IASJ

International Association of Schools of Jazz

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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.

Hello to all!

It was very gratifying to hear about the success of the 14th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in Freiburg, Germany, and how wonderful the great George Gruntz was in his leadership role. After the meeting George commented to me how impressed he was with the organization of the IASJ, the high level of the student's playing and the fact that the host school, the Jazz & Rock Schule Freiburg is such a great institution. He was unaware that such a school exists so close to where he lives. These types of comments sound familiar to me from people who attend a meeting for the first time. Maybe those of us who have been involved for so long take it for granted, but from afar it is really impressive what we do each year. My congratulations to Bernhard Hofmann and all those in the administration who helped make the meeting such a success.

I am writing this after having just returned from the memorial service held in Manhattan for the great Elvin Jones who passed away a few weeks ago. With musical contributions and stories about Elvin, it was a great sendoff from the jazz community including Roy Haynes, Chick Corea, Billy Taylor and others. My several years working with Elvin in the 1970s constituted the most important training of my life. He was a monumental force as both a man and musician who changed the course of jazz drumming. And while I am mentioning the passing of greats, the same can be said for Steve Lacy and the incomparable Ray Charles. Great music, no matter the category share the common traits of love, joy and individuality which are so exemplified by these gentlemen.
My best wishes to you all!

David Liebman

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