

Krister Malm: ICTM President, 1999–2005

Krister Malm

I became a member of the ICTM Executive Board in 1983 at the conference at Columbia University, New York, where Erich Stockmann was elected president (he had previously been acting president since the death of Poul Rovsing Olsen). Before 1983 my participation in the activities of the IFMC/ICTM had been rather sporadic. I had attended a couple of conferences since I became a member in 1965. I was recruited by Maud Karpeles at the meeting of the IFMC Radio and Record Library Committee in Stockholm, but I'm afraid I didn't pay my dues every year. I presented a conference paper the first time at the 1971 Conference in Jamaica in a session chaired by Charles Seeger who had visited me in Sweden in 1968 to study the equipment at the laboratory for analysis of sound which I was in charge of at Uppsala University.

In Jamaica, I also for the first time got acquainted with IFMC "politics." I was invited by Poul Rovsing Olsen, later IFMC/ICTM president, to an evening meeting in a restaurant. Actually, I was not very happy about this since I had planned to join a jam session organized by Richard Waterman (Chris Waterman's father) who was an excellent bass player, but I felt I had to go to the meeting. There were around ten people in the restaurant. It turned out that the agenda was how to make Maud Karpeles agree to a change of the name of the Council, which was something Poul had proposed when the Secretariat was hosted for a couple of years in Copenhagen (1967–1969). Poul, who spent a lot of time in France, ordered a bottle of wine. I was working in Trinidad at the time, and I advised Poul that Jamaica was rum and beer country. Poul got his wine, said it tasted awful, and sent the bottle out to get a better wine. Two big guys came and asked us to leave the restaurant or else ... Well, we left and found another place and Poul ordered beer. But the agenda of the meeting was somehow forgotten.

The reason for my election to the Board in 1983 was that the ICTM conference in 1985 was due to take place in Stockholm, Sweden. I had known Erich Stockmann since 1967. We met when we both were evaluators when Jan Ling defended his PhD thesis on the Swedish *nyckel-*

harpa (keyed fiddle). The reports of the Study Group on Folk Musical Instruments had been published since the inception of the Study Group by the Music Museum in Stockholm where I had been a member of the museum board in the 1970s and in 1983 had become the director. The reports were edited jointly by Erich and my predecessor at the museum, Ernst Emsheimer. Thus, Erich was quite often in Sweden. Erich asked me if I could organize a conference in Stockholm. I secured the support of the Swedish Royal Academy of Music and could say yes to Erich's request shortly before the 1983 conference. After I had been elected a Board member, Erich invited me to his hotel room and gave me some kind of advice on how to behave as an ICTM Board member (with dignity, properly dressed, etc.) and how to deal with the secretary general (be patient, don't confront him in EB meetings, talk to him privately, and have good, logical arguments).

I met Dieter Christensen for the first time at the 1983 conference and we had a very efficient cooperation in organizing the 1985 conference with me as programme chair. During the 1985 conference I was approached by a delegation of mainly North American participants who tried to convince me that I should make an offer to host the Secretariat in Stockholm and become secretary general. I immediately refused to do so. I thought, and I still think, that Dieter and Nerthus Christensen managed the Secretariat in an excellent way during their twenty years in office.

During the following years as Board member, and from 1995 as vice president, I had quite a few tasks. I was the liaison to Jeunesses Musicales and Mediacult in Vienna. In 1989 I became chair of the ICTM Commission on Copyright and Ownership in Traditional Music and Dance with Kurt Blaukopf (Austria), Olive Lewin (Jamaica), Mwesa Mapoma (Zambia/Gabon), Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco (Egypt/Portugal), and Ricardo Trimillos (USA) as members. This commission distributed a questionnaire with the *Bulletin* and received replies from twenty-nine countries forming the basis of a report to the Board which was later fed into the processes going on at the time regarding intangible

