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IASJ Newsletter

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From the Editor

At the first IASJ Jazz Meeting in 1990 in The Hague, Holland, the thirty participants were happy to see that each of the six combos after a week of rehearsals could bring four pieces of music to a good end. At that time it looked like a major achievement. In the past ten years the standards have become much higher. Looking back at the 11th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting 2000 held from 30 June to 7 July in Paris, France, I see a week in which more than one hundred and ten students, teachers and representatives from thirty schools of jazz from twenty countries formed combos, followed master classes and lectures and performed in concerts. Without the intention to be complete, here is a list of all the *special* things that happened in that very short period of time.

- a "carte blanche" concert put together by David Liebman in one of the most prestigious concert halls in the world, the Cité de la Musique. The musicians were David Liebman, the Paris Conservatoire Big Band, Bill Warfield, Michel Portal, Francois Jeanneau, Joachim Kuhn, André Humair and Jean Paul Celia;
- jam sessions in the famous Paris Jazz club "Le Duc de Lombards";
- an impressive concert of the participating teachers of the meeting took place in Le Club of La Grande Halle;
- two final concerts presented by the student combo's as an integral part of the Paris Jazz Festival in Le Club of La Grande Halle;
- the first gigs were taking place immediately after the IASJ Jazz Meeting. Of course, this kind of networking among students is one of the main goals of the IASJ;
- in and outside the official sessions methods of teaching were not only explained to each other but also discussed and re-evaluated;
- in the "Ongoing Dialogues" topics were discussed are seldom placed on the agenda;
- the scouting for the European Jazz Youth Orchestra and the Socrates Big Band took place;
- possible exchanges with South Africa were discussed;
- in the General Assembly the future meetings well into the next decade were discussed;
- president Ron McCurdy, executive director Bill McFarlin, coordinators Dick Dunscomb and Heinz Czadek of the IAJE were among the highly welcomed guests.

If there is one characteristic to the 11th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting 2000 than that is the spirit of repositioning the organization. With the future of the meetings being secured for at least the next ten years, ideas have to be developed how to grow and how to expand. Bigger and more are not the key words but better and different. Financial and human resources are as always a problem but possible solutions were discussed. All present at the 11th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting were confident that the IASJ will reach its goals and even more than that. I am sure that in ten years time the standards will be much higher again.

Walter Turkenburg
Editor