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IASJ Newsletter

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From the editor

After it became clear that Paris would be unable to host the 1997 Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting, the IASJ Daily Board was faced with a problem. This soon however developed into a luxury problem. Already scheduled were Cologne in 1998 and Santiago in 1999. The Hague had wanted to do 2000 right from the beginning - but Paris wanted to be host for that year instead of 1997. Knowing that the line of schools stretched so far into the future, two schools immediately offered to host the 1997 Meeting in place of Paris. Once the decision was made that Siena would be the gathering point for 1997, the list of schools offering to host future meetings became even longer. Boston offered to host the Meeting in 2001 and both Barcelona and the Hague still want to organise one as well. Recently, Helsinki called to find out when they could be the host. It seems to be time for the IASJ to buy one of those electronic agendas that have infinite calendars!

So, Siena will host an 8th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting 1997 as they did the 3rd Meeting in 1993. I will not bother you with all the details, with all the "yes-buts" and the "what ifs" that were discussed before the decision was made, but one of the main reasons was that the Siena Jazz Association was very eager to be the host. It became clear that Franco Caroni and his staff wanted to prove something. The Siena Jazz Association wanted to show that a much better Jazz Meeting could be put together than the one they had organised in 1993. Personally, I wonder how they will do this. Yes, there are better facilities now in their school in the Fortezza di Medici, and of course the IASJ has gained more experience after seven meetings. But the 3rd Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in 1993 was near perfect. The jam sessions, the lectures the master classes, the two final concerts; it all went very smoothly. I can select one event which was stood out for me. This was the Teachers' Concert which was spontaneously organized in de Salle di Mutillatti. Many of the teachers did not know each other, but there is no better way to get to know your colleagues in jazz that by playing together. So, it happened, and it was one of the finest private concerts I have ever attended. It was so good that from that moment on the Teachers' Concert became an integral part of every IASJ Jazz Meeting.

The Siena Jazz Association has surprised the IASJ members once and I am sure that they will be surprised again. Up till now there has no school has yet offered to organize the Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in 2005. I think I'll drink a capuccino with Franco Caroni and see if he is still free that year.

Walter Turkenburg
Editor