoul, Republic of Korea

The 26th conference took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 25 August – 1 September 1981.

The themes for papers were Ritual music of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism; Ornamentation as concept and musical function; Folk music in rites (funeral, marriage, puberty, etc.); Problems of methodology and ethnomusicology; and Research in ethnochoreology. Themes for roundtables were Interaction and interdependence of music, dance, drama, recitation and

visual arts; Teaching improvisation in music classes; Transformations of vocal music into instrumental music; and Children's song: Old and new (cf. *BIFMC* 58, Apr 1981).

It was announced that Dieter Christensen had been appointed as secretary general, and the secretariat had moved to Columbia University, New York, USA. For the first time, there were nominations made by Council members of candidates to the Board, instead of just nominations from the Board.

After a discussion that had been going on for three years, the name of the Council was now changed to International Council for Traditional Music on 27 August (Olsen 1981:2). Two new categories of membership were introduced: honorary members and supporting members (*BICTM* 59, Oct 1981:3).

Selected papers from the conference appear in the *YTM* 15 (1983), after a hiatus from such a practice.

1983: New York, USA

The 27th conference was held in New York, USA, 8–15 August 1983. There was an emphasis on performance workshops featuring practical instruction in a particular style or technique of performance, lecture-demonstrations of music and dance, as well as research workshops titled “Tools for field and laboratory.”

Poul Roving Olsen had died in 1982, and Erich Stockmann (German Democratic Republic) was elected president, with Salah el-Mahdi (Tunisia) and Trần Văn Khê (Vietnam) as new vice presidents, while Claudie Marcel-Dubois (France) was re-elected as vice president. Other ordinary members elected to the Board were Lee Hye-ku (Korea), Olive Lewin (Jamaica), Krister Malm (Sweden), and Tokumaru Yoshihiko (Japan). Later the Board co-opted Ranganayaki Ayyangar (India), Meki Nzewi (Nigeria), and Ricardo Trimillos (USA). Thus, the previous dominance of European scholars on the Board was broken. There was a change of the rules, allowing ordinary members of the Board to be eligible for immediate re-election only once.

There was a meeting of representatives of broadcasting organizations during the conference. However, at its meeting during the conference, the Board dissolved the Committee on Radio-Television and Sound/Film Archives “as no longer congruent with ICTM objectives and policies” (*BICTM* 63, Oct 1983:20).

Selected papers from the conference appear in the *YTM* 16 (1984).

1985: Stockholm, Sweden, and Helsinki, Finland

The 28th conference of the ICTM began on 30 July 1985, in Stockholm, Sweden, then on 4 August moved by ferry overnight to Helsinki, Finland, with paper sessions in Helsinki on 5–7 August. Although not noted in the preliminary programme published in *BICTM* 66 (Apr 1985:13–20), the original plan was to continue the conference in Leningrad, Soviet Union. However, this was not possible due to political complications, and the conference was closed on 7 August in Helsinki. The same day, some participants returned to Stockholm by ferry while others continued by chartered bus to Leningrad, where an informal paper session was held on 8 August, although this was not listed in the programme accompanying papers published from the conference (*YTM* 18, 1986:xi–xvii). Thus, official and informal paper sessions took place in three different countries. Krister Malm was the chair of both the programme committee and the local arrangements committee. There were some 120 participants.

The themes for the conference were: The formation of musical traditions (The roles of children and youth; Physical and biological aspects; Interaction with commercial, technological and institutional systems; Musical tools—change and revival); and, Traditional music and dance around the Baltic Sea. Papers on these themes were presented in twenty-six paper sessions.

It was reported that quite a few colloquia had taken place and were planned. Selected papers from the world conference appear in the *YTM* 18 (1986).

1987: Berlin, German Democratic Republic

The 29th conference was held in Berlin, German Democratic Republic, 30 July – 6 August 1987, with 240 participants (cf. *BICTM* 70, Apr 1987; 71, Oct 1987). Themes were: Traditional music and cultural identity; and Forty years IFMC/ICTM, and the development of ethnomusicology.

