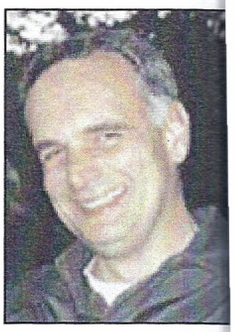
NEW IASJ PHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

Since October, the IASJ has new phone numbers:
The general number of the Service Bureau: +31.70.315.1515
The direct number of Walter Turkenburg: +31.70.315.1400
The direct number of Odette Bruinzeel:+31.70.315.1484
Our fax number has also changed: +31.70.315.1518
Our email address remains the same: servicebureau@iasj.com



From the editor

Spring was not in the air in the days that the IASJ was founded. It was April 1989 but it felt like December when some fifteen jazz educators and representatives came together in Rottenburg, Germany, most attending based on letters between themselves and David Liebman. For myself I had heard about the idea from a school in Paris. The location was not a fancy hotel lobby or a well-equipped conference room but the supply room of Advance Music, the publication company of Hans and Veronica Gruber. The in itself beautiful place was located in an industrial zone with unfinished muddy roads. My taxi driver had a hard time finding the place and I had just enough cash with me to pay the bill. In the very first meeting of what had to become the IASJ the people present decided that the new organization would not become a subdivision of the IAJE in the USA nor from the various Youth and Music associations in Europe, nor from any other organization. The IASJ should stand on its own! But how?

Already a lot of time was spent on the name of the new organization. At least an hour went by to decide whether or not the word "jazz" should be in the name. It was only after Graham Collier of the Royal Academy of Music, London, a few others and myself stated that we felt it was necessary to have the word jazz as part of the name of the organization. The discussion closed at that point. So it was clear that we were about to become an independent international association for jazz schools but that was about it. What to do? In the half hour that followed to answer that question the wildest ideas came across the table. Someone should be doing this, someone else should be doing that, couldn't we all be doing such and such or shouldn't we all agree on to do so and so. Let fifteen jazz educators fantasize for some time and you will have an impossible film scenario. In the end it was decided that along with David, I would organize something with lectures, master classes and combos and we all would see each other again in The Hague the next year and take it from there.

After leaving the founding meeting of the IASJ for me an exciting period followed. I had seen fourteen of my colleagues who I had never seen before and I wondered how many I would see again within a year. Was this event that I was thinking of with lectures, workshops and combos really attractive enough in order for the IASJ to come really alive? How could I raise the money? Who would help me?

As we all know it worked out very well. Some fifty people attended the first IASJ Jazz Meeting in 1990. Even more representatives of schools of jazz than the previous year in the supply room in Germany were present at The Hague and they had brought along their best students and teachers. The first IASJ Jazz Meeting was a great success and the following meetings were bigger and better organized. It looks like the Annual IASJ Jazz Meetings will go on forever now that many schools that have organized a meeting in the past are willing to organize one in the future again.

In the year 2003 however after thirteen consecutive IASJ Jazz Meetings there will not be a meeting as usual but instead a Jazz Conference. Forced by practicalities and driven by internal necessities, the IASJ General Assembly meeting in July 2002 in Helsinki, Finland, decided that it was time for a change. I volunteered to come up with a different kind of gathering for the IASJ membership and others realizing a plan that I had in mind for some time.

For me the excitement is back again having to organize a new kind event in jazz education: the 1st IASJ Jazz Education Conference 2003. Like twelve and a half years ago I have the certainty that we came up with a great idea but that it remains to be seen if it will work out right. Fortunately there is still time to work on the format and the content and I know I can rely on many helpful people within and outside the IASJ.

In this IASJ Newsletter and the ones that will follow you will read more about the conference. In January 2003 during the IAJE Conference in Toronto, Canada I will meet with many people that are willing to help and shape the 1st IASJ Jazz Education Conference 2003. The goal of the IASJ Jazz Education Conference is to sum up what has been reached in jazz education and to point out the directions of the future. One thing is clear to me. The only organization that is in the position to achieve balance in jazz education and at the same time can show the road leading to the future is the IASJ.

WALTER TURKENBURG