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Internet Resources

The SEM Website
http://www.ethnomusicology.org

The SEM Discussion List: SEM-L
To subscribe, send email message to: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU. Leave subject line blank. Type the following message: SUBSCRIBE SEM-L yourfirstname yourlastname.

SEM Applied Ethnomusicology Section
http://www.appliedethnomusicology.org

SEM Chapter Websites
Mid Atlantic Chapter
http://www.macsem.org

Mid-West Chapter
http://sem-midwest.osu.edu/

Niagara Chapter
http://www.people.iup.edu/rahkonen/NiagaraSEM/NiagaraSEM.htm

Northeast Chapter
http://www.necsem.org

Northwest Chapter (SEM-NW)

Southeast-Caribbean Chapter
http://otto.cmr.fsu.edu/~cma/SEM/SEMSEC02.htm/

Southern California & Hawai’i Chapter (SEMSCHC)
http://ethnomus.ucr.edu/semccc.html

Southern Plains Chapter
http://katchie.com/semsouthernplains/Pages/SEMsouthernplains.html

Southwest Chapter
http://www.u.arizona.edu/~sturman/SEMSW/SEMSWhome.html

Ethnomusicology Sites
American Folklife Center
http://www.loc.gov/folklife/

British Forum for Ethnomusicology
http://www.bfe.org.uk

The British Library, World and Traditional Music
http://www.bl.uk/wtm

Christian Musicological Society of India
http://www.thecmsindia.org

Ethnomusicology OnLine (EOL)
http://umbc.edu/eol (home site)

International Council for Traditional Music
http://www.ictmusic.org/ICTM

Iranian Musicology Group
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iranian_musicology

Music & Anthropology
http://www.muspe.unibo.it/period/MA

http://research.umbc.edu/eol/MA/index.html

Smithsonian Institution Websites
http://www.folkways.si.edu

http://www.festival.si.edu

http://www.folklife.si.edu

Society for American Music
http://www.folklife.si.edu

UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive
http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/archive

University of Washington Ethnomusicology Archive

Guidelines for Contributors

• Send articles to the editor by email

• Please send faxes, disks, or paper copies only as a last resort.

• As of January, 2011, the Newsletter no longer accepts advertisements.

Copy Deadlines

March issue ............. February 15
May issue .................... April 15
September issue ........ August 15
January issue ........ December 15

The Society for Ethnomusicology and the SEM Newsletter

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The SEM Newsletter

The SEM Newsletter is a vehicle for exchange of ideas, news, and information among the Society’s members. Readers’ contributions are welcome and should be sent to the editor. See the guidelines for contributions on this page.

The SEM Newsletter is published four times annually, in January, March, May, and September, by the Society for Ethnomusicology, Inc., and is distributed free to members of the Society. Back issues, 1981–present [Vols. 14–18 (1981–84), 3 times a year; Vols. 19–32 (1985–1998), 4 times a year] are available and may be ordered at $2 each. Add $2.50/order for postage. Address changes, orders for back issues of the SEM Newsletter, and all other non-editorial inquiries should be sent to the Business Office, Society for Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Morrison Hall 005, 1165 East 3rd Street, Bloomington, IN 47405-3700; (Tel) 812.855.6672; (Fax) 812.855.6673; (Email) sem@indiana.edu.

SEM Membership

The object of the Society for Ethnomusicology is the advancement of research and study in the field of ethnomusicology, for which purpose all interested persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical ability are encouraged to become members. Its aims include serving the membership and society at large through the dissemination of knowledge concerning the music of the world’s peoples. The Society, incorporated in the United States, has an international membership.

Members receive free copies of the journal and the newsletter and have the right to vote and participate in the activities of the Society. Life members receive free copies of all publications of the Society. Institutional members receive the journal and the newsletter.

