The Roots (Dave Liebman)
It may appear to be a cliché to say that the roots of jazz are from Africa. I am no expert and discussing matters like that can easily veer off course, but enough research has been done to be pretty sure that at least the rhythmic impetus of jazz has a lot to do with the drum language of Africa. For our meeting this year in Cape Town, I am expecting that we will be able to hear some music from that country, much like we did in Sao Paulo, Brazil. No matter where we say jazz evolved from, the truth is that now it is so universal that any attempt at generalities is fruitless. I recently taught an ensemble that is part of the Berklee Global Jazz Project in Boston in which the members were from Israel, Korea, Japan, the U.S and I forget exactly which country in Europe. The IASJ has long been identified with an attempt to demonstrate the universality of jazz and we are now witnessing it daily in front of our eyes. Our meeting in Cape Town surely furthers the notion of jazz as a universal language uniting people by what is in common, more that what is different.
David Liebman IASJ Artistic Director

IASJ 25 Years! (Dave Liebman)
On the 25th of April 1989 Graham Collier and Walter Turkenburg signed the official Statutes of the IASJ at the office of a notary, thereby officially founding the IASJ. The invoice of this ceremony was send of to the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, The Netherland, and was gladly paid. The list of countries where IASJ Jazz Meetings have taken place in the last quarter of a century was at the time of founding beyond anyone’s imagination. Some of the schools that are now IASJ Member were not even founded at the time of signing. The success of the IASJ is the success of jazz education and is the success of jazz.
www.iasj.com
Looking Back 1
Milestone: 25 years of IASJ! (Dave Liebman)

ANNIVERSARY: The 25th anniversary of the organization’s inception just took place on April 22nd when the first meeting was held in Rottenburg, Germany in 1989. The following is from my web site describing this initial meeting:

After sending several letters out and receiving positive responses to my idea I called a meeting for April 22, 1989 using the offices of my publisher of the time, Advance Music in Rottenburg, Germany. My appeal was direct: those who were interested in really accomplishing something should meet me that day. Lo and behold 13 schools from 10 countries showed up including Israel, US, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, England and Ireland. The representative from the Royal Conservatory in Den Haag, Netherlands, Walter Turkenburg had come on the recommendation of the CIM School in Paris. I did not know him personally but he immediately made it clear that he could help me take care of the business of setting up and running the organization. He still serves as the Chairman of the IASJ. That meeting in 1989 was historic and the feeling was unbelievable to have all those people in the same room, but now there was work to do.

Walter came to visit me in the US in January 1990 and we thought out the basic plans. The idea was to include schools that were private, neighborhood types like the Taller de Musics in Barcelona as well as state funded conservatories such as the Royal Conservatory in Den Haag where Walter presided over the jazz department. Walter took care of incorporating the organization as a non-profit in the Netherlands and we became a legal association. Our first Annual Jazz Meeting was held in the Royal Conservatory in June, 1990. We decided that if only five schools came we would go forward, but were amazed that students from all the original attendees to the German meeting sent students and teachers. The rest is history. The IASJ has grown immensely, holding meetings every year since then. Going to Africa in 2014 really gives the feeling of a full circle, not closed, but still open for more creativity, and energy. See you soon in the Motherland!!