There were thirty paper sessions with ninety papers, four audiovisual sessions and some workshops. A new feature was the inclusion in the conference programme of a meeting of liaison officers and representatives of national committees, as well as meetings of four study groups. The host, Erich Stockmann, was re-elected president, and Oskár Elsček (Czechoslovakia) and Olive Lewin (Jamaica) were elected vice presidents. Claudie Marcel-Dubois ended her term as vice president. She had been on the Board since the beginning of the Council and was the last person representing the Maud

Karpeles era. Until this conference, the Council used to have between three and five vice presidents, but from now onwards there were only two.

Liaison persons were appointed to the *Fédération internationale des jeunesses musicales* (Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, Krister Malm, and Bálint Sárosi); to *Mediacult* in Vienna (Krister Malm); the International Music Council project, “Music in the life of man” (Dieter Christensen); and *Répertoire international d’iconographie musicale* (RIDIM) (Tilman Seebass, Erich Stockmann, and Tsuge Gen’ichi).

Conspicuous was the active participation of young members in all aspects of the conference and also in bridging the gap between continents, and Eastern and Western Europe. Selected papers from the conference appear in the *YTM* 20 (1988).

1989: Schladming, Austria

The 30th ICTM World Conference was held in Schladming, Austria, 23–30 July 1989, with 240 presenters, approximately 400 participants (figures from local organizers) from thirty-seven countries. Languages of presentation were English and German.

This conference is unfortunately associated in the ICTM community with its “scandal” (e.g., see Yurchenco 2003). Wolfgang Suppan, chair of the local arrangements committee—at that time called local programme chair—had invited the president of the Republic of Austria for the opening ceremony. As this person was Kurt Waldheim—figuring on blacklists of many countries at that time due to his engagement during the Nazi regime—there was severe disapproval by the Board, as well as by delegates. Secretary General Dieter Christensen resigned during the conference and more than half of the audience left the room when Waldheim gave his opening speech. During the General Assembly, as well as during the Board meeting, the incident was heavily criticized by Board members as well as delegates. Christensen explained that when he was informed about the invitation to Waldheim, it was too late to find another location for the conference. That is why he resigned (only for the time of the conference). The report of the Board meeting says:

In an extensive review of the just concluded conference and its preparatory procedures, the Board resolved to register strongest disapproval of some of the practices implemented by Programme Chairman Professor Suppan, and to seek ways and means of assuring compliance with ICTM policies and procedures in the preparation of future meetings. (*BICTM* 75, Oct 1989:15)

As another consequence, the Austrian National Committee—at that time chaired by Wolfgang

Suppan—was dissolved, and Emil Lubej was installed as liaison officer. But in spite of this incident, the conference was a successful scholarly meeting with many social, musical activities going on. And the Council was still growing: the number of members as of 19 July 1989, stood at 1,215.

A new, very important ICTM commission was installed, chaired by Krister Malm: Commission on Copyright and Ownership in Traditional Music and Dance. In the papers, issues of gender and iconography, of computer-aided research and dance, all drawn from the work of the established ICTM study groups, blended with presentations of regional or national research. The full days of panels with Hungarian and with Soviet scholars were certainly among the high points of the conference. As Dieter Christensen put it so well in his report: “Groups of scholars engrossed in the discussion of esoteric topic, exuberance in many languages, snow-topped mountains in mid-summer, conviviality and heart-warming music in smoky inns, old friends and new faces—pleasant memories of the Schladming conference” (1989:13).

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 22 (1990).

1991: Hong Kong

The 31st ICTM World Conference was held in Hong Kong, 3–9 July 1991. In addition, there was a post-conference from 11–14 July, where selected scholars gathered in Guangzhou (China) for an “International symposium on Chinese traditional music” to discuss issues related to the study of Chinese traditional music. Official languages were Chinese and English.

The attendance of Chinese colleagues seemed to be crucial in order to exchange ideas and actually there were twenty-seven presenters from China. In Dieter Christensen’s opinion, the conference was a milestone in the development of the ICTM because of the mutual exchange between colleagues from China and other parts of the world.

An important decision concerning governance of the Council had been taken in 1990 that was announced in the *Bulletin*:

The Executive Board has resolved to put before the next General Assembly in Hong Kong a proposal to reduce the size of the Executive Board to a maximum of 16 (President, no more than two Vice Presidents, nine Ordinary Board Members, no more than two Coopted Board Members, two appointed Executive Officers); and further, for the establishment of a permanent deliberative organ of the Council consisting of national representatives, i.e., delegates of ICTM National Committees and Liaison Officers. (*BICTM* 77, Oct 1990:9)

Therefore, for the first time, a meeting of national representatives was held at this world conference. Since then, national representation has grown considerably, and a time slot for their meetings has become standard practice since then.

