IASJ

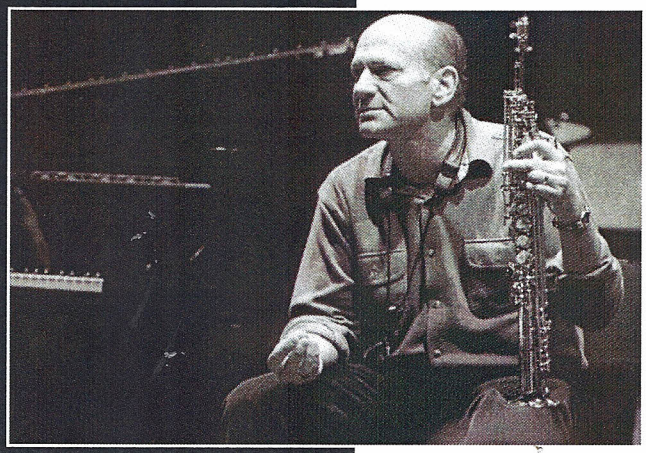
International Association of Schools of Jazz

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2003

Editor: Walter Turkenburg
Coordinator: Odette Bruinzeel
Graphic Design: Anka Koziel

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.

My greetings to all of you. From what I could gather, our 1st IASJ Jazz Education Conference that took place at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague in October 2003 was a milestone in jazz education. It was dramatic for a few of us to be in the same room where we held our first meeting jazz meeting in 1990 and to consider how far we have gone. With approximately 75 people in attendance representing various international educational councils, schools and private jazz teachers the topics included not only the history of jazz education and the different scenarios from country to country, but also several workshops were presented. The combination of past, present and future was exciting. One event was with classical musicians learning improvisation while another involved teaching a beginning group of young non-jazz students the basics of improvisation. Overall one was left with a positive outlook concerning jazz education for young people, something which is obviously an important matter for the future of the music.



The presence of IAJE executive director, Bill McFarlin, lent some weight to the proceedings as our collaboration with that organization continues to evolve. There is talk of joint sponsorship of the next pedagogical conference in a few years. Keynote speaker Jamey Aebersold's presentation was fascinating as he told not only the story of his musical growth but also how the famous play-along series developed from volume 1 to the present. After all, his voice is probably the best known in the world for counting "1-2-3-4". It was an honor to have such an important force in jazz education at our meeting. My biggest impression of the meeting was the number of initiatives on the "grass roots" level that are going on in so many places. There is a lot of activity happening with good people doing positive things for young men and women all over the place, much more than one might think.

One other word on the changed status concerns the leadership of the IASJ. Walter Turkenburg will explain his new situation in his column. For myself, I will remain the artistic director but as far as future meetings are concerned, it is no longer mandatory that I am directly involved on the

cont. on page 2

For information, please contact:
IASJ • J. van Stolberglaan 1
2595 CA The Hague • HOLLAND
Tel +31.70.315.15.15
Fax +31.70.315.15.18
Email servicebureau@iasj.com
http://www.iasj.com