

Southeast/Caribbean Chapter Report (2000)
Rolf Groesbeck, President

The annual meeting of SEMSEC was hosted by Loyola University of New Orleans on February 18-19, 2000, with 27 people in attendance. The meeting was held jointly with the Southern Chapter of the American Musicological Society and with the South Central Chapter of the Society for Music Theory. Janna Saslaw of Loyola University was Local Arrangements chair for all three meetings. Many attendees (including this writer) appreciated the opportunity to attend a conference in the Crescent City, especially near the beginning of Mardi Gras celebrations.

Friday's sessions began with a panel on "Music/Culture, Mediation, and Technology." Papers included "Transmitting Un-Soviet Ideals: Magnitizdat and the Cult of Vladimir Vysotsky" by Heather Miller of the University of Tennessee, and "Exploration into the Growing Popularity of Zydeco Music" by Kara Boyd, also of the University of Tennessee. After a coffee break, the "Diasporas" panel featured "Community and Education: The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus" by Laurie Semmes, Florida State University, and "Cuban-American Bimusicality: A Comparative Analysis of 'Balanced' and 'Dominant' Types in Mono- and Bicultural Contexts" by Mario Rey of East Carolina University. At the same time, Chris Della Pietra of Southeastern Louisiana University contributed a Poster Session entitled "Continuing the Tradition: Musical Transmission among Cajun Accordion Players. During lunch break, all three chapters were treated to a remarkable concert by the AGNI FUSION PROJECT ensemble from Florida State University, an ensemble that fuses Indian, Arabic, Flamenco, Jazz, and Anglo-American Folk musics together in a seamless web. The next session after lunch was entitled "(Re)Presentation," and it featured "Sorting and Integrating Cultural Layers: Representing Gospel Music and Musicians in Nairobi" by Jean Kidula, University of Georgia; "Mizik Manmay Lakai (Home-Children Music): The Creolization and Integration of U.S. Country and Western Music into St. Lucian Society" by Jerry Wever, University of Iowa; and "'Oh, No, It Wasn't the Airplanes; It Was Westernization that Killed King Kong:" The African Jazz Opera's Failure in London" by James Grymes of Florida State University. Friday's last panel was entitled "Noise and Analysis," and it included "Sheepscoorges, Cowbells, and Cowhorns: A Mid-Winter Noise Ritual in Central Switzerland" by Helena Simonett of Vanderbilt University, and "Rockabilly Interpretations of Latin Rhythms" by Roy Brewer of Memphis, Tennessee. The Joint SEM/AMS/SMT Keynote Lecture, entitled "Restoring James P. Johnson and Langston Hughes' Opera 'De Organizer'". was given by James Dapogny of the University of Michigan, and it covered Dr. Dapogny's attempts to complete a critical edition of that opera. Finally, there was a dinnertime performance by Florida State University's Cantores Musicae Antiquae early music ensemble.

On Saturday, after the business meeting, the main event was a panel entitled "Teaching the Groove", organized by Michael Bakan of Florida State University. Bakan gave a presentation on facilitating practical competence and contextually-sensitive musicality in the teaching of Balinese gamelan music; Ashleigh D'Aunoy, also of Florida State University, engaged attendees in a lecture-demonstration on the pedagogy of West African dance; Lara Greene, also of Florida State University, spoke on and instructed those present to perform Andean panpipe music; Rolf Groesbeck of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock discussed and demonstrated his instruction of Kerala (southwest coastal India) drumming; and Kenneth Sacks, of The Ross School in New York, shared his perspectives on the topic, informed by his training in philosophy and his experiences teaching at a private high school. Finally, the conference ended with an AMS-organized panel entitled "Writing for the Profession."

At the business meeting, Leslie Gay and Warren Steel were congratulated for their work as outgoing President of the Chapter, and Rolf Groesbeck (Chair), Ljerka V. Rasmussen, Andrew Killick, and Helena Simonett were congratulated for their service on the 2000 Program Committee. New officers are as follows: Rolf Groesbeck, President; Mario Rey, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer/Local Arrangements Committee Chair (for the 2001 meeting); and Michelle Brannen, Student Representative and Website Manager. Additionally, the Advisory Board for SEMSEC will consist of Dale Olsen, Warren Steel, Michael Bakan, and Leslie Gay. A decision was made to offer a SEMSEC prize for the best student paper given at the 2001 meeting. This meeting will take place in Greenville, North Carolina, with East Carolina University as the home institution, on the weekend of 3/30/01. Finally, the semsec website url is <http://www.music.utk.edu/semsec/>.