The local organizers offered a tremendous social programme, including musical events and sightseeing. Those were the times when travelling long distances was not as common as in more recent decades. Therefore, many took the opportunity to see other nearby parts of the world after the conference.

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 24 (1992).

1993: Berlin, Germany

The 32nd ICTM World Conference took place in Berlin, 16–22 June 1993. Official languages were English and German, and the conference was attended by 347 participants from forty-eight countries. The host was the International Institute for Traditional Music, chaired by Max Peter Baumann.

It was certainly a special situation due to the only recent unification of two “Berlins,” and in many papers and informal talks it was felt that the unification had not yet manifested in the minds of many colleagues. The conference was held at a museum which caused some problems in providing the spaces for presentations, but had a certain charm. Delegates sat in the middle of exhibitions when listening to papers.

It is noteworthy that at the General Assembly in Berlin, the ICTM passed a resolution on cultural diversity. One quote from this resolution says:

We consider it a basic human right for people to express themselves according to their own culture, including by means of music, dance, and other performing arts. In the “International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples” we would like to stress that all voices should be heard. (*BICTM* 83, Oct 1993:12)

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 26 (1994).

1995: Canberra, Australia

The 33rd ICTM World Conference was held in Canberra, Australia, 5–11 January 1995. Stephen Wild was the head of the LAC, and he hosted the conference at the Canberra School of Music / Australian National University. There were 248 attendees from forty-two countries.

The conference language was English only. It was a conference that really showed impressively to the world of ethnomusicology one of the prominent topics of scholars in Australia: Aboriginal music. Quite logically,

Catherine Ellis was chosen as the keynote speaker, and many papers covered the topic. The social programme highlighted Aboriginal art, Aboriginal politics, traditional ceremonies, and popular music. It underlined how close the cooperation between scholars and Aboriginal musicians was, and what applied ethnomusicology can achieve.

At the General Assembly, the second honorary member of the ICTM was elected: Alice Moyle. Another issue seemed to have been important. In the minutes of the General Assembly, the UNESCO Collection of Traditional Music is mentioned:

the ICTM has been requested by UNESCO to assume full responsibility for the new releases of compact discs for the UNESCO Collection of Traditional Music. The ICTM, to repeat, has now assumed full editorial responsibility for the new releases of UNESCO’s CDs, and we have scheduled during this conference several meetings to look into details. (*BICTM* 86, Apr 1995:12)

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 27 (1995), due to the different time of year when the conference took place (January).

1997: Nitra, Slovakia

The 34th ICTM World Conference took place in Nitra, Slovakia, 25 June – 1 July 1997. Oskár Elschek served as local arrangements chair. Official languages were English, French, and German, and the conference was attended by 140 colleagues from forty-one countries.

The location in Nitra still had the charm of post-Soviet times and so had the technical facilities. I suppose the dramatic moment when Bruno Nettel started his keynote address and the big poster behind him fell down will be well remembered by those who witnessed it. The location also provided many opportunities for informal talks as meals were served in the conference building, and the social programme was extraordinary rich.

A very crucial decision was taken in Nitra concerning the governance of the ICTM. Long-term President Erich Stockmann, who had been president for fourteen years, resigned at this conference, and Anthony Seeger was newly elected. This election marked a change in governing policies of the ICTM. Anthony Seeger only held the position for two years and was followed by Krister Malm in 1999. The president began to change more often, as well as Board member’s positions: definitely steps towards greater democracy. As a further sign of this development, the newly elected president, Anthony Seeger, asked the members’ opinions about the Council. He posed questions at the closing ceremony, and also asked members to send him comments.

Noteworthy in the president's report, given by Vice President Krister Malm, is that the ICTM had received recognition as a non-governmental organization in formal consultative relations with UNESCO (*BICTM* 81, Oct 1997:15).

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 30 (1998). From this year onwards, selected, peer-reviewed papers always were published in the *YTM* one year after the conference (except for 2004, as noted below). From 2001 onwards, the general editors were Stephen Wild, Don Niles, Kati Szego, and Lee Tong Soon. For the publication of conference papers, guest editors were appointed.

