

JEWISH STUDIES AND MUSIC STUDY GROUP

BY-LAWS

Article I. Name

The name of this group shall be the Jewish Studies and Music Study Group (hereafter referred to as JSMSG).

Article II. Purpose

Section 1: General Statement

The JSMSG fosters the study of the intersections between Jewish culture and music. Its focus is both Jewish music—its complex meanings and varied roles—as well as the processes and negotiations that condition music in various Jewish contexts, including the compositions and activities of Jewish and non-Jewish musicians, responses to those musics and activities, and their historical and cultural foundations.

Section 2: Objectives

The JSMSG's objectives include (but are not limited to):

- A. holding an annual Program (panel or single presenter), Awards Ceremony, and Business Meeting at the annual national conference of the American Musicological Society (AMS);
- B. maintaining a website and social media accounts in order to announce activities of the JSMSG, connect the membership to useful resources, engage collaborative pedagogy, and provide information about current research in Jewish music studies;
- C. operating a listserv to distribute announcements, calls for papers, articles, and conference presentations, and to encourage discussion and collaboration amongst scholars.

Article III. Membership

Membership in the JSMSG shall be open to anyone who requests it. The membership elects a Board consisting of a Chairperson, Four (4) Members at Large, a Secretary/Webmaster, and a Social Media Representative.

Article IV. Membership Meetings

Section 1: Annual Meeting

Annual meetings shall take place as part of the annual meetings of the AMS and shall consist of a Program, an Awards Ceremony, and a Business Meeting.

- A. Program. No later than January 15 of each year, the Board shall issue a Program Call for Proposals (panels or individual presenters) to be held at the annual AMS national conference. The membership may submit proposals until February 15, at which time the Board will convene to select the proposal(s) deemed most meritorious and in accord with the mission of the JSMSG. The Board's decision shall be made public by no later than March 15 of each year. Following the Program at the annual meeting, a mechanism for evaluation and feedback will be distributed to the membership via listserv.
- B. Awards Ceremony. No later than June 1 of each year, the Board shall issue a Call for Nominations for the best book, journal article, and music recording in Jewish Music studies

from the previous year. The board shall evaluate all nominations and select one from each category that it deems best. The awards for best book, journal article, and music recording shall be presented during the Awards Ceremony portion of the annual meeting, after the Program and before the Business Meeting.

- C. Business Meeting. The agenda for the business meeting shall be drawn up by the Chairperson with the Board's approval and distributed by the Secretary/Webmaster via the listserv no later than two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Members of the JSMSG may ask questions and raise new business prior to the distribution of the approved agenda. A quorum for the Business Meeting shall consist of five (5) members of the JSMSG. Any items requiring a vote must be called for and seconded by any member. All votes shall pass by a majority of members present at the Business Meeting except amendments to these by-laws, which require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of attending members.

Section 2: Board Meetings

The Board shall hold three quarterly meetings in addition to the Annual AMS meeting. The Board may choose the date and time, but a meeting must be held in the months of February, May, and August. At the February meeting following an election, the outgoing Board and the incoming Board shall meet jointly for smooth transference of positions.

Article V. Officers

The Board shall consist of seven (7) elected positions: Chairperson, Four (4) Board Members at Large, Secretary/Webmaster, and Social Media Representative.

Section 1: Qualifications

Any member of the JSMSG may serve as an elected officer.

- A. The Chairperson shall have served at least one (1) term as a Board Member at Large;
- B. At least one (1) but no more than two (2) Board Members at Large shall be a graduate student;
- C. The Secretary/Webmaster should have experience maintaining a website;
- D. The Social Media Representative shall have experience with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Section 2: Duties of Officers

- A. The Chairperson shall be the executive officer of the JSMSG and therefore is responsible for presiding over all Business Meetings, enforcing all resolutions passed by the membership, convening meetings (in person or remotely) of the Board to direct the affairs of the JSMSG, and representing the interests of the JSMSG within the AMS and the larger scholarly community. The Chairperson may also choose to delegate responsibilities to the Board Members at Large, or, with the Board Members' approval, to other non-officer members. The Chairperson must attend the Study Group Chairs meeting at the annual AMS national conference.
- B. The Four (4) Board Members at Large shall be jointly responsible for directing the affairs of the JSMSG, including (but not limited to) reading and selecting proposals for the annual Program at the annual AMS national conference, representing the interests of the JSMSG within the AMS and the larger scholarly community, and helping the chair to direct the affairs of the JSMSG.
- C. The Secretary/Webmaster shall keep minutes of the business portion of the meetings of the JSMSG, maintain the website and listserv (or delegate their maintenance to another individual, while still overseeing content), attend to any business affairs of the JSMSG, and oversee elections of officers by collecting nominations and ballots.

- D. The Social Media Representative shall be responsible for maintaining the JSMSG social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and distributing all announcements and other relevant information on those platforms.
- E. All officers must be current members of the AMS.
- F. All officers must attend the annual Business Meeting or assign a proxy in the event of absence.

Section 3: Terms of Office

Each officer will serve a three-year term beginning at the conclusion of the Business Meeting directly following their election.

Section 4: Election Procedure

Elections shall be held electronically through a secure and confidential website chosen by the Secretary/Webmaster and approved by the Board. Any member of the JSMSG shall be eligible to submit a ballot, and no person shall be allowed to vote more than once.

- A. The Secretary/Webmaster shall collect nominations for the month of August during the election year. A Call for Nominations shall be issued via the listserv at the start of the nomination period and shall include a date by which nominations must be submitted. Any member may nominate any number of other members, and self-nominations are welcomed.
- B. The Secretary/Webmaster shall confirm that nominees wish to appear on the ballot and will distribute ballots via the listserv on September 1. The voting period shall last for the entire month and results will be announced no later than October 15. All officers will be elected by highest number of votes cast.
- C. The Secretary/Webmaster oversees the elections, but the Chairperson and at least one (1) Board Member at Large shall have access to the election results.

Article VI. Committees

The Board may appoint ad-hoc committees as it sees fit. It may also form a standing committee by means of a majority vote at the Business Meeting of the JSMSG.

Article VII. Amendments

Amendments may be proposed by any member at any time but no later than a month prior to the Business Meeting. Proposed amendments shall be discussed and voted on at the Business Meeting and must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members attending. The Board may also discuss urgent matters that need to be addressed throughout the year. In such cases, the Secretary/Webmaster will distribute the proposed amendment or voting issue via the listserv and the membership will have two weeks to submit their thoughts and discussion points to the Secretary/Webmaster. The Secretary/Webmaster will then summarize the points (in favor of and in opposition to) the proposed amendment or voting issue and include said points on the secure electronic ballot. The JSMSG membership will have two weeks to cast their vote, and the Secretary/Webmaster will announce the results on the listserv.