

Adrienne L. Kaeppler: ICTM President, 2005–2013

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My first association with the IFMC was the 20th World Conference in Edinburgh, UK (1969), when I gave a paper on Tongan dance and met Anna Czekanowska, with whom I became very friendly and visited her in Poland. Before that my music associations were with the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), where I was on the Board and vice president. I found SEM to be too provincially American, and was happy to find more internationally interested people in IFMC. However, as I lived in Hawai‘i, it was difficult to attend conferences very often. The 22nd World Conference in Bayonne, France (1973), was particularly important to me; this is when I met Anca Giurchescu, and we became international colleagues, along with others interested in dance.¹ I found to my disappointment, however, that when I inquired about joining what was then the IFMC Study Group on Terminology of Choreology, I was told that this was a very closed group, not open to the general membership. In fact, I did not join the study group until 1990, when openness was already instituted. The study group used to be predominantly Eurocentric, with researchers studying the dances (and usually music) of their own areas and countries. On the other hand, the world conferences were occasionally taking place outside of Europe, such as for instance in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (1977), Seoul, Korea (1981), New York, USA (1983), Kowloon, Hong Kong (1991), and Canberra, Australia (1995), and I always had appreciation of such a wider scope. At the 35th World Conference in Hiroshima, Japan (1999), I was co-opted to the Executive Board. Being a Board member was definitely an eye-opener to me when I was quickly made aware of the internal tensions between individuals and countries.

There was a turmoil in that period, which I understood as disagreements within the EB, including the two principal authorities—president and secretary general. I was not aligned with any of the involved parties and did not take sides. At the 36th World Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2001), I became vice president and

as such testified to the four years of seeking and finding new stability on the executive level, led by Krister Malm as president and Anthony Seeger as secretary general. It came as a total surprise when I found myself nominated for president and even more so when I was elected at the 38th World Conference in Sheffield, UK (2005). It turned out that I became the first female president (if we do not include the title of honorary president given to the Council’s founder, Maud Karpeles) and the first “dance person” in that role (again, with Karpeles in mind also here). My great hope for my presidency was to make the Council more international and less Eurocentric.

My first emphasis was on study groups. In my opinion, they are the lifeblood of our Council and particularly important for research and interpersonal relationships. My involvement in the Study Group on Ethnochoreology and the Study Group on the Music and Dance of Oceania gave me perspectives on how various study groups operated, and how any problems could be immediately handled during the next Executive Board meeting. During the eight years of my presidency, I was very pleased that the study groups prospered and expanded, the Study Group on Musics of East Asia being just one of several inspiring examples.

I want to note here that in my opinion being president is not nearly as difficult as being secretary general, and it is most important how the two understand each other and work together. My mandate, extended for additional four years at the 40th World Conference in Durban, South Africa (2009), was especially satisfying, as it enabled me to work with two secretaries general. My term overlapped most of the time with Stephen Wild as secretary general (2005–2011), a fellow Oceania-specialist of approximately the same generation as myself, whom I knew well from earlier on. Stephen and I worked together well in all respects, and I had the opportunity to visit him in Australia several times during our mandates. A particularly important issue was the permanent housing of the ICTM Archive at the National Library

1 More on this is provided in the chapter on the Study Group on Ethnocoreology in this volume by Dunin and Foley.



Figure 1. Lee Anne Proberts, Stephen Wild, Carlos Yoder, Adrienne Kaeppler, and Svanibor Pettan. St. John's, July 2011 (photo courtesy of Svanibor Pettan).

of Australia in Canberra.² Svanibor Pettan, who was secretary general for the last two years of my mandate (2011–2013) introduced many novelties and further contributed to our shared wish for further internationalization of the Council (figure 1).

As the world conferences are especially important for global reach and inclusion of as many cultures as possible, I will note that during my eight years as president, the four world conferences were held on four continents: Europe (Vienna, Austria, 2007), Africa (Durban, South Africa, 2009), North America (St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, 2011), and Asia (Shanghai, China, 2013). Organizing the conference in Durban was challenging in several respects, but through the joint efforts with Secretary General Stephen Wild, Programme Chair Wim van Zanten, and the local arrangements committee, in which Executive Board member Patricia Opondo had an important role, we testified to a very successful event. Preparations for the 43rd World Conference in Astana (present-day Nur-Sultan), Kazakhstan, also started under my presidency, and I remember the first meetings with the general secretary of TÜRKSOY, Dusen Kaseinov, and with many other dignitaries, in 2012, which were marked by the very active involvement of Svanibor Pettan and Razia Sultanova (figure 2). The increasing number of study groups held its symposia world-wide and four colloquia took place during these eight years in USA (2006), UK (2009), Australia (2011), and Portugal (2011). I am happy to note that the historical Eurocentric emphasis

in ICTM was overridden, and that our travels to such diverse conference locations were worthwhile and benefited the Council.

Vice presidents during various periods of my two mandates were Allan Marett, Wim van Zanten, Svanibor Pettan, Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, and Stephen Wild. Although vice presidents do not always have specific duties, Wim van Zanten was especially helpful in dealing with the many interactions with UNESCO. Vice presidents seldom need to take over the duties of the president, especially during a Board meeting; however, this did happen during my term in office. I was particularly grateful to Allan Marett and Wim van Zanten who presided over the 2006 Board meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in September 2006, when I travelled to Tonga to take part in the funeral ceremonies of King Tupou IV.

Publications during this period went well, primarily because it was our good fortune to have Don Niles as general editor of the *Yearbook for Traditional Music* and the excellent reviews team consisting of Margaret Sarkissian (audio) and Frederick Lau (books), complemented by the appointment of the first website reviews editor, Suzel Reily. The electronic-only publication of the *Bulletin* was managed after the move of the Secretariat from Canberra to Ljubljana in 2011.

Other improvements include online renewal of memberships and electronic voting. It feels good to realize that colleagues from various parts of the world, regardless of ethnicity, religious affiliations, age, political views, or health conditions find themselves

² For more, see the chapter on the ICTM Archive in this volume by Wild, Woo, and Proberts.



Figure 2. Timothy Rice, Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, Stephen Wild, Adrienne Kaepler, Razia Sultanova, Düsen Kaseinov, and Svanibor Pettan. Shanghai, June 2012 (photo courtesy of Svanibor Pettan).

comfortable at ICTM. I am particularly happy that during my mandate, the international reach of ICTM was enlarged with Razia Sultanova on the Board, and our first conference in the large expanse of what used to be the Soviet Union taking place in Astana. Finally, I want to note that being president of ICTM for eight years was a great honour, and so were my previous services as vice president and Board member.