From the Artistic Director

My greetings to everyone as we dig out of an intense winter in the northeast U.S. As I understand it, the weather was quite mild in Europe.
I look forward to our Fourth Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in Graz, Austria beginning on May 23. Participating schools will receive a personal letter for students and teachers with some details and plans for the week. As far as hotel and travel information, you should be notified of all that by the staff in Graz. If there are any problems, of course call them direct.
In these pages of the IASJ Newsletter, Walter Turkenburg will give us an idea of the business matters to be discussed during the meeting taking place at the end of the week.
Joe Makholm is working intensely on publicity for the event. He has been asked by the French jazz magazine, Jazz Hot, to keep a journal of the week. The magazine has also offered the IASJ a monthly column to be written by our various members as a sort of "how to" article. This will be an excellent forum for our teachers to promote themselves and their teaching methods. He will have more info at the 4th. Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting.

Charlie Miklin and the staff of the Music Academy of Graz have prepared some great venues for playing and city of Graz which is the European Cultural City of 1993 has donated money to defray some of the costs as well as allowing us to commission five original pieces by IASJ Member Schools. The performance of these pieces will be at the final concert by the big band of the Music Academy of Graz conducted by Charlie Miklin and will featured soloists from London, Köln, The Hague, New York, and Barcelona.

One matter that I would like to discuss in Graz is how to encourage more exchanges between schools during the year. As I am writing this letter Ulf Radelius has 15 students from Skurup, Sweden in attendance at the New School in New York. His students are attending classes and concert or are just hanging out. They are staying with the New School students. I really feel that this sort of exchange must take place often, aside from the Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting once every year. The IASJ is an umbrella organization meaning that activities need to be initiated within the group itself.

Looking forward to a great week in Graz. Safe travels!!

Peace,
David Liebman