FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAYING OUR DUES

In the 1988 budget that was presented at the last meeting of the Board of Directors, figures showed that approximately three-quarters of CAML/ACBM membership dues will, in 1988, go to one thing: IAML fees, including subscriptions to Fontes Artis Musicae.

The rest, or a little less than $10.00 per member, is for everything else that CAML/ACBM does.

"Everything else" includes 3 issues per year of the Newsletter/Nouvelles, the CAML/ACBM annual conference, a CAML/ACBM-sponsored program at the CLA conference, postage, telephone, travel twice a year to Board meetings for 8 people who live in 6 different cities in 5 different provinces, stationery, audits, a couple of memberships we hold in related organizations, and anything more we choose to do that costs money.

This bizarre situation exists mainly because of currency fluctuation. In January 1985 the Deutsche Mark was worth 42 Canadian cents. At this writing it's worth 80 cents. We pay IAML dues in marks, which we buy with Canadian dollars received as part of CAML/ACBM dues. Between 1985 and 1987, our payments to IAML doubled. Part of the increase was a modest raise in IAML dues, but the biggest increase was a direct result of the mark's performance against North American currencies.

CAML/ACBM dues also went up during that period, but the extra $10.00 per person that was charged for the 1987 fiscal year was intended to cover only the IAML fee increase and a few extra expenses incurred by the Association. During the budget discussions, which took place in mid-1986, no one could predict that the mark would go up so high for so long.

Yet this year the Board decided to implement only a $5.00 increase in dues for personal and institutional members, and even then the extra $5.00 will be charged only if payment is made after the deadline of December 31. The decision was taken in order to keep a promise made last year that dues would not go up again in 1988. The net result is that for most members, 1988 dues will remain at 1987 levels.

We have managed to thrive for several reasons. First, there is the conscientiousness of Board members, who have learned the fine art of trimming expenditures without inhibiting essential association activities. Second, we have a small amount of reserve cash collected over many years from which to draw. Finally, there is the generosity of several libraries where members are employed. These libraries contribute toward many of our activities: some telephone costs here, some postage there, a plane trip once or twice a year to get a Board member to a meeting. We owe these institutions much, for without them we could not function. But in the long run, we must become a more self-sufficient organization. We already have many active members who are committed to the CAML/ACBM mission, and want to be involved. But in order to meet our members' demands, we need more than a shoestring budget. How else can we arrange the conferences, produce the publicity, publish the information, circulate the reports, organize the committees, attract new members, and honour our best ones?

I can't promise you that you won't see your dues increase next year. I can assure you that your money is spent carefully and responsibly. If you haven't sent in your membership renewal, do it now. If you know someone who isn't a CAML/ACBM member but should be, hand them a membership form and tell them it's the best deal in town.

NCIP

Have you contributed information on your music collection to the National Collections Inventory Project? If so, CAML/ACBM wants to hear from you.

We're collecting names of members who have already contributed to the project and have some experience with the Music conspectus. These names would form a pool of resource persons who may be able to assist others about to embark on the NCIP project. For further information, contact:

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