International Association of Schools of Jazz

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

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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.

From the Artistic Director

A greeting to all of you and hoping that the academic year is going well. Those of you who attended our anniversary, the 20th IASJ Jazz Meeting in The Hague in June 2010 know how successful it was, in no small part due to the efforts of Walter. He did a great job collecting old IASJ posters and t-shirts from past meetings, with a dinner featuring personal remembrances by some of the original members. The highlight of the meeting for me was when all the participants took part in a rendition now visible on YouTube of John Coltrane's incredible "Peace On Earth." What a great way to end the meeting, which by the way included participants from some new countries.

The folks at the Souza Lima Conservatory in Sao Paolo, Brazil are really planning a great week for us in July 2011. We will be visiting a samba school and of course local clubs for performances and jam sessions. The special aspect of this meeting is obvious - being exposed to the rich tradition of Brazilian music, which everyone worldwide knows in one way or the other. I look forward to seeing our folks mix it up with the musicians of Brazil. I think this will be an historic event with ramifications that will go on past the actual meeting itself.

Under the leadership of Dimos Dimitriades, the IASJ Jazz Education Conference in Corfu during October 2010 was from what I hear a great success. It points to the worldwide trend that we are witnessing which, for lack of a better term, could be called "improvised music." This includes electronic and computer musicians, world beat, contemporary classical artists, pop, and of course the jazz tradition. It is all being mixed up in a giant bouillabaisse with styles overlapping and transcending categorisation. It appears that our organisation will have to find a way to include musicians from these various styles as part of the amazing world of music we are witness to in this period.

Peace,

David Liebman

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