International Association of Schools of Jazz

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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.

My best to you all and hoping that the new year is going well for you musically and personally. I want to report that comments about the 1st IASJ Jazz Education Conference in October 2003 in The Hague have still been coming in these past months. Jamey Aebersold himself was very impressed and thought it should be a great thing to do every few years. Walter Turkenburg is working on a formal report that I know will be impressive.

At the IASJ Convention in New York held in January, the fruits of our collaboration between the New School and Indian educator and musician, Dr. K. Subramanian's school in Chennai was realized with a concert that featured several students who had been studying with the master in India the previous month. Along with violist Tanya Kalmanovitch, percussionist Ramesh Shotham, Ronan Guilfoyle and myself, it was a great success and attended by hundreds of people. Dr. Subramanian spent the next month lecturing and performing at the New School and other venues. My compliments to Ronan and Tanya who were instrumental in organizing the logistics of the exchange program, as well as Martin Mueller and Teri Lucas at the New School for such a pioneering effort that should serve as a model of future similar events. A brochure will be produced that member schools can use as a model to initiate funding requests and ideas for future student and teacher exchanges with other countries. One of my original goals in forming the IASJ was that such exchange programs take place. This is very gratifying.

Walter, Dave and Karlheinz

I will not be attending the next Annual IASJ Jazz Meeting in June in Freiburg, but am thrilled that the great composer and pianist George Gruntz will be serving as the Artist in Residence. Knowing George's musicianship, openness to fresh ideas and wonderful personality I am sure that all the participants will have an unforgettable experience. The performances taking place in three different countries should also be a highlight.

All my best to you in the coming months.

Peace

David Liebman

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