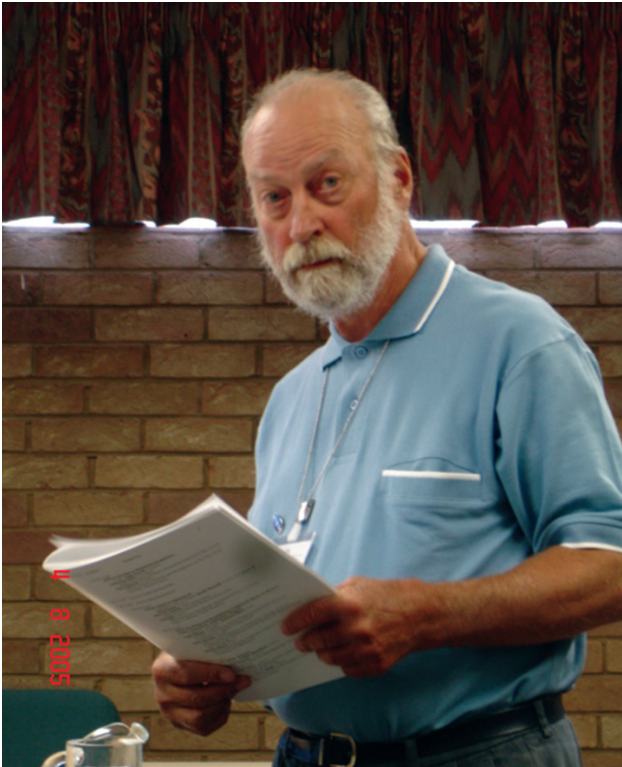


Figure 1. Krister Malm at the 2005 world conference in Sheffield (photo by Trần Quang Hải).

cultural heritage in UNESCO and traditional cultural expressions (formerly called expressions of folklore) in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Especially important was a meeting organized jointly by UNESCO and WIPO in Phuket, Thailand, in April 1997. There were representatives of some 130 governments and NGOs present at the meeting. Shubha Chaudhury, Sherylle Mills, and I were the ICTM delegates. We made our input and the meeting resulted in the Phuket “Plan of action,” where areas of action were divided between UNESCO and WIPO. This plan formed the base for, inter alia, UNESCO’s ensuing work with safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Lisbet Torp and I were appointed to organize a meeting of national representatives during the 1991 conference in Hong Kong. The task was to “develop a body of representatives of National Committees and Liaison Officers into a permanent deliberative organ of the Council.” This was successfully achieved. I was programme chair for the 1993 conference and the two colloquia held in Sweden in the 1990s, and also an ICTM seminar at World Music Expo (WOMEX) in Stockholm in 1998. Furthermore, two sessions were organized at the big UNESCO conference “The power of culture” in Stockholm in 1998 with Anthony Seeger, Ricardo Trimillos, Dan Lundberg, Owe Ronström, and me as participants.

I was also very active in the dispute with International Music Council (IMC) regarding the project “Music in the life of man.” This project started in 1980, but made very little progress. In 1988, ICTM proposed a change of the name to “Universe of music,” which was accepted. In 1993, at an IMC meeting in Paris, Dieter and I voiced our opinion that the project was gravely mismanaged, wasting UNESCO funds. Later we were proven right since nothing was published. This conflict resulted in ICTM leaving the IMC and the subsequent process resulting in ICTM getting status as an independent organization in formal consultative relations with UNESCO in 1997. I did quite a lot of lobbying to achieve this. The new status enabled ICTM to apply for support from UNESCO for projects, such as meetings and publications. This status was later renewed and reinforced during my time as president.

As Anthony Seeger relates in his essay on his term as president, Dieter Christensen wanted me to become president in 1997, when Tony was elected. Dieter and I had our disputes but we had generally worked very well and efficiently together. When Tony said he would not stand for re-election in 1999, I agreed with Dieter’s wish and was elected president at the conference in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1999. I wanted to continue the momentum for a more democratic Council that Anthony Seeger had started. I quote from the minutes of the General Assembly in Hiroshima:

President Krister Malm takes the chair with words of thanks for the outgoing president Anthony Seeger and the departing Board members for the work they did for the Council. [Acclamation]

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.

