

A word from the symposium co-chair

Ki Adams

In 1997 we were thrilled with the success of the first **Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium and Festival 500**. Our dream of gathering scholars from around the world to share their research and experiences relating to singing and song was more than realized. The extraordinary support of the Cabot 500th Anniversary celebrations was critical in launching our inaugural event. Again, the 1999, we were able to link with another provincial celebration, the 50th Anniversary of our confederation with Canada. The result was a second highly successful and productive symposium.

This unique symposium was conceived a number of years ago as an integral component of the biennial **Festival 500 *Sharing the Voices***. With the co-sponsorship and support from **Memorial University of Newfoundland**, we were successful in organizing a truly international academic symposium and celebration of singing and song. This year eight countries were represented by our symposium presenters - Australia, Canada, Republic of South Africa, Ireland, England, United States of America, Sweden, and Japan. As we experienced the multiplicity of perspectives and musical traditions over our days together, the phenomenon of singing revealed itself in unique and interesting ways. Many of these perspectives have been captured and disseminated in this publication of proceedings.

Based on feedback from presenters and delegates, strengths of Symposium II include respect for all forms of vocal music and the multiple cultural and social contexts of singing, the balance of types of inquiry in the selection of papers and the ensuing dialogue which the presentations evoked, the diversity of topics and themes all related to singing, and the sense of papers of world importance emanating from an intimate and integrated community.

This symposium was made possible by the support and dedication of a number of people. We would like to take this opportunity to thank especially the Board of Directors, Festival 500, Dr. Terry Piper (Dean, Faculty of Education), and Dr. Maureen Volk (Director, School of Music) for their encouragement and continued support. We thank also the Professional Development Committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, as well as the corporate sponsors for Festival 500 for their contribution to the success of this symposium. We would like to extend a very personal thank you to the Symposium Organizing Committee for their dedication to this event.

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee, we would like to announce