

Great Lakes Chapter **Newsletter**

2008 “Two Greats” Super-Regional Conference March 28–29, 2008, Illinois State University

Co-Program Chairs, Bill Everett and Mark Harbold, and CMS Executive Committee Coordinator, Dave Williams, extend a special invitation to all CMS members to attend the special “Two Greats” Super-Regional Conference in Normal, Illinois, March 28 and 29. Never before has The College Music Society sponsored a regional event of the scope and prominence of this “super regional” meeting as a special way of helping the Society celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The Great Plains and Great Lakes Chapters have combined forces in what we hope will be a most exciting two-day meeting. This is a time to look backward and forward, celebrating the successes of our two chapters over the decades and embracing the challenges that lie ahead. We have assembled a rich, varied program that we hope will provide many opportunities for celebration, challenge, inspiration, and just plain fun. On that last note, look for these special events:

- Keynote address by renowned ethnomusicologist Bruno Nettl titled *Heartlands Revisited: Exercises in Musical Ethnography*.
- Two full days of sessions starting on Friday morning with workshops on technology and improvisation.
- Over 45 presentations including a session with the acousticians who helped

design the new Illinois State University Center for Performing Arts: David Kahn and Gary Reetz.

- Two CMS composer concerts with pieces for solo, small ensemble, choir, jazz ensemble, and wind ensemble performed by Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University faculty and students, among others.
- A recital concert featuring CMS performers and a lecture-recital dedicated to the music of Libby Larsen.
- Two special dinner events (included in the registration fee) preceding the concerts on Friday and Saturday night.
 - The Friday dinner is generously provided by our host schools, Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University.
 - Look for a special musical surprise during Saturday night’s dinner, held in the University Art Gallery amongst an exhibit of works by established, Chicago contemporary artist, Jim Lutes.
- Reflections on CMS’s past few decades by past and present chapter presidents.
- Displays of materials from the Society’s past: everyone is encouraged to bring historic items from the Great Lakes or Plains chapter past to share in the display area.
- Exhibitors include SoundTree, MiBAC, MacGamut, Sweetwater, and others.

Bloomington-Normal is a wonderful community to visit with its two universities, Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University. "Uptown Normal" is undergoing a nationally recognized renovation and you will find many exciting new coffee shops, bookstores, and restaurants to experience as well as viewing the complete remodeling of a university community. Special hotel arrangements have been made with the new Hampton Inn & Suites and the Signature Inn for rates in the mid \$70 to \$90 range. The community is easily accessible via three interstates (I-55, I-39 and I-74) and five major airlines (Northwest, United, American, Delta, and Airtran).

An extraordinary team has helped to create what will be a truly special event. Please look for the complete program and other conference information on the CMS website. So far, the response from CMS members has been nothing short of remarkable. None of us can remember a year when 93 presentations and 97 scores were submitted, and we take this as a sign that this year's conference will set new records for attendance, quality, diversity, and synergy. Early registration deadline is March 15th.

We look forward to joining with you in this very special celebration. See you in Bloomington/Normal!

William Everett
Mark Harbold
Program Committee Co-Chairs
Great Plains/Great Lakes Chapters

David Brian Williams
CMS Executive Committee
Conference Coordinator

Report of the Great Lakes Chapter 2006-2007 Gene S. Trantham, President

Annual Conference

The 22nd Annual Conference of the Great Lakes Chapter of the College Music Society was held March 2–3, 2007, at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. The location continued the Chapter's past practice of holding alternate-year meetings near the center of our relatively large geographic area, with intervening years nearer the Chapter boundaries. Approximately 60 people attended the conference (including 15 graduate students) plus a 14-voice ensemble from DePaul University.

