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IASJ Newsletter

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From the editor.

The main reason for jazz musicians to come together is to play. They want to say what they have to say and listen and react on what others have to say in a musical setting. Jazz musicians never seem to have enough of this interaction. They play until they die.

Sometimes jazz musicians like to come together to talk about their tools. Instrument manufactures know this. The industry organizes gathering that attract hundreds, even thousands of jazz musicians that want to find out about mouthpieces, reeds, types and shapes of instruments and, not unimportant, the prices. These trade shows often combine the selling of instruments with the selling of music books. Not the quality of the book is important at these events but the commercial success, the number of the copies that are sold. Trade shows give a lot of information about the things that are needed in order to make music. The music played at these gatherings is to attract people to come to the trade show and not to make them wonder how and why the music is made.

More and more jazz musicians come together to talk about how to improve their artistic and financial position in the world of music. In Europe the need for this kind of meetings is growing. In Stockholm, Sweden in 1991 fifty jazz musicians were invited to talk about their artistic and financial position. They concluded that ninety percent or more of the money in Europe spend on jazz did not go to European jazz. The European jazz musicians realized that the unbalance was due to their own lack of networking and organization. The only Europe based international organization working well at that moment was the International Association of Schools of Jazz. The IASJ had just successfully organized its 2nd Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

The meeting in Stockholm, ending on the day Miles Davis died, was the start of many likewise meetings in other countries in Europe. In Italy the AMJ has grown in power and influence. In France the UMJ has become a major force. In the Netherlands in 1995 the first and in 1997 the second Netherlands Jazz Congress took place. By

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