International Association of Schools of Jazz

NEWSLETTER

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The IASJ Newsletter, official bulletin of the International Association of Schools of Jazz, is issued at least three times per year. It is available to all IASJ Members.

My greetings to all of you!

I hope that the school year is going well. There is no doubt that "cosmic" events are occurring which are frightening, the most notable being of course the tsunami and the hurricane that devastated New Orleans. Also there is the discussion of the avian flu, the London bombings, etc., etc. We are in a time of turmoil worldwide which cannot be ignored. As educators and artists it becomes more important than ever that we maintain a position of integrity and selflessness. To my mind, the music we love is not just a pastime or entertainment. It is a reflection of very valuable humanistic principles concerning how we relate to each other, sincerity, honesty and more - all values that are sorely needed in these times. Especially in talking to young adults, we have a responsibility to make these concepts clear alongside the technical aspects of playing jazz that we ordinarily teach.

Concerning the next IASJ Jazz Meeting in Louisville, USA I know that Mike Tracey is very much on the case and hopefully the flight cost will not deter you from attending. It is in the heartland of America and a side trip would be interesting on many levels if you can find the time. Also the possibility of doing the course of Jamey Aebersold "How To Teach" would be invaluable in many respects. Jamey Aebersold is so well organized and experienced. In a short period I am sure you would be able to find something of value to add to your teaching styles. I would encourage your chosen student participants to stay if they can for the workshop in the week right after the meeting. The level of students ranges from beginners to high and in combination with our week, for those traveling so far away from home, this would leave a big impression on any young person-coming to America and spending two weeks immersed in jazz!!

All the best and peace,

David Liebman
Artistic Director

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