Student (full-time only) (one year) .......... $40
Individual/Emeritus (one year) .......... $20

Donated membership for individuals and institutions

Income $25,000 or less ................. $60
Income $25,000-$40,000 ............... $75
Income $40,000-$60,000 ............... $85
Income $60,000-$80,000 ............... $95
Income $80,000 and above .......... $105

Spouse/Partner Individual (one year) .......... $35

Spouse/Partner Life ........................... $1200

Sponsored* (one year) .......... $1400

Institutional membership (one year) .......... $115

Overseas postage (one year) ........ $22

*Donated membership for individuals and institutions in soft-currency countries. Send sponsorship letter with dues ($35) and postage (either $10 Surface rate or $25 airmail) to the SEM Business Office.

Ethnomusicology: Back Issues

The Society’s journal, Ethnomusicology, is currently published three times a year. Back issues are available through the SEM Business Office, Indiana University, Morrison Hall 005, 1165 East 3rd Street, Bloomington, IN 47405-3700; (Tel) 812.855.6672; (Fax) 812.855.6673; (Email) sem@indiana.edu.

ISSN 0036-1291
People and Places

Alejandro L. Madrid (University of Illinois at Chicago) and Robin Moore (University of Texas at Austin) have been awarded a Collaborative Research Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The award will allow them to conduct final fieldwork about danzón in Mexico, Cuba, and New Orleans and finish the manuscript of their book about the historical and contemporary significance of this genre.

Juniper Hill has been awarded a research grant from the European Union, worth over one third of a million dollars, to work on her project “Sociocultural Enablers and Inhibitors of Musical Creativity: A Cross-Cultural Comparison.” She will be taking a two-year research leave from her permanent position at University College Cork, Ireland, to be a Marie Curie Fellow in the Faculty of Music at Cambridge University. At Cambridge she will collaborate with musicologist Nicholas Cook and the AHRC Research Centre for Musical Performance as Creative Practice. The project will also involve fieldwork in Finland and California.

Douglas Myers is presently working on digitizing his extensive collection which includes material from Indonesia, especially Bali, Lombok, and the eastern islands (NTT), Australian Tiwi, and Arnhem Land. He has also done fieldwork in the Pacific (New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Tahiti). He is presently digitizing video and film as well as audio tapes made in the 1970s and converting associated documentation into digital form as well.

Ketty A. Wong (assistant professor of ethnomusicology, University of Kansas) won the prestigious Casa de las Americas musicology award (2010) with her manuscript, La música nacional: Identidad, Mestizaje y Migración en el Ecuador. This international competition recognizes the best unpublished manuscript on a Latin American music topic. The winning manuscript will be published by the Casa de las Americas in Cuba in 2012, and the winner receives a cash award.

Sharon R. Alexander is a new member of SEM. In the process of obtaining her doctorate at the University of Bern, Switzerland, her area of interest is in The Ecstatic Experience and the evocative techniques of gospel choir. She gives gospel choir style workshops to groups interested in building spiritual community and ecstatic experience together.

Catherine A. Ragland invites members and prospective new students to visit the new website for Masters of Music Program in Ethnomusicology at the University of Texas-Pan American: https://www.utpa.edu/ethnomusicology.

David B. Pruett is the author of MuzikMafia: From the Local Nashville Scene to the National Mainstream (University Press of Mississippi, 2010).

Nicholas Hockin (assistant professor of ethnomusicology, Antioch University) is Director of Arts and Culture in Mali, a fall semester study abroad program run by Antioch Education Abroad. The program welcomes students from across North America to spend three months in Bamako, Mali, including a two-month apprenticeship with a musician, dancer, artist, or artisan. For more info, visit (website) http://aea.antioch.edu/mali/.

Mary Procopio (Assistant Professor of music and Director of Instrumental Studies, Mott Community College, Flint, MI) was elected as an officer on the Board of Directors of the Haitian Studies Association.

Garrett Field (PhD candidate, Wesleyan University) was awarded the DDRA Fulbright-Hays scholarship for 2010-11 to study the interconnections in the music and literature of the Sinhala Renaissance (1922-1977).
Report from the Executive Director

by Stephen Stuempfle, SEM Executive Director

SEM moves forward from the exchanges and celebrations at our 2010 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles with its largest individual membership ever, a vibrant array of constituent committees and interest groups, a strong Board and Council, and secure finances. As with previous conferences, formal and informal discussions in Los Angeles opened up numerous possibilities for expanding the practice of ethnomusicology and improving SEM as an organization. As we look toward the future, our annual meeting, publications, and various new program initiatives all pose considerable challenges as well as opportunities for increasing SEM’s impact as an academic society engaged with the public sphere.

