

Editorial

Federico Celestini & Philip V. Bohlman

It is our distinct honour to address the membership of the International Musicological Society having recently been appointed by the Directorium of the IMS to serve as Editors of the journal, *Acta musicologica*, for a term of five years. In this capacity we shall assume the editorial work that has been so ably carried out by Philippe Vendrix and Alexander Rehding. We should like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Vendrix and Professor Rehding for their superb service over the years to *Acta*.

As musicology embraces new fields and theoretical approaches, and as musicology is embraced by nations and cultures throughout the world, we bring a vision to *Acta musicologica* with the potential to expand the disciplinary and geographic-cultural scope of the themes and the articles appearing in the journal. We see this new breadth as a reflection of the new directions in the International Musicological Society itself in recent years. In this way *Acta* supports the central task of the IMS, that is, to extend musicological research in ways that encourage international cooperation.

To realise this task, we seek new ways to respect the pluralism with which we are confronted. The first aspect is the multilingual character of the *Acta*. We would like to strengthen and extend this, also embracing languages other than English, Spanish, German, French and Italian, the five official languages of the IMS. Although English has become a “common language” to a great extent over the last few decades—we decided to write this column in English for that reason—we *emphatically invite all contributors to write in their respective languages*. A concrete manifestation of musicological pluralism is the development of varying discursive formations within disciplinary fields. The translation of a text into another language simulates an affiliation with a discursive formation whose norms, conventions and expectations may not be fulfilled. The unpleasant consequences of this practice are negative peer reviews, problems with full comprehensibility in the written style of the published texts, incongruence between the language used and the referenced literature, as well as a general loss of diversity. A multilingual approach is a significant part of that which distinguishes international cooperation from cultural

and intellectual levelling. One of *Acta's* central missions is to cultivate this attitude in international musicology, particularly in an era in which it is often threatened.

Another aspect of musicological pluralism is the diversification of sub-disciplinary areas, methods and research objects. The task of representing this diversity distinguishes *Acta* from most other musicological journals: In the pages of *Acta* musicology will include all sub-disciplines of musical research and its sister disciplines. Such diversity is however judicious only if the articles published can be of interest to readers who are not directly concerned with the topic addressed. In our service as editors, we enthusiastically read papers that we might not encounter in other situations, and we would like to share the enthusiasm of this learning experience with as many *Acta* readers as possible. Offering sub-disciplinary diversity to the reader is a modest step in the development of interdisciplinary perspectives in contemporary musicology. Furthermore, we especially welcome contributions on methodological pluralism and new combinations of scientific discourse for publication in *Acta*.

A further innovation will be occasional numbers of the journal organized around special themes. We particularly look forward to discussions with scholars as they begin to lay the groundwork for these numbers. The goal of special issues will best be served when they draw contributors from a wide range of approaches and coordinate new perspectives in our common field of musicology.

The intended geographic-cultural and disciplinary expansion does however complicate the task of editing the *Acta*. For this reason, we are particularly grateful for the support of an enlarged Editorial Board (whose numbers will continue to grow over the next few months), and hope that our goal for international interdisciplinary cooperation will be increasingly reflected in subsequent publications of the journal.

We thank you in advance for your continuing engagement with *Acta musicologica* and the vision it provides for international musicological scholarship, and we look forward to hearing from you in the coming years.

Warm regards,
Federico Celestini and Philip V. Bohlman