1999: Hiroshima, Japan

The 35th ICTM World Conference was held in Hiroshima, Japan, 19–25 August 1999, and Tsuge Gen'ichi functioned as chair of the LAC. The official languages were English, French, and Japanese. There were 270 participants from forty-two countries.

The conference location—Hiroshima University—was reached by shuttle buses every day. Although the university was located in the middle of a beautiful green landscape, it was rather far away from the hotels. In the history of ICTM, it was probably the most punctual world conference because every single session started on time. Wonderful concerts and workshops featuring Japanese and other traditional musics held at the university added to the good atmosphere.

At the General Assembly, Krister Malm was elected president, as Anthony Seeger had decided to resign after only two years. In his inauguration speech, Malm mentions democracy in the ICTM:

He then addresses one issue of concern to him: the election procedures. He says that although the governing instrument of the Council, the Rules, provide for nominations from the membership and national committees, this opportunity almost never was used, and with that the necessity of a multiple slate to be put before the membership-at-large to vote on. (*BICTM* 95, Oct 1999:23–24)

The Board worked on this issue in the following years, which led to a more democratic election process in 2001.

2001: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The 36th ICTM World Conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 4–11 July 2001. The chair of the LAC was Samuel Araújo. Official languages were English and Portuguese. Three hundred participants came from over forty countries, with a quarter of participants from Brazil.

The university where the conference took place was located in the middle of the city, and participants stayed in hotels in town. So, everyone got a feeling of the city during the days, by using public transport and trying all types of restaurants.

The General Assembly was one of the most dramatic ones in the history of ICTM. For the first time, there were two candidates for the president's position. When the votes were announced and Krister Malm was elected, Secretary General Dieter Christensen immediately announced his resignation in a very dramatic way. This was unexpected, and, therefore, the Board had to find a person to replace him within a few days. Anthony Seeger finally agreed to take over as secretary general, which was, of course, not an easy task. After more than twenty years the Secretariat was transferred. The new address was to be at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

2004: Fuzhou and Quanzhou, China

The 37th ICTM World Conference was held in Fuzhou and Quanzhou, China, 4–11 January 2004. The original planned dates of 15–22 July 2003 had to be postponed because of outbreak of SARS, which had serious effects on conference participation. The co-chairs of the LAC were Wang Yaohua and Tsao Penyeh. Official languages were English, French, and Chinese, and there were 300 participants from more than thirty countries.

As there were two locations for the conference, the transportation of delegates was quite a challenge, and made even more complicated because of military restrictions. This was the second time that an ICTM world conference was hosted in this area of the world, and it definitely added to communication and understanding between scholars, especially from China and colleagues from other parts of the world.

Discussion about changes in the rules of ICTM had been going on before, but these were approved at the General Assembly in Fuzhou. These changes mainly concerned the introduction of a Nomination Committee with one member appointed by the Board and two members appointed by the Assembly of National Representatives in order to further transparency and democracy. Some ICTM bodies that had existed previously, but had not been mentioned in the rules, were also formalized, such as the Assembly of National and Regional Representatives and the Nomination Committee.

Selected papers were published in *YTM* 36 (2004).



Figure 2. From the 39th World Conference. The conference organizing team is in the front row: Ursula Hemetek, Maria Walcher, Gerlinde Haid, Regina Allgayer-Kaufmann, Christiane Fennesz-Juhasz, Birgit Hübener. Vienna, 2007 (photo courtesy of Ursula Hemetek).

2005: Sheffield, UK

The 38th ICTM World Conference was held in Sheffield, UK, 3–10 August 2005. The chair of the LAC was Jonathan Stock, and the only official language was English. There were about 250 participants.

The programme for the first time featured the theme applied ethnomusicology, which had a great impact on following discourses within the ICTM.

In Sheffield, the results of the first election according to new rules—with more than one candidate for vacant positions—were announced. The process was explained by the convener of the nomination's committee, Don Niles, during the General Assembly:

for the first time in its history ... the ICTM membership at large has nominated all the candidates itself and has provided choices for *every* position. This election did more than just elect new members of the Board; it also established a new way of doing so for the future. (*BICTM* 107, Oct 2005:11)

Krister Malm's term as president and Anthony Seeger's as secretary general concluded. The newly elected president was Adrienne Kaepler—the first female president of the ICTM—and the new secretary general was Stephen Wild. The Secretariat moved to Canberra.