The conference opened on Friday afternoon with a conducting clinic and a lecture-recital featuring female composers. The first session of the Technology Workshop, the second year for this event, concluded the Friday afternoon activities. The workshop, "Common Tech Tips for Common Music Tasks," consisted of two sessions (the second on Saturday morning) presented by David B. Williams and Peter R. Webster. A lecture-demonstration covering common instructional needs was given on Friday with a hands-on presentation on Saturday. Topics included: scanning an image or music notation; capturing a screen shot quickly for a class handout; capturing an audio music clip and editing the result; burning images, music files or video to a CD or DVD; exchanging such files with colleagues over e-mail or on a network; converting a document into a format that can be read and printed by someone else; and, even considering creating a podcast of a recital or class lecture.

The Technology Workshop was followed by a dutch-treat dinner at Cucina di Betto restaurant, and a concert featuring five compositions by CMS composers (selected from twenty-seven submissions).

On Saturday, five paper sessions presented

fifteen papers and two lecture-recitals (selected from forty-five proposals), on topics including pedagogy, popular music, twentieth-century music, world music, and musicology. Seven of the paper presentations were given by graduate students (each receiving a \$50.00 graduate student stipend). Nathaniel Adam (University of Michigan) was honored with the Best Student Presentation Award for his "Deck of Trick Chords: Chromatic Substitutions in the Tonal Analysis of Elliott Smith's Songs." An honorable mention was given to Heather Foote (University of Iowa) for her presentation "A Bombastic Baritone and Scheming Soprano: Unconventional Characters in Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff*." In addition, "Folk Singing from the Republic of Georgia" and "The Pedagogical Lineage of Alban Berg, Ross Lee Finney, and George Crumb" were featured in the two lecture-recitals.

We were delighted to have Walter Everett, University of Michigan, provide the keynote address, *From "Blue Suede Shoes" to "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes": The Foundations of Rock*. Using almost fifty recorded examples, Dr. Everett discussed the use of instruments, vocal techniques, forms, melodic material, chord construction harmonic function, musical time, and interpretation in rock music.

Chapter Officers' Meetings and Discussions

For the past several years, the Great Lakes chapter officers have met during the CMS national meeting in the fall and before the spring regional conference. During our September 15, 2006 meeting in San Antonio, the officers discussed and received updates on the upcoming regional conference in Bowling Green. Of special interest was the keynote address funding, technology session provided by David B. Williams and Peter Webster, the new electronic submission process, an earlier beginning time for the conference (Friday at 2:00 p.m.), conference fees (reduced fees for students and retirees), a post-conference survey for attendees, ideas for boosting attendance (panels, poster sessions, connecting and

communicating with host institution faculty and students), and future possibilities for outreach and community engagement (especially off-campus sessions during conferences). Officers also discussed the 2008 SuperRegional at Illinois State. Since David B. Williams, local arrangements coordinator, Darlene Mitchell, president of CMS-Great Plains, and Gene Trantham, president of CMS-Great Lakes had met before this chapter officers' meeting, a tentative conference schedule was provided and discussed. Ideas about chapter officer elections and adding Board positions to match national CMS concluded the fall meeting.

Our March 2, 2007 officers' meeting focused on the immediate regional conference and especially the challenges of the on-line submission and approval process (used for the first time this year). Officers also reviewed chapter constitution changes, considered expanding our Executive Board, and provided suggestions for upcoming chapter officer elections. CMS national office now encourages electronic fall elections to promote a smooth transition and time for training of new officers before spring regional conferences. Since the CMS-GL officers were elected in late spring 2006 (after our regional conference), a fall 2007 election would allow current officers to only serve roughly 18 months and through one regional conference. Concern was raised about the length of the term and how well current officers would be able to adequately train new officers if they are just now fully working into their positions. Officers agreed to recommend a Fall 2008 election and thus serve 30 months. The final items of the meeting included changes to the chapter newsletter process and current plans to have our 2009 regional conference at Central Michigan University.

The Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was held during the Annual Conference, and included acknowledgements of Program Chair Karen Fournier, Local Arrangements Chair Gene Trantham, seven graduate students receiving honoraria for having papers or compositions accepted for

presentation, and current chapter officers Karen Fournier, Vice President; Jim Perone, Secretary; Sue Piagentini, Treasurer; and Barbara Bowker, Past President. Also introduced were David B. Williams, CMS Secretary; Betty Anne Younker, Music Education Board Member; Local Arrangement Committee members (Mary Natvig, Cynthia Benson, Ed Duling) and several student workers. Richard Kennell, Dean of the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University, welcomed CMS members and provided a brief overview of the history of music at BGSU. This provided a nice connection to the CMS national common topic that followed. David B. Williams gave an overview of the CMS 50th anniversary activities, which will include national meetings in 2007 in Salt Lake City and 2008 in Atlanta, with the SuperRegional meeting of the “Two Greats” (Great Lakes and Great Plains) in between. He also provided details about the SuperRegional meeting that will take place March 28-30, 2008 in Bloomington/Normal, IL. Keith Clifton briefly spoke about early plans for our 2009 regional conference at Central Michigan University. CMS Campus Representatives that attended the conference were honored with certificates from the national office. Volunteers were requested to serve as board members for composition, music in general studies, music education, theory, performance, and ethnomusicology. Gene Trantham reported on the Presidents Council meeting at the 2006 national conference in San Antonio.

Future Annual Conferences

Plans are underway for our 2009 regional conference, to be held March 27 and 28, 2009 at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI and our 2010 conference, to be held at Ball State University in Muncie, IN (dates TBA).

Results of the Forum and Discussion of the Annual Chapter-National Society Topic

During the annual meeting of the Great Lakes chapter, participants were led in a discussion shortly after our lunch and business meeting by

Ed Duling, University of Toledo. To generate discussion, Dr. Duling created five questions relating to the CMS national topic, “The Future of CMS: Beyond Our Disciplines.” The five discussion points and comments that were collected are listed below:

1. What pattern of thought from other subject areas outside music might serve us in our own particular subparts (theory, composition, musicology/history, education, applied teaching) in higher education?
 - The areas of the social sciences, sociology, critical thinking, language/linguistics, literary analysis could closely relate to the work that we do across the subparts in music.
 - It might be helpful to deconstruct the discipline of music and redefine it, thereby doing away with the current idea of subparts.
 - We could build bridges though open forums, joint sessions.
 - It should be noted that attempts at co-teaching history and theory often do not work.

2. Or... what “rigidified” patterns of thinking and doing in music can be informed and possibly altered using approaches from other disciplines?
 - The structure and hierarchy of our discipline.
 - We could deconstruct and redefine “interdisciplinarity” in order to achieve better synergisms.
 - We could identify possible ways of engaging our students in music making.
 - Borrowing problem-solving tactics from other disciplines so that we can go much deeper into thinking, learning, teaching strategies, rather than just focusing on content.

3. As part of a continuing conversation, how might we further our intra-musical (“intradisciplinary” if you will) work among our specialties?
 - CMS National is working toward combining two subspecialties in the open sessions. The national calls for proposals are encouraging this.
 - We could have a call asking people to present learning communities and team teaching successes.
 - The “building bridges” theme has been used by CMS national in the past; it should continue.
 - We need to bridge the gaps in graduate training, especially as we train graduate students to become university faculty members.

4. At what level of connection do we really become integrated among subjects? Within musical specialties? How large does the “umbrella” have to be?
 - The more transdisciplinary you are, the more people you need to get involved. A bigger umbrella, more people and more different kinds of music are needed under the umbrella. If you’re going to try to be more transdisciplinary, you need to have critical mass of people.
 - We need more emphasis on world music, popular music, film music, composition projects. We can keep the same musical elements, but we need to use relevant repertoire. We also need more emphasis in the discipline on music in society.
 - The terms interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary imply that the disciplines themselves are narrow. Depth **and** breadth are important. To sum it up, the term interdisciplinary is a poor version of transdisciplinary. The

more interdisciplinary someone is, it can be harder to tell who they are.

