

## TRANSPARENCY IN IAWM IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The effectiveness of IAWM's promotion of women-in-music and their contemporary and historical contributions lies in the widespread voluntary activity and involvement of our diverse members. To freely paraphrase the ancient Chinese Taoist philosopher, Lao-tzu: The bad leader is she who the people despise. The good leader is she who the people praise. The great leader is she who the people say, "We did it ourselves."

Questions discussed in the 2008 IAWM Board of Directors meeting to determine what information about IAWM needs to be readily accessible for us to "do it ourselves" included, along with some brief answers, the following:

**What do casual observers want to know?** IAWM Mission Statement

**What do potential members want to know?** How to join; benefits of membership; the organic and fluidity of the organization that allows opportunities for individuals to pursue under the mantle of IAWM those personal passions that align with the mission of IAWM.

**What do members want to know?** Current events; projects being pursued by various committees; how to serve on a committee or establish a new one.

**What do Committees, Board members and Officers want to know?** Their responsibilities-- as stated in the IAWM Bylaws, procedures and forms found in the IAWM Manual, budgets, financial status of the organization, current policies and resolutions, whether or not the documents need updating.

**What do potential grantors want to know?** Mission Statement; Letter from IRS granting tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; proposed projects; budgets and financial statements.

**What information should not be made available for the membership or public?** Sensitive or personal problems should be resolved within the Executive Committee meetings.

The Board approved placing for easy access on the Home page of the IAWM web site legal documents, committee reports, financial summaries, minutes of board meetings, as well as the IAWM Manual. The more detailed budgets and financial reports remaining only on the Board page will also be readily available upon request. The policy of open Board meetings continues.

We have seen that our advocacy efforts, IAWM Listserv, co-sponsoring international events and providing access to information through the IAWM Journal and the IAWM web site all bring new members. They also encourage us to serve IAWM in promoting our mission. IAWM's international presence is increasing and our members

live on all five continents. Our activities have also motivated the establishment of various regional or national women-in-music organizations.

As Jeannie Pool, Founder of the International Congresses on Women in Music, points out, "We have learned that the Board cannot know what the effect of their efforts will be. The Congresses, for example, have had a broader global influence and effect over the last 28 years than anyone ever envisioned. Over the long run they represent the true diversity of IAWM membership." The interchange at the recent 2008 Beijing icwm profoundly yet quietly helped build world peace and understanding at the cultural level as musicians from more democratic Western countries intermingled with those of a great communist nation.

Much as former IAWM President Sally Reid pioneered the establishment of a global community on the internet by developing the IAWM Listserv in the mid 1990's, IAWM now has astounding opportunities to spread our message much more broadly through communication and increased transparency in cyberspace. IAWM can continue to be a pioneer through such activities as producing downloadable videotaped concerts, lectures, and panels with software programs such as podcasts and links to YouTube sites. Faces of real people on such aural/visual broadcasts could offer role models for interested women everywhere.

With young people regularly spending time on the internet and visiting internet cafes in many countries it would be innovative and effective to get our message to them on their own time and at their own inclination. After a lively discussion of internet opportunities the Board indicated that innovative possibilities in cyberspace will be a major item on the agenda of their next meeting, itself planned to be a conference call on the internet!

Thoughts based on the discussion of Transparency at the IAWM Board Meeting, October 25, 2008 at Arizona State University. Submitted by Deon Nielsen Price, former IAWM President and Board member.