IASPM-US 2011-2012 Report

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2011 proved to be an exciting and dynamic year for IASPM-US. In March, the association held its annual conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a joint meeting with the Society for American Music, hosted by the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. Papers were presented over a three day period under the theme "Time Keeps on Slipping: Popular Music Histories." At this time Barry Shank, professor of Comparative Studies at Ohio State University, was elected as President of IASPM-US for the 2011-2013 term. In addition, the Woody Guthrie Award for 2010 was presented at the conference to Steve Waksman for his book *This Ain't the Summer of Love: Conflict and Crossover in Heavy Metal and Punk* (University of California Press).

For the first time, IASPM-US's 2012 conference will be held jointly with the EMP Pop Conference and co-sponsored by the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University. The different specialties and particular energies of these three institutions should result in an intellectually stimulating and professionally expansive approach to the most current scholarship in popular music studies. Under this year's theme, "Sounds of the City", the conference intends to bring together diverse approaches to popular music from around the globe. Because this conference is a joint undertaking between IASPM-US and EMP and given its location in New York City, the expectation is that there will be considerable participation from music industry and music media personnel.

Furthermore, the IASPM-US *Journal of Popular Music Studies* has also undergone some noteworthy transformations over the past year. Karen Tongson and Gustavus Stadler were appointed as the quarterly publication's new editors-in-chief. In an effort to update the content and look of the journal their vision aims to highlight a broad array of methodological, theoretical and writerly approaches to popular music. Having come from backgrounds in literary, cultural studies and critical theory, one of their goals is to include more voices from these worlds into the conversation. The revamped journal also features an "Amplifier" section that functions as a space for shorter pieces that not only consider the state of the field, or new approaches to the study of popular music, but also functions as a venue for more speculative and experimental efforts to explore what pop music *does*. Another change is the appointment of Alexandra Vazquez as the performance, event and recording reviews editor. The journal seeks to publish a broad range of reviews including those that reflect on significant (or even forgotten) events in popular music's past, albums that have been impactful over time and music from other cultural contexts and times.

In addition to its conference and journal activities, IASPM-US has been actively engaged in redesigning its website and expanding its online presence. For the first time the updated site (iaspm-us.net) features a blog intended to keep members and the broader readership updated on the latest popular music research. Thus far it has featured original content on diverse topics including experimental electronic music making, the intersections of celebrity culture and popular music, as well as digital music

consumption. The blog is ongoing and welcomes new ideas and content from popular music scholars worldwide.

IASPM-US's current Internet based activities also include the launch of a new listserv and discussion forum. The listserv is open to the public and the association encourages members from all IASPM chapters to join by emailing iaspmuslistserv@yahoogroups.com. For fun and insightful general conversation, the association has launched a new discussion forum that is also open to the public at groups.google.com/group/iaspm-us.

An ongoing mission of IASPM-US is forging closer ties with IASPM chapters around the world and thus, the association's membership is looking forward to actively participating in the dialogue that the IASPM@Journal is generating.