Annual Meetings

In an ongoing effort to connect with scholars in other fields, our next two annual meetings will be collaborative ventures. November 17–20, 2011, we will hold a joint meeting in Philadelphia with the Congress on Research in Dance (CORD), with the University of Pennsylvania serving as the host institution. Our 2012 meeting will be held November 1–4 in New Orleans, as a joint conference with the American Musicological Society (AMS) and the Society for Music Theory (SMT). For both of these meetings, our goal is to encourage inter-society dialogue through joint panels, collective plenary sessions, and shared evening activities. Meanwhile, we are exploring ways of expanding participation in our annual meeting through video technologies. Plans are currently underway to video-stream a selection of presentations during the 2011 meeting, so that individuals who are unable to travel to Philadelphia would have access to a portion of the conference.

In planning for 2011 and beyond, we will continue to experiment with the format and management of the annual meeting in order to improve both its efficiency and value. A significant issue at present is the growing size of our conference. While annual meetings during the late 1990s averaged 500 attendees, attendance at Middletown (2008) and Los Angeles (2010) exceeded 1000. A corresponding growth in the number of presenters, as well as an increasing number of Special Interest Groups and Sections, poses a substantial challenge for the scheduling of program sessions, committee and group meetings, and local activities. While this growing participation in our conference reflects the vitality of our field, some attendee evaluation forms indicate concerns about the sheer number of presentations and the simultaneous scheduling of both program sessions and other meetings with similar content. Each year our Program Committee devotes much attention to this problem, but the volume of presentations at the meeting makes it difficult to eliminate all conflicts.

The growth of our annual meeting also has significant economic consequences. In order to accommodate 1000 attendees and 10 concurrent program sessions, SEM requires a very large venue. Major conference hotels fulfill our space requirements, but impose substantial financial obligations on the Society and its members. In order to obtain meeting room space at no charge (which helps to contain conference registration fees), SEM must contractually guarantee a hotel minimum sales of (guest room nights and food and beverage. This is why, each year, we strongly encourage attendees to stay in the conference hotel and why we generally must hold our opening night reception, banquet, and various other catered events within the hotel. While this formula helps to maintain affordable registration fees, the guest room rates at large hotels are typically high. This is an increasing burden for attendees, especially with travel fund cut-backs at many universities.

In an effort to address this problem, we are currently focusing on smaller cities as sites for future annual meetings. Though conference hotels in such cities have contractual requirements similar to their larger counterparts, their guest room rates are usually more affordable. But smaller cities pose an additional challenge: they usually have fewer hotels that can accommodate our conference and, thus, there is less competition as we negotiate contracts. For our 2013 meeting in Indianapolis, for example, there are only two hotels large enough for us to consider.

Another option that SEM has pursued in the past is to meet on college campuses. Though this remains a possibility, its feasibility (given our current attendance) depends on scheduling our conference during a college’s fall break, negotiating waivers or reductions in campus charges, and securing sufficient hotel accommodations near the campus (to avoid expensive bus transportation contracts).

At present, SEM is actively seeking attractive sites for future annual meetings. I encourage anyone who would like to discuss the possibility of hosting a meeting to contact me. The work involved in hosting a meeting is far less than it was several years ago, since much of the logistics is now handled by the SEM Business Office and Indiana University Conferences, our contracted meeting planner. Plus, hosting an SEM annual meeting can provide many benefits for your institution!

A final note on annual meetings is the ongoing challenge of scheduling dates. For each meeting, we struggle to find a date that: (1) a competitive hotel has available (fall being the busiest period for all types of conventions); (2) does not conflict with a holiday or another date relevant to a host institution; and (3) does not conflict
with the fall meetings of the American Anthropological Association, American Folklore Society, American Musicological Society, College Music Society, American Studies Association, and African Studies Association. Given the limited number of dates in October and November, it is sometimes difficult to eliminate all conflicts.

