

# A Word from the Editor

Dr. Brian A. Roberts

It gives me great pleasure to present these selected papers from the 1997 *Sharing the Voices: Phenomenon of Singing Symposium*. I would have been even happier if we might have been able to offer every paper delivered at this remarkable event; and it was a remarkable event. In somewhat religious terms it was an ecumenical gathering. Educationists might use the word multi-cultural but not simply because participants came from scattered locations around the globe. At this event all of the facets of the art of singing, both alone and with others, were represented. The Symposium was conceived as the academic component of the **Festival 500: Sharing the Voices** where international expertise could be given a forum for interdisciplinary academic discussions and the dissemination of research. To that end, the Symposium committee established several focus areas to encourage presenters from many typically quite discreet disciplines. These areas of focus eventually became cultural, sociological, historical, pedagogical and artistic. For the next Symposium in 1999 we have added compositional. To highlight the anniversary of Newfoundland's confederation with Canada in 1949, a special theme of the symposium will be nationalism. Of all the many comments we received from the participants, the majority spoke to the benefits and delight that those who came to St. John's were able to absorb from this multi-disciplinary approach to what was "their" discipline. Most told us that they had found entirely new ways of looking at what they do.

It is my hope that the papers printed in this volume will offer others a glimpse of what those who had a personal adventure in Newfoundland experienced. I also believe that for those who were here, this volume will bring back many fond memories, both of the Symposium itself as well as the wonderful time so many reported to us that they had in Newfoundland.

I would like to thank my enormously hardworking editorial assistants, Sabrina Andrews, Jennifer Keating and Margaret Anderson without whose help this volume would undoubtedly still be sitting on my desk.

May I invite everyone to come back for Symposium II and consider bringing a friend. You will find pertinent information on the last page of this volume.

Enjoy, as I have done, the many papers we can offer you from the 1997 *Sharing the Voices: The Phenomenon of Singing Symposium*.