To correct this situation, Malm discussed election procedures at yesterday’s meeting of ICTM National Representatives (i.e. national committees – NC, and liaison officers – LO) where the participants nominated Don Niles (LO Papua New Guinea), Svanibor Pettan (LO Slovenia) and Kwon Oh-sung (president of the NC Korea) to work together with the Board in revising the election procedures to make the process more democratic. The committee will prepare a proposal for the next General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro 2001.

Before President Malm hands the chair back to Anthony Seeger to lead the session to its end, he thanks the membership for his election and promises to do his best for the aims of the Council, which should take into consideration not only research but also the acceptance of responsibilities on the international scene. [Acclamation]. (*BICTM* 95, Oct 1999:23–24)



Figure 2. Jane Moulin, Jonathan Stock, Kelly Salloum, Svanibor Pettan, Krister Malm, Alma Zubović, and Jane Sugarman. ICTM world conference, Sheffield, 2005 (photo by Trần Quang Hải).

The Executive Board appointed an Election Review Committee with me as chair and Board members Lumkile Lalendle, Allan Marett, and Anthony Seeger, and National Representatives Kwon Oh-sung, Don Niles, and Svanibor Pettan. Since there were some tensions, I also started to improve relations with sister organizations, especially the European Seminar in Ethnomusicology (ESEM) and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (IASPM).

Before the Board meeting in Bucharest in June 2000, the Election Review Committee presented a proposal to introduce a nomination committee with some members appointed by the Board and some by the Meeting of National Representatives. I sent the proposal to Dieter via email. I got a reply from Dieter that I interpreted as an okay. Before the start of the Board meeting, Dieter told me that I had to scrap the proposal. He said that the Meeting of National Representatives could not handle appointment of members to a nomination committee. Since Lisbet Torp and I had called the meetings of national representatives every conference starting from 1991 and reported in the *Bulletin* from these meetings, I was convinced that the national representatives were quite capable of handling this task. Thus, I told Dieter I would not scrap the proposal from the Election Review Committee, but go forward and present it to the Board for approval. Dieter got very angry.

After decisions regarding the 2001 conference in Rio de Janeiro, we reached the point on the Board agenda regarding the proposal from the Election Review Committee and the meeting became rather chaotic. Dieter opposed the proposal vigorously and said that he had lost all confidence in me. He also announced that he would retire from his position as a professor at Columbia University in 2005 and that, therefore, the ICTM Secretariat would have to relocate. Furthermore, he would step down as general editor of the *Yearbook for Traditional Music* after volume 33 (2001) and also as editor of the *UNESCO Collection of Traditional Music*. Agenda items became mixed up. Board members were confused. A search committee for a general editor of the *Yearbook* was appointed. There was an attempt to nominate a candidate for president, but in a way that was rejected at the subsequent Board meeting and no more decisions could be made.

A second Board meeting for the year was proposed by Dieter and took place in Berlin in September 2000. Two of the Board members who had supported me in Bucharest could not attend this meeting. The Board nominated Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco as presidential candidate. This was done in a peculiar way where abstention from voting was registered as a nay vote which caused more conflict. It appears that the minutes of this Board meeting only exist in draft form; apparently no final version was ever created. Lisbet Torp and Stephen Wild nominated me as presidential can-

didate. So, ironically now, there were two presidential candidates, just as the Election Review Committee had proposed.

