

CSTM /SCTM Journal Report (Halifax, Nov. 2008)

As the Journal is undergoing important changes, I take the opportunity in this annual Report to summarize the changes to the Society, and to present plans for the next, and hopefully, future Journal issues.

At the Annual General Meeting in Edmonton last year (Nov. 3, 2007), a motion was passed supporting the Journal Editor, in consultation with the Publications Committee, to explore: 1) a new name for the Journal; and 2) a new layout for the Journal, including a new cover design. It was agreed that such changes are important and timely if the Journal is going to be the kind of relevant scholarly face of the Society we would like it to be.

At the forthcoming annual CSTM conference in Halifax (Nov. 14-16, 2008), I propose that we continue discussions of issues raised at the Edmonton conference (e.g., “theme” issues; publication timing [i.e., annual, biannual issues, etc.]; more French content; more reviews; and the availability of the Journal online [ProQuest]).

In addition to these topics, I would like to add the role of the Journal’s Editorial Board and the term length of the Journal Editor to the list of discussion topics.

Most importantly, I believe we need to continue discussing the interface between the Society’s two publications (the Journal and the Magazine), the respective roles of these two publications, and whether the Society has the capacity, financial and otherwise, to sustain two publications.

Since last year’s Report on the Journal, the following initiatives have been made:

1. In consultation with many individuals and groups in the Society, including at last year’s meeting in Edmonton, the proposed new name of the Journal is *Musicultures* (with the subheading, Journal of the Canadian Society for Traditional Music / Revue de la Société canadienne pour les traditions musicales).

After receiving and discussing many ideas and proposals for alternatives to the current Journal name, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Bev Diamond for her suggestion of *Musicultures*.

***Musicultures* projects a timely, broad and diverse message about the Journal, and works equally well in English and French.**

2. In consultation (as in 1 above), the format of the forthcoming issue will carry the new name and a new format (i.e., smaller, standard Journal size rather than the current larger magazine appearance), and the cover page will carry a new design. I am grateful to Graham Blair, PhD student in ethnomusicology at Memorial, who is assisting with the cover design and the layout changes.

3. As noted in 2, the forthcoming issue of the Journal (vol. 34) will reflect these changes. Because of the added time needed to implement these changes, the forthcoming issue will be a double issue (i.e., vol. 34 will include two years 2007/08). Therefore, the forthcoming issue will be substantially larger than vol. 33, and publication is projected for Spring 2009. The Treasurer has indicated that there should be sufficient funds to cover this issue (see Treasurer's Report).

In addition, the following information has been added (or in the case of the second half of number 1) will be added to the Society's web site ("Publications" link) in English and French, and will also be included in the forthcoming Journal issue in both languages.

1. A clear, explicit statement about the Journal has been formulated, explaining that the Journal is an inclusive, scholarly, peer-reviewed publication that welcomes articles and reviews on all areas of ethnomusicological research, including traditional music, popular music, and music and diverse contexts (social, cultural, political, historical, etc.), popular music. The intention of this statement is that the Society does not want to restrict the content and the profile (both nationally and internationally) of the Journal in any way. In addition to submissions on Canadian topics by Canadians and non Canadians, the Journal welcomes submissions on non Canadian topics by Canadians, and by non Canadians.

2. Guidelines for Contributors (in English and French), including documentation and formatting procedures, explanations of the peer-review process, and other instructions, are posted on the Society web site under the "Publications" link.

Finally, if agreed, I believe it would be timely to send an electronic notice announcing the forthcoming issue, and the revised Journal (name, format, etc.), to various national and international constituencies, including universities, libraries, archives, research centres, and scholarly societies. Such an announcement would assist in attracting the kinds of wide ranging, top quality scholarly work in ethnomusicology that we are seeking to publish in the Journal.

My sincere thanks to all who have made specific suggestions and given much appreciated support in these endeavours, as well as to the many members of the Society at large who have contributed, and are contributing to this important discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon E. Smith
Journal Editor
Nov. 5, 2008