



Message from the President

Marc Fink
Madison, Wisconsin

IDRS conferences are incredibly exciting events that take an enormous amount of planning, foresight, and energy. On behalf of all of us in the Society, I offer our gratitude and thanks to Martin Schuring and Jeff Lyman for their superb job in organizing and hosting the wonderful Tempe experience. One of the unique aspects of our conferences is that they give all of us an opportunity to visit geographical locations such as America's Southwest and enjoy a different slice of life in diverse settings. The same opportunity awaits us next year in Madison, Wisconsin, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2000. Tempe, Madison, and Buenos Aires are all first-time venues for IDRS conferences, and all feature differing backdrops for the very special double reed activities that our conferences provide.

The current issue of *The Journal* continues the project that our editors, Ronald Klimko and Daniel Stolper, began earlier this year. We are celebrating the first twenty-five years of IDRS by looking back at our history. This issue focuses on a very important part of our Society, the Honorary Members who have been elected to membership based on their lifelong contributions to the double reed world. Our roster of Honoraries is most impressive and I am sure that you will enjoy getting to know more about these distinguished individuals. In addition, this issue includes our revised constitution which was approved by the membership at the Northwestern conference. Several changes represent the continuing growth and evolution of IDRS. Among the significant changes are (1) the addition of two at-large elected positions to the executive committee, (2) the inclusion of an Institutional category of membership to include

libraries and service organizations, and (3) the renaming of our library/librarian to archives/archivist.

During his fifteen years as executive secretary-treasurer of IDRS, Lowry Riggins developed the organization of IDRS into an exemplary model of efficiency with a very personal touch. As you know by now, this office is in the process of being transferred to Norma Hooks who also serves as our exhibits coordinator. Lowry and Norma have been working very hard since January to make this difficult transition as smooth as possible. When the transition is in place, all IDRS members will receive letters notifying them of the change of office, address, and phone/fax numbers. We are deeply indebted to Lowry and Norma for the huge efforts that have gone into this transition.

In the interest of the younger members of IDRS, the executive committee has decided to offer a *Young Players' Corner* on our website. The purpose of this feature is for experienced teachers/performers to address performance problems and offer suggestions on how to improve. Anyone wishing to contribute to this forum should contact James Prodan (prodanj@iris.uncg.edu) who has volunteered to coordinate this program. The executive committee is also planning on offering another grants program to IDRS members. Watch for more information in future issues.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the members of the Japan Oboists Association which celebrated its inaugural ceremony in Tokyo this past April. We wish them continued success in all their activities.

Best wishes to all!