

# International Musicological Society

## Communiqué No. 78

Message from the President

### **Congress Zurich 2007**

Plans move ahead fast for the **July 2007 International Congress in Zurich**. Laurenz Lütteken and his local arrangements team are plainly assembling everything with meticulous care. The event will include a special emphasis on Swiss music. Ulrich Konrad's programme committee has been much encouraged by the number and quality of study sessions offered by the December deadline.

Just to remind you: proposals for **individual papers are due by 1 March 2006**. Please offer your best work. We want a wide range of contributions. But we also want to be clear that the health of the society hangs on the quality of the papers at a congress like this. I have encouraged directorium members to offer papers because I want to see (I think we all want to see) the congress as a demonstration of what world musicology can do, what range and variety it can offer.

A note on dates, by the way, since this has apparently caused some unhappiness. We have a two-day overlap with the International Council for Traditional Music congress in Vienna: this was unavoidable; but we (both societies) at least thought that the relative proximity of Zurich and Vienna would make it possible for travellers from afar to visit both – not least because we firmly believe that ethnomusicology is absolutely central to any musicological endeavour. Rather more problematical is the IAML meeting in Sydney: this ends a mere four days before ours begins. That is largely because July generally seems the best month for these international congresses. My information is that IAML colleagues in Australia have been trying to make associated events happen before the main congress, so there is a chance of at least some delegates being back in Europe for the IMS congress.

### **Congress Göteborg 2006**

Meanwhile, though, I am delighted to announce the joint congress with **IAML** (the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres) and **IAMIC** (the International Association of Music Information Centres), to take place at **Göteborg (Gothenburg, Sweden) on 18-23 June this year (2006)** – see the preliminary programme enclosed with this mailing and published on the website. This grew really quite suddenly from conversations I had with the current IAML president, Massimo Gentili-Tedeschi. We agreed that a joint congress would be very helpful, particularly for the various projects that we jointly sponsor (**RISM, RILM, RIPM and RIdIM**). We also agreed that it should ideally be sooner rather than later. So when we realised that the 2006 congress was to be organised by the indefatigable Veslemøy Heintz (also a former IAML president) we agreed that this should be the event. It is just slightly shorter notice than we would have liked, but the programme team has assembled an impressive congress – the IMS portion flawlessly organised by Chris Walton, whose efficiency and tact I must acknowledge here publicly. There will be joint meetings about all the “R” projects, including Christoph Wolff's policy statement as new president of RISM and Antonio Baldassarre's as the new chairman of RIdIM. And I would add, for those who have not experienced them, that all IAML conferences are marvellous fun: somehow those librarians really know how to enjoy themselves when they get together. Do come and join us.

### **Positions in musicology opening and closing**

I found out only recently that there was a certain unhappiness about the plan to assemble and focus concerns about opening and closing positions through Barbara Hagg-Huglo. That was partly because it looked from some perspectives as though the entire discipline was losing impetus and losing positions everywhere. In fact the fuller international position turned out to be quite clearly that the discipline is growing: far more new positions were opening than old ones closing or under threat. It is just that the geographical distribution of musicology positions seems to be changing (an observation that will be no comfort to those in or near closing positions but still showing light at the end of the tunnel). More than that, though, it is gratifying to note that within recent months quite a few threatened positions have in fact been reopened. At least that's my perception. But we do all need to remain as supportive as we can: musicology remains the smallest discipline in almost all universities, and only by international cooperation can we keep the thing alive.

### **Acta musicologica**

Finally, I am very pleased to report that Philippe Vendrix has agreed to stay on as editor of *Acta musicologica* until the end of the publication year 2007. The directorium was delighted with his decision: he rescued the journal at a moment of great risk; he has produced a splendid variety of innovative materials in the issues he has edited so far; and he has done much to strengthen the image of the IMS.

David Fallows  
Old Trafford

### **Further information from the desk of the Secretary General**

**Publications of the Society in 2005:** *Acta Musicologica*: 77 (2005) I/II; *Communiqués of the IMS*: No. 77, January 2005 (with membership directory), No. 78, January 2006 (with additions and corrections to the membership directory). The Communiqué is also published on-line at <http://www.ims-online.ch>.

**Membership:** On 15 December 2005, IMS counted 936 members from 47 countries. Changes in the membership directory are listed below. For the full membership list we refer to the website of IMS.

**Activities of the IMS:** The Directorium held a meeting on 3 and 4 September 2005 at the Russian Institute for the Study of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg during the Inter-congressional Symposium *Russian musicology in the context of today's developments in the discipline* organized by Prof. Dr. Liudmila Kovnatskaya at the Conservatory of St. Petersburg from 1 to 5 September 2005. The Symposium with three roundtables and a session with free papers brought together more than 20 Russian and international scholars and was very well attended. The Directorium expressed its special gratitude to his member Liudmila Kovnatskaya and her colleagues and assistants for their excellent organisation of this meeting and especially for having invited so many young Russian scholars.

Feldmeilen, January 2006  
Dorothea Baumann, Secretary General