In the case of 2011 in Philadelphia, for example, there were only two suitable hotel options, each with one available date. Though we knew that it would create a conflict with AAA and African Studies, we chose the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center because the other option would have required splitting the meeting between two separate hotels and contending with less adequate rooms for program sessions. Fortunately, SEM 2012 will not conflict with AAA or African Studies. We will continue to do our best to avoid conflicts with other societies!

Publications

Over the past year, SEM has expanded electronic access to both its newsletter and journal. The SEM Newsletter is now published in a digital-only format and is available in the Members’ Area of the Society’s website (www.ethnomusicology.org). Here members can view and download the current issue of the newsletter as well as back issues to 2002. In addition to saving funds, electronic publication of the newsletter enables us to provide more timely content, live links to related content on the web, and the possibility of multimedia supplements.

Meanwhile, Ethnomusicology (published by University of Illinois Press on behalf of SEM) was one of the journals that JSTOR selected for the launch of its Current Scholarship Program this past January. With this new service, libraries and other institutions can now subscribe to our journal in print-only, electronic-only, or print-electronic formats. The electronic options provide online access to all content of the most recent four years of the journal. The Current Scholarship Program, in short, supplements the existing content of our journal in JSTOR, for which there is a four-year “moving wall” of delayed access. If your library has not yet taken advantage of electronic subscription options for Ethnomusicology, please refer an acquisitions librarian to the University of Illinois Press’s Journals Division at (email) journals@uillinois.edu. We hope that, over time, electronic access to current content will significantly expand subscriptions, readership, and citation rates for our journal.

At present, individual members of SEM continue to receive Ethnomusicology in print format. If you have renewed your membership for 2011, however, you can now also obtain, as a member benefit, electronic access to the most recent four years of the journal directly from JSTOR. If you have not yet received an email from JSTOR with instructions and a password for the Current Scholarship Program, contact them at (email) support@jstor.org. Please note that there is a several-day delay between the time that you renew your SEM membership and the transmission of this email from JSTOR.

SEM is also exploring the possibility of enabling individual members to choose not to receive mailings of hard copies of Ethnomusicology. Though this option would clearly be attractive to some individuals, SEM membership only provides temporary access to online content of the journal. Each year, the three oldest issues of the journal in JSTOR’s Current Scholarship Program will roll into JSTOR’s archive and will only be available online through libraries. And if you purchase an SEM membership for, say, 2011 and do not renew for 2012, you will no longer have access to 2011 or any other recent content. To retain content, you would need to download PDF files of articles in the journal while having access.

New Initiatives

Another highlight of the past year was Board President Gage Averill’s announcement (at the General Membership Meeting in Los Angeles) of the launch of the Sound Future Campaign, our new fundraising endeavor. While membership dues help to fund SEM’s basic programs, our objective with the Sound Future Campaign is to raise additional monies in support of the main goals outlined in the Society’s Strategic Plan: (1) creating greater awareness of ethnomusicological perspectives, (2) increasing ethnomusicology’s contribution to public life, (3) facilitating international communication, and (4) strengthening K-12, undergraduate, and graduate education (see http://webdb.iu.edu/sem/scripts/aboutus/aboutsem/aboutsem.cfm). In the upcoming months, we will disseminate more information about how members can participate in the Sound Future Campaign and invest in the long-term impact of SEM.

Our first major success with new funding was the receipt this past September of a $115,717 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Summer Institute, “Ethnomusicology and Global Culture,” to be held on the campus of Wesleyan University on June 20–July 1, 2011. Eric Churry conceptualized the Institute and is serving as its director; additional lecturers include Mark Slobin, Su Zheng, Melvin Butler, Peter Hadley, Maureen Mahon, Maria Mendonça, Alex Perullo, and Sumarsam (see http://semneh11.blogs.wesleyan.edu). The Institute attendees will consist of 22 college/university professors and 3 graduate students from ethnomusicology and other fields, all of whom will receive travel/accommodations stipends. In the course of the two-week Institute, these “Summer Scholars” will engage in a variety of seminar sessions, workshops, and informal meetings, with the goal of enhancing undergraduate education in music and the humanities.