2007: Vienna, Austria

The 39th ICTM World Conference took place in Vienna, 4–11 July 2007 (figure 2). The chair of the LAC was Gerlinde Haid. Five hundred participants from more than sixty countries made it the largest world conference in the history of ICTM up to that point. The official languages were English and German, but actually no papers were read in German. The location was the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, with a very nice campus and a marquee on the grounds to serve meals for the participants. The organizing committee was a women-only team, probably for the first time in the history of ICTM world conferences. The team involved all ethnomusicological institutions of Vienna.

The local arrangements committee was well aware of the previous world conference in Austria in 1989, and remembered the scandal. Therefore, every possible influence of official Austrian politics was strictly avoided. The committee was able to raise funds in order to support the participation of members from Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The Barbara Smith Travel Award—which was awarded by the programme committee for the first time—also was focussed on that region.

In the report of the Austrian National Committee, we find a summary that addresses an important reason for organizing world conferences:

For Austrian ethnomusicology, this World Conference was a great stimulus, because bringing the ethnomusicological world to one's doorstep means inspiration, personal and institutional contacts, and many ideas for future projects that hopefully will be realized. (Hemetek and Huebener 2007:14)

2009: Durban, South Africa

The 40th ICTM World Conference was held in Durban, South Africa, 1–8 July 2009 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Chair of the LAC was Fikile NM Mazibuko, but Patricia Opondo functioned as a liaison to the Board. There were more than 200 participants. The only conference language was English.

For only the second time, the ICTM moved to the African continent with a world conference which was certainly a challenge, but with a highly positive effect on communications between African scholars and colleagues from other parts of the world. The situation concerning the submissions and evaluations of abstracts turned out to be complicated, as the chair of the programme committee had to withdraw at a rather late moment. Wim van Zanten took over and did a heroic job. Due to his and the Secretariat's efforts, it finally worked: it was a remarkable conference, also due to the impressive social programme.

At the General Assembly, the re-election of Adrienne Kaeppeler as president was announced. The chair of the LAC expressed his perspective on the event in the *Bulletin*:

In the final analysis and assessment, I would like to believe that the Durban World Conference had given South Africa and Africa a quantum leap into the ICTM: we are ready to share our wealth of experience and expertise with the 41st World Conference. (Mazibuko 2009:12)

2011: St. John's, Canada

The 41st ICTM World Conference was held in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, 13–19 July 2011. The co-chairs of the LAC were Beverley Diamond and Kati Szego. Conference languages were English and French, but only very few presentations were actually given in French. There were more than 500 participants.

As one of the conference themes was "Indigenous modernities," a certain focus was laid on that topic, and also because the research traditions in the region suggested this. The conference was located on the campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland at a certain distance from the centre of the small town. Therefore, meals were served in a marquee, again a centre of communication. Many workshops were offered during the

conference and also numerous concerts, all of them very well attended.

At the closing ceremony, Svanibor Pettan was introduced as the new secretary general. After a long time, the Secretariat moved to Europe again, and Pettan presented Ljubljana, Slovenia, as the new location for the Secretariat. With the new secretary general, many fundamental changes in the operations were implemented in the years to follow. A very important one can be seen from *BICTM* 119 (Oct 2011): the first solely online issue, and appearing in a new format with new contents. From this time up to the present, Carlos Yoder, the executive assistant, functions as *Bulletin* editor, with the responsible committee also consisting of Don Niles and Svanibor Pettan (followed by Ursula Hemetek in 2017 and Lee Tong Soon in 2021).

