

EDITOR'S PREFACE

For this volume, we have been fortunate to win the commitment and support of Dr. Wim van Zanten of the University of Leiden who, after serving as Program Chairman for the ICTM World Conference 1997 in Nitra, Slovakia, found the courage to undertake the guest editing of selected essays on the themes of that conference. We are grateful.

The book review section, prepared by Gage Averill in the middle of his move from Wesleyan University to New York University where he is now heading the ethnomusicology program, has grown again and is bursting at the seams. Our goal to critically cover as many new publications as possible for the readership of the Yearbook, and the increasing flow of materials offered for review, will make it necessary to reconsider the format of our book section. Next year's volume, which will introduce the fourth decade of the Yearbook's appearance, will also reflect the changes made necessary by our own success — much to Professor Averill's credit.

Already implemented is a new format for the record review section. The succinct descriptions and evaluations of more than 60 compact discs by specialists are intended to help researchers, teachers, students — anyone interested in the World's diverse musical traditions — to find their way through the floods of commercially available recordings to those they want. Cynthia P. Wong, our new Record Review Editor, has helped to shape the new format and has delivered on rather short notice and over very particular obstacles — from her fieldwork residence in Beijing — a substantial set of record reviews that constitute a significant departure in the Yearbook's editorial policies.

Not mentioned on the title page are those whose essential contributions are reflected in the Yearbook even though their names do not appear — the referees of submitted articles whose suggestions have often found their way into revisions, as have those of the copy editor for this volume, Amanda Minks at Columbia University, Sean Mulhead and Daniel T. Neely who assisted with the book reviews, and Adriana Helbig of Columbia who helped with the record reviews. The home institutions of the editors — The University of Leiden, Wesleyan University and NYU, and Columbia University — have all made resources available without which the Yearbook could not continue. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me as general editor to work with such a dedicated and highly professional team.

Volume 31/1999 will be guest edited by Dr. Krister Malm of Sweden. The plans for that volume, and the table of contents for the current and previous issues, are posted on the Internet at

<http://www.music.columbia.edu/~ictm/yearbook.htm>.

DIETER CHRISTENSEN