From the Artistic Director

The 9th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting 1998 in Cologne, Germany, in April was an amazing success. With students and teachers from twenty countries, this year's event was marked by the special IASJ Jazz Gala Concert, with myself and Mike Brecker along with the Hochschule big band directed by Bill Dobbins. Five original compositions, by Graham Collier, Ed Sarath, Marmelo Gaitenopolis, Stefaan Debevere and Jurgen Friedrich, were commissioned by the WDR and recorded, as were the three evenings of student ensembles. To top it off, the teachers' concert was an incredible success. The organisation, led by Frank Haunschild and Michael Küttner, was impeccable.

It is getting harder and harder to compare meetings, because each one has something special about it and the performances are always spectacular. But the feeling I will take away from the Cologne meeting was that it really feels like the IASJ is becoming something to be talked about and noticed. I think we are entering the map of world jazz on a very visible level. We still have work to do but the cumulative effect of nine years of meetings, school exchanges, the IASJ magazine Jazz Changes and the IASJ Newsletter are beginning to be felt. As soon as we can get on a more stable financial basis, I really think that the IASJ will be indispensable to the jazz scene. I am very excited and appreciative of the efforts of all involved during these years.

For our tenth anniversary, we go to one of the most important cities in Western civilization, Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The host school coordinator, Suso Atanes, has been with the IASJ since the beginning and knows exactly what elements go into making a successful meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you there in July. Until then, we will be in touch. Peace.

David Liebman
Artistic Director

From the Daily Board

Participating in the UNESCO Conference

Both Graham Collier and Walter Turkenburg from the IASJ Daily Board visited the Music Education in a Multi Cultural Society conference held in Aarhus, Denmark, from 2-5 July 1998. The congress was held under the auspices of the Music Council of UNESCO and was organized by Jan Ole Traasdahl of the Rhythmic Music Conservatory in Copenhagen, Denmark. Peter Danstrup, also from the Rhythmic Music Conservatory and the successor to Eric Moseholm, lectured about his experiences with South Moroccan Gnaua music. Walter Turkenburg gave a lecture about the parallels between jazz and world music education. All conference presentations will be published in early 1999.

The conference was opened by Frans de Ruiter, in his function of chairman of the International Music Council of the UNESCO. As representatives of the Daily Board, Graham Collier and Walter Turkenburg took the opportunity to talk to him about IASJ activities.