The advancement of SEM’s new initiatives, publications, and annual meeting has been made possible by the boundless volunteer service of our members. Special thanks are due at the moment to the UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology (the host of the 2010 Annual Meeting), Tara Browner and the 2010 Local Arrangements Committee, Barbara Hampton and the 2010 Program Committee, Carol Muller and the 2011 Local Arrangements Committee, Greg Barz and the 2011 Program Committee, SEM Newsletter Editor Henry Spiller, Ethnomusicology Editor Larry Witzleben, and our various other
The Lise Waxer Student Paper Prize was awarded to Andrew Mall for his paper “Lost in the Sound of Separation: Mainstreams and Undergrounds at a Christian Rock Festival.” According to the prize committee (led by Kevin Fellezs), Mall’s paper was a fascinating look inside the Cornerstone Festival as well as an insightful reexamination of the theoretical models we use to understand the relationship between “underground” and “mainstream.” Christian rock, in general, remains an understudied segment of the popular music world and underlines Mall’s thesis about notions of center/periphery in popular music scholarship. Overall, his thinking through the “problem” of mainstream/underground as center/periphery is pursued logically and systematically.

The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Fellowship

Application deadline: July 1, 2011

The American Institute of Indian Studies announces its 2012 fellowship competition and invites applications from scholars who wish to conduct their research in India. Junior fellowships are awarded to PhD candidates to conduct research for their dissertations in India for up to eleven months. Senior fellowships are awarded to scholars who hold the PhD degree for up to nine months of research in India. The AIIS also welcomes applications for its performing and creative arts fellowships from accomplished practitioners of the arts of India. The application deadline is July 1, 2011. Applications can be downloaded from (website) www.indiastudies.org. Inquires should be directed to (phone) 773 -702-8638, and email to aiis@uchicago.edu.

London’s Gallery Cafe Presents Around the World in 30 Days

“Around the World in 30 Days” is a month of events celebrating World Music featuring musicians from the School of Oriental and African Studies and some of the World’s top conservatories. Throughout March, The Gallery Cafe will host live music performances, workshops, talks and films; as well as the chance to sample food and traditions from around the world. St Margaret’s House Gallery Cafe in Bethnal Green will also be selling tickets over the counter in the run up to the events.

- Mondays: Open Acoustic Evenings with a world music twist
- Thursdays: Film nights featuring talks and workshops
- Fridays and Saturdays: Concerts and workshops

Full listings and tickets will be available from (website) http://www.stmargaretshouse.org.uk/events/events.
March 16, 2011

Mr. Rocco Landesman, Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001

Dear Chairman Landesman:

On behalf of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), we write to express our deep concern about the elimination of the National Heritage Fellowships in the NEA’s FY 2012 Appropriations Request. SEM is a scholarly organization with over 1900 individual members and more than 800 institutional members, dedicated to the study of all forms of music.

Since its creation in 1982, the National Heritage Fellowships program has recognized and celebrated the excellence and achievement of traditional musicians and other artists from communities throughout the United States. These awards have affirmed and supported our country’s vast musical heritage, including Native American traditions, blues, jazz, country, polka, Mexican-American traditions, and much more. One indication of the tremendous success of this program is the consistent bi-partisan support that it has received from Congress for almost 30 years.

As the only national award program for traditional artists, the National Heritage Fellowships have highlighted for a broad audience the grass-roots creativity that enriches diverse American communities. These fellowships have strengthened the efforts of individual artists to pursue new creative work, to serve as national and international advocates of their art forms, and to pass on their knowledge and skills to new generations of individuals.

We understand the tough budget decisions that need to be made in the current economic climate and realize that the NEA has proposed “American Artists of the Year” as a new honorific award. However, the relatively small amount budgeted for the National Heritage Fellowships has proven to be a very productive investment in nurturing the work of a wide array of American artistic communities. Moreover, the fact that folk artists work in many traditions that are not well understood by non-specialists suggests that they might not receive the recognition that they deserve in the proposed “American Artists of the Year” program. In fact, NEA created its Folk & Traditional Arts Program specifically to ensure support for this variety of under-recognized artists.