5. For example, all music subspecialties have “sequence” or “form” of some sort present in their structure and study approaches. Is this one place we could start, finally connecting with the “sequence” present in all subject areas?
 - Sometimes we can miss the obvious connections between the subdisciplines. For example, there is a great deal of parallel between the “reading” of a paper and performance of a musical work.
 - The parallels between the subspecialties and across disciplines can be seen in studies of the sociology of knowledge. Engagement is involved with performances of papers and music. Anne McLucas once said that she doesn’t teach courses unless she can learn something from them.

A special thanks is given to Dr. James E. Perone, Mount Union College (Alliance, Ohio) Secretary, Great Lakes Chapter, for collecting and organizing these comments.

Chapter Operations; Issues and Concerns

Peter Park was a great help especially with the new on-line submission and approval process. We are hopeful that it will run more smoothly next year. Beth Mast greatly assisted with web site items. We are very fortunately to have such excellent support.

We continue to look for ways to keep regional conference expenses low for attendees since this is often a third conference with travel funding spent on other conferences.

CMS National—and You!

**Barbara Bowker, CMS Board
Member for Music in General Studies**

For many of us, CMS activities beyond those of our own region may be largely unknown and mysterious. While serving on the CMS Board of Directors for several years, I've been astonished to discover the enormous scope of activities that our membership dues support—conferences held regionally, nationally, and (every two years) internationally; publications including *The Newsletter*, *Symposium*, and monographs, reports, and recordings on dozens of topics; special conferences, Institutes, and workshops; and committees on cultural inclusion, community engagement, music business and industry, career development and entrepreneurship, academic citizenship, and administration, among others. CMS is a huge organization, with much to offer its members.

One of the ways that CMS seeks to connect all of these activities with its individual members is through elected members on its Board of Directors who represent each of the subdisciplines of music. These include:

- Composition
- Ethnomusicology
- Music Education
- Music In General Studies
- Music Theory
- Musicology
- Performance

Each area has someone on the Board who can communicate its interests and needs to the rest of the Academy, and in turn inform members of the subdiscipline about the existence and particular relevance of all of the many CMS activities described above.

This interchange constitutes the core of CMS' strength, its unique interdisciplinary contribution to the profession. In order to accomplish this, the Board member must be able to communicate with the members of his or her subdiscipline. Currently this is achieved through an Advisory Committee consisting of at

least three members, largely selected by the Board member and usually drawn from the people with whom s/he is familiar.

However, there is currently a recommendation for a different method of constituting the Advisory Committee, namely, that each regional chapter establish positions mirroring those of the national Board—that is, a representative for each of the sub-disciplines listed above. The chapter representatives would then automatically become members of the national Advisory Committee for each subdiscipline. Colleagues appointed to these positions would initially serve two year staggered terms, with the likelihood of elected positions in the future.

I believe this recommendation has the following advantages:

- Automatically provides national Board members with a larger Advisory Committee (for each of the ten regional chapters);
- Ensures broad and even geographic representation;
- Creates a means for interdisciplinary communication *within* the chapter
- Provides greater opportunities for individual members to participate in CMS.

Serving on an Advisory Committee is generally not an onerous task; it consists mostly of communicating opinions and ideas to the Board member and the rest of the Committee, which is usually accomplished via email. Depending on the subdiscipline's issues, this may happen only a few times a year. Of course, any member with concerns is free to raise them at any time, providing easier access for bringing them to national attention.

If serving as a Chapter representative on a national Advisory Committee sounds interesting to you, please send your name and subdiscipline to Chapter President Gene Trantham for consideration (gtranth@bgnet.bgsu.edu). I would also be happy to answer any further questions. I have found CMS members to be delightful colleagues, and working in CMS to be a most rewarding activity both personally and professionally. I encourage you to participate!

Photos from the 2007 Great Lakes Chapter Meeting, March 2–3, 2007, Bowling Green State University



David Williams leads a technology session



David Williams and Peter Webster



The dedicated Great Lakes Chapter Officers (left to right): Sue Piagentini, Karen Fournier, Gene Trantham, Barb Bowker, James Perone.



Best Student Presentation Award winner
Nathaniel Adam (University of Michigan)

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