



Message from the President

Marc Fink
Madison, Wisconsin

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Alan Fox has established a very generous endowment of the Gillet Competition in honor of his late father, Hugo Fox, principal bassoonist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1922-1949. This prestigious international competition will hereafter be named the IDRS Fernand Gillet-Hugo Fox Competition. This year's oboe competition, culminating at the Madison conference, will be chaired by Nancy Ambrose-King. Next year's bassoon competition, culminating at the Buenos Aires conference, will be chaired by Barrick Stees. We are very grateful to Alan for his generous contribution ensuring the continual success of this competition.

Membership in IDRS continues to flourish. In 1998 the Society included over 4,000 members representing 56 countries, from Belarus to Uruguay. Associate memberships with national double reed societies have indeed linked the world of double reed enthusiasts and established a real sense of community,

At the recent meetings of the executive committee, several issues were addressed. We are all deeply indebted to the efforts of Norma Hooks and Lowry Riggins in making the smooth transition of the office of executive secretary-treasurer. Norma continues to function as exhibit coordinator for our conferences, so her life is rather busy these days with a job that she thoroughly enjoys doing. The committee has decided to number our four publications consecutively throughout the calendar year starting this year, designating the second issue as the journal issue. Hopefully, this will avoid some of the confusion encountered in the past. In order to provide a service to our members, our IDRS web site will include a calendar of

events for double reed activities. Through this calendar events such as recitals, master classes, festivals, and other special events can be posted and accessed by our members. A Young Peoples' Corner, administered by James Prodan and his colleagues at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, will regularly offer performance tips to younger players. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this forum should contact Jim at his address listed on the inside cover of this publication.

This issue contains the final chapters on the history of the first 25 years of IDRS. Thanks to editors Ronald Klimko and Daniel Stolper for their excellent work on this large-scale project. The history has given us a chance to see how we started, how far we have come, and perhaps provide ideas for our future.

In my role as IDRS'99 Madison conference host, I have become aware of the many intricacies, details, and challenges that are involved in hosting a conference of such magnitude. I have really grown to appreciate the efforts of past conference hosts who contributed so much to the Society by their efforts. We look forward to an exciting time in Madison and hope to see many of you at our 28th annual conference in August.

With continuing best wishes!