As individuals, both of us have had the pleasure of serving on review panels for the National Heritage Fellowships. Thus, we have seen first-hand the high level of artistic achievement of the individuals nominated for these fellowships and the wide-ranging impact of the awards on music and other traditions throughout the United States.

SEM applauds the support that the NEA has devoted to traditional arts since the 1970s and strongly encourages the agency to reinstate the National Heritage Fellowships in its budget for FY 2012 and in the years to come. Thank you for your attention to this valuable program!

Sincerely,

Gage Averill
President

Stephen Stuemfle
Executive Director
Conferences Calendar

2011

Mar 9-13
Annual Conference, International Association for the Study of Popular Music, U.S. Chapter (IASPM-US), Cincinnati, OH. For more information, see (website) www.iaspm-us.net

Mar 17-19
Forum on Music and Christian Scholarship Annual Meeting, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. For more information, see (website) http://www.fmcs.us

Mar 25-26
Mediating Culture: Experience, Harmony, and Discord, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. For more information, see (website) http://folksa.wordpress.com

Mar 28 - 31
International Conference: Art Musics of Israel: Identities, Ideologies, Influences, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1. For more information, see (website) http://www.music.sas.ac.uk

Apr 1 - 2
Music, Gender, and Globalization, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. For more information, see (website) http://www.musicgenderglobalization.org/

Apr 2
Annual Meeting of the Northeast Chapter for the Society for Ethnomusicology (NECSEM), Boston University. For more information, see (website) http://www.necsem.org

Apr 7-10
British Forum for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, University College Falmouth, Tremough Campus, Cornwall, UK. For more information, see (website) http://www.bfe.org.uk/annualconference.html

Apr 11-12
Negotiating ‘the West’ Music(ologic)ally, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands. For more information, see (website) http://www.uu.nl/EN/faculties/Humanities/congres/negotiatingthewest/Pages/default.aspx

May 18 - 22

May 19 - 21
PERFORMA’11, Department of Communication and Art, University of Aveiro, Portugal. For more information, see (website) http://performa.web.ua.pt/

May 20 - 22
Music and the Moving Image VI, NYU Steinhardt, NY. For more information, see (website) http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/scoring/conference/

Jun 27-Jul 1
Smithsonian Folklaws Certification Workshop in World Music Pedagogy, University of Washington School of Music, Seattle, WA. For registration information, contact (email) michikos@u.washington.edu

Jun 6-10
Crossroads: Greece as an Inter-Cultural Pole of Musical Thought and Creativity, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. For more information, see (website) http://info.mus.auth.gr

Jul 13-19
ICTM 41st World Congress, St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada. For more information, see (website) http://www.mun.ca/ictm2011/

Sep 8 - 10
Second Biennial Euro-Mediterranean Music Conference, University of Cyprus, Nicosia. For more information, contact (email) smith.k@unic.ac.cy

Sep 15 -17
The Soundtrack of Conflict: The Role of Music in Radio Broadcasting in Wartime and in Conflict Situations, University of Göttingen, Germany. For more information, see (website) http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/195842.html

Sep 22-25
Feminist Theory and Music 11 (Eleven): Looking Backward and Forward (20th Anniversary), School of Music, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. For more information, contact (email) Jill.Sullivan@asu.edu or (email) Sabine.Feisst@asu.edu

Nov 17-20
Joint Annual Meeting of SEM and CORD, Philadelphia, PA. For more information see (website) http://www.indiana.edu/~semhome/2011/

2012

Sep 4 - 5
Conference on Interdisciplinary Musicology (CIM12), University of Göttingen, Germany. For more information, see (website) http://gfm2012.uni-goettingen.de/cim12/CIM12/Home.htm

Nov 1-4
57th Annual Meeting of SEM; New Orleans, LA. Joint Meeting with the American Musicological Society and the Society for Music Theory.

St. John’s, Newfoundland, is the site of the 2011 ICTM 41st World Congress, July 13-19 (photo: JC Murphy)