2013: Shanghai, China

The 42nd ICTM World Conference was held in Shanghai, China, 11–17 July 2013. The LAC was co-chaired by Xiao Mei and Yang Yan-di. The Shanghai Conservatory of Music was the host institution and official languages were English and Chinese. There actually were quite a few sessions in Chinese that were translated simultaneously into English. With 500 delegates from fifty-six countries, this was again a very large conference. The venue was located in the middle of the city, so everyone could easily enjoy the beauties and attractions of Shanghai. The concert programme during this conference was extraordinary rich and impressive. Xiao Mei, co-chair of LAC, drew the following conclusion from the experience:

Hosting the 42nd World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music has not only given inspiration and new perspectives to Chinese local music research and the work of protecting contemporary traditional culture; it has also further promoted academic dialogue and exchange between experts and scholars from different regions of the world. (Xiao 2013:10)

During the General Assembly, the newly elected president was announced: Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco. At the Executive Board meeting, the decision was taken to publish the *Bulletin* three times a year, instead of two. A new format of ICTM events was installed: ICTM fora, involving different thematically related societies, held in conjunction with these. Svanibor Pettan writes about the attempt to bring together the most influential societies in ethnomusicology, the Society for Ethnomusicology and ICTM for the first time:

The agreement about a new attempt got its crucial impetus during the 42nd ICTM World Conference in Shanghai, where Beverley Diamond, Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco and I discussed the possibility at several informal meetings. A smaller event with a limited

number of sharply-selected presentations proved to be the winning recipe. Credit for the thematic shaping of the Forum is to be given to Samuel Araújo and Gage Averill. (Pettan 2015:3)

2015: Astana, Kazakhstan

The 43rd ICTM World Conference was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, 16–22 July 2015. Co-chairs of the LAC were Aiman Mussakhajayeva and Saida Yelemanova. Conference languages were English and Russian, and there were nearly 600 participants from seventy countries.

For the first time in its history, the ICTM held a world conference in Central Asia, in one of the former Soviet Republics. The strategy to connect to ethnomusicologists in this region of the world by such an event was successful. Razia Sultanova and Timothy Rice (programme co-chairs) report:

Kazakhstan was represented in the programme by the largest group of participants (80), and another large contingent of scholars from the former Soviet Union joined the meeting as well. With up to thirteen parallel sessions, a plenary session each day, performance workshops, and films in virtually every session, and a rich programme of concerts each evening, the conference was a milestone in the study of world music and culture. We were very glad to participate in the planning of such an enjoyable and stimulating conference in Astana. (Rice and Sultanova 2015:9)

Unexpected problems that arose were efficiently solved: due to technical problems, the Secretariat had to collect the registration fees for the local organizer, and Board members handled the registration desks.

At this conference, the inaugural meeting of study group chairs took place, a new body within the ICTM. Also during the General Assembly, a new means of governance was announced that had the purpose of sharing responsibilities: “The importance of special-purpose Executive Board Committees (e.g., 70th Anniversary of ICTM, *Bulletin*, Colloquia, Sister Societies, study groups, among others), an innovation introduced by ICTM President Castelo-Branco in 2013, was explained” (*BICTM* 129, Oct 2015:13).

2017: Limerick, Ireland

The 44th ICTM World Conference was held in Limerick, Ireland, 13–19 July 2017, and the co-chairs of the LAC were Catherine Foley and Colin Quigley. There were 650 delegates from seventy countries. For the first time, this ICTM event was held in Ireland.

This conference marked the 70th anniversary of the ICTM, and the programme impressively highlighted

this event. One of the themes was dedicated to the history of ICTM, and several very informative panels raised the awareness of how the past shapes the present and the future. There were many musical events and workshops during the conference that highlighted the aims of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance as host institution, a university mainly dedicated to the performance and study of Irish music and dance. For the first time, an official video was produced, also marking the 70th anniversary with footage from the conference.

During the General Assembly, Castelo-Branco introduced a proposal for new Statutes for the ICTM, explaining that following a thorough evaluation of the existing Rules of the ICTM, a specially-appointed Executive Board Committee had produced a draft to bring the constitutional document of the Council up to date with current practices.⁸ These were approved and are to be seen as a milestone in the governance of ICTM.

Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco was re-elected as president.

At the closing ceremony, Ursula Hemetek was introduced as the new secretary general of the ICTM. The Secretariat moved to Vienna, while the executive assistant, Carlos Yoder, remained in Slovenia. In her inauguration speech, Hemetek underlined her goals for the years to come: “I envision three main points that are important in my interpretation of the function of secretary general: historical awareness, democracy and transparency, and political engagement” (Hemetek 2017:2).

One new tool of democracy was immediately installed. In the Board meeting following the conference, a new body was recognized: “I am particularly pleased with the recognition of the new Students and Early Career Researchers Group, and would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all its members” (Castelo-Branco 2017:6).