When the election result that I had been re-elected as president was announced in the General Assembly at the 2001 conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dieter and Nerthus Christensen quite dramatically resigned as secretary general and executive secretary with immediate effect. Knowing Dieter, I suspected that something like this could happen and had prepared two options for a new Secretariat. Within twenty-four hours after the resignations of the secretary general and executive secretary, the Board decided to accept an offer from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to host the Secretariat with Anthony Seeger as the new secretary general and Timothy Rice as acting treasurer. Members of the Executive Board also took on parts of the tasks previously performed by the secretary general. This decision could be made so quickly since all the relevant decision makers from UCLA were present at the conference in Rio. UCLA also later contributed a substantial sum of money towards the running of the Secretariat, which was a new type of funding for the ICTM. I am very grateful to UCLA, especially the then Dean of the School of the Arts and Architecture Daniel Neuman, then Department of Ethnomusicology Chair Timothy Rice, and foremost, Anthony Seeger, who all did a great service to the ICTM by taking on the responsibility to bail the ICTM out of the dilemma that arose in the General Assembly meeting in Rio. I am also grateful to Stephen Wild, who accepted to replace Dieter as editor of the *Yearbook*.

The Board in Rio also appointed a Rules committee, consisting of Egil Bakka, Tsukada Kenichi, Anthony Seeger, and myself to work out a proposal for new ICTM rules. My wish was to at least get the preparation of new rules underway. A proposal for new rules was presented in *Bulletin* 101 (Oct 2002:15–20). They included a number of changes, for example:

- a nomination committee with three members, two appointed by the Assembly of National and Regional Representatives and one by the Executive Board
- introduction of transparent motion and voting procedures
- new terms for officers and members of the Board
- regulation of the role of the secretary general and the treasurer (the secretary general was not even mentioned in the old rules)
- study groups and colloquia written into the rules (not mentioned in the old rules)
- introduction of regional bodies
- memoranda as appendices to supplement the main body of rules.

The new Rules were adopted by the General Assembly of ICTM members at the conference held in 2004.

The evaluation of candidates to UNESCO's list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and the sometimes very cumbersome work with the UNESCO record series was handled excellently by Secretary General Anthony Seeger and Kelly Salloum in the Secretariat. Wim van Zanten also helped out with contacts with UNESCO regarding the drafting of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In 2003, the International Music Council's new president, Einar Solbu, presented the "Many musics action programme." This meant a break with the previous hegemony of Western art music in IMC which was caused by the dominance of representatives of Western art music (among others, the many "fan clubs" such as the Chopin Society, Schubert Society, etc.), which together with the conflict regarding the "Universe of Music" project were the main reasons for ICTM leaving IMC a decade earlier and successfully seeking independent status in UNESCO, a status that was renewed and enforced in 2003. I met with Einar Solbu and congratulated him for the new direction of IMC.

The 2003 conference was due to take place in two Chinese cities, Fuzhou and Quanzhou, in July 2003. In 2002 there was Board meeting in Fuzhou and, among other things, the Board looked at the premises for the conference. They were fine in Fuzhou, but when we came to Quanzhou, we were taken to an empty field outside the city. We were told that when our conference was due to take place there would be a brand-new university in this field with state-of-the-art equipment! Due to the outbreak of SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) in China, the conference was postponed until January 2004, and then there was indeed a new university on the field.

In October 2004, a UNESCO conference on integrated approaches for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage took place in Nara, Japan. This meeting was prompted by the need to establish an organizational structure within UNESCO in order to handle issues regarding the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The number of participants was around thirty, which meant that round-table type of discussions could take place involving all participants. Adrienne Kaeppler, Wim van Zanten, and I, all members of the ICTM Executive Board, were very active participants in the meeting. The discussions were lively both in the formal sessions and during meals and evenings. The Nara conference resulted in a policy document which was named the "Yamato Declaration," after the region where Nara is situated.

In 2005, the ICTM elections for the first time were held according to the new rules with candidates appointed by a nomination committee. I had decided not to run for re-election, since I thought twenty-two years of involvement in the running of ICTM was enough. I also retired from my work as general director of the Swedish National Collections of Music the same year and thus lost my institutional base and the funding that went with it. I think ICTM has had and continues to have very important roles to play both inside the community of scholars and as a player in international cultural politics. I have continued to attend conferences and other meetings, mostly together with my wife, Anna, and I hope to be able to do so for many more years.