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IASJ Newsletter

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From the editor.

The 7th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting is a milestone in the history of jazz education. This IASJ Jazz Meeting takes place on a cruise ship sailing the Baltic Sea. On board are almost one hundred participants exchanging ideas about studying jazz, performing and networking in eight major cities around the Baltic Sea. It is neither the number of participating countries that is impressive nor the number of countries that will be visited. Of course, a boat in stead of a building is quite unique for the location of an IASJ Jazz Meeting. But the fields outside Sienna and the park in New York City and all the other places where IASJ combo's preformed, were unique as well. It is the quality of the 7th IASJ Jazz Meeting that is impressing. Schools of jazz may disappear and an active participant of this meeting may not make it in the jazz world; this meeting is an important chapter in history of the teaching of jazz and therefore in the history of jazz. I cannot prove it but I know it, I sense it. I am sure everyone of us is familiar with this kind of experience. Some things in life you just know.
Every night a different county, different audience, a different performance. Never before the midsummer night was filled with so much jazz from so many countries played by the jazz musicians of the next century. The symbolism of this IASJ Jazz Meeting is too strong to not think and talk about it. For the IASJ will enter a new decade as well. The first seven years are over. Again, a magic number. The next phase for the IASJ is new and full of questions. Changes in the Daily Board are coming up. New directions in the rational of the organization will be formulated. The initial phase of the IASJ is over. It started with a small group of colleagues and friends that tried to establish something new in the field of jazz education. The IASJ has been successful so far and has created a new wave. Now, as the IASJ Membership List shows, the IASJ has become a world wide organization with members in many countries forming a global network with specific needs and expectations. The new directions of the IASJ will become evident while the MS Christina Regina, our home for the 7th Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting does the Baltic 'turn around'.

Walter Turkenburg
IASJ Chairman