2019: Bangkok, Thailand

The 45th ICTM World Conference at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand (11–17 July 2019) was the first in the history of ICTM to be held in Southeast Asia. Dean Bussakorn Binson, co-chair of the LAC writes in her report in the *Bulletin*:

It was one of the largest ever held in the Council’s history, with more than 1,000 participants coming from 76 countries ... The news on HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attending the conference’s Opening Ceremony was released on royal news channels in

⁸ Available at: <http://www.ictmusic.org/documents/minutes/minutes-43rd-ictm-general-assembly-2017-limerick-ireland>.

Thailand, while the Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS), media partner of the conference, also broadcast all evening concerts. (*BICTM* 141, Oct 2019:11)

The attendance of the Princess definitely was a highlight, but a challenge as well, as ICTM delegates mostly were not used to following the royal protocol. A very rich social programme was offered by the organizers, including concerts every evening and even at lunch time. From the reactions of delegates, one can conclude that it was one of the most enjoyable ICTM world conferences. The scholarly programme included eleven parallel sessions and programme co-chairs Tan Sooi Beng and Keith Howard reported that there were 961 individual presentations: “We believe this number to be the largest to date in the history of ICTM” (*BICTM* 141, Oct 2019:12).

The 44th General Assembly of Members, the 15th Assembly of National and Regional Representatives, and the 3rd Assembly of Study Group Chairs were held during the conference. Election results were announced during the General Assembly; for the first time, nearly half of the members participated in the election, which showed that the process of further democratization was successful. The secretary general further related how the “First general survey of ICTM members” had been conducted in November–December 2018, and how the results had been communicated on 15 May 2019. She also reported that the membership had continued to grow, reaching a new record in July 2019 (1,194 paid members, 204 paid institutional subscribers, and 59 complimentary members).⁹

The new Study Group Allowance, that would support participation in study-group symposia during 2020, was announced during the 3rd Assembly of Study Group Chairs.¹⁰

It is important to note that the *YTM* 2019, featuring articles that derived from presentations during the conference, was published for the first time with Cambridge University Press, as the Board had approved the transition in 2018.

The 46th World Conference, scheduled to take place in 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal, had to be postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The General Assembly took place in an online manner in 2021.

Closing words

We have tried to give an overview of the history of IFMC/ICTM by focussing on the most important events of the Council through all these years: world conferences, General Assemblies, and festivals, the latter arranged until 1962. These events show very clearly the changes in terms of knowledge production and development of the discipline, but also concern operations of the Council and its policies. As there were General Assemblies at nearly every conference, we can see the changes when reading the minutes, and we have tried to highlight the most important ones. What can also be seen in this chapter is the enormous growth of the Council. The first conference was attended by 47 delegates, the most recent one by 1,000.

There are two documents that mark the beginning as well as present times, from 1947 to 2017. They say a lot about the state of the discipline at these points in history: the aims of IFMC as stated in 1947, and the ones written in the statutes that were approved by the General Assembly in 2017.¹¹ It is interesting to compare them.

Whereas in 1947, the concern is mainly the “preservation and dissemination of folk music” and the furthering of comparative study, the scope has broadened considerably since then, as we can see from the 2017 mission statement: “To promote research, documentation, safeguarding, and sustainability of music, dance, and related performing arts, taking into account the diversity of cultural practices, past and present, and scholarly traditions worldwide.” The wish to “promote understanding and friendship between nations through the common interest in folk music,” as highlighted in 1947, has changed into: “To bring together music and dance scholars, as well as artists, cultural activists, policy makers, and other individuals, collectives, and institutions in pursuit of equality, social participation, human rights, and sustainability in the performing arts.” The former “friendship” has become “collaboration”: “To collaborate with national, regional, and international scholarly, educational, cultural, and other organizations and institutions.”

The parade of world conferences as presented here sheds light on the reasons for such changes and developments.

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9 Minutes of General Assembly available at: <https://www.ictmusic.org/documents/minutes/minutes-44th-ictm-general-assembly-2019-bangkok-thailand>.

10 Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, nearly all of the planned symposia had to be postponed or were cancelled in 2020.

11 The Rules are listed by Karpeles (1965:308); the Statutes can be found at: <http://ictmusic.org/statutes-ictm>. Also see the chapter on by-laws in this volume.

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