

## **RIPM Report IMS 1992 (Madrid)**

The creation of the Répertoire International de la Presse Musicale (RIPM) was approved by the International Musicological Society in 1983. From that point until 1987, extensive work was undertaken to establish RIPM's editorial guidelines, its computer-based production system, the necessary financial support, and an international team of participating scholars and institutions—which now extends to some fifteen countries. Regular sponsoring or supporting organizations at this point are the IMS, IAML, UNESCO's International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the University of Maryland at College Park, The National Endowment for the Humanities (USA), the City and Region of Parma, the Parma Conservatory, the Emilia Romagna regional government, the Deutsche Forschungs-Gemeinschaft, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, The National University Library of Norway and the Muse, Instrumental in Brussels. A number of other organizations and institutions have also offered various types of support on a more limited scale.

At the 1987 Bologna IMS congress we announced the beginning of RIPM's extensive publication program, stating that five volumes would be produced in year one, and approximately ten volumes each year thereafter, with an initial publication span to cover ten years (1988-1998). I am pleased to report today that the publication schedule has not only been maintained but also surpassed. To date, forty-two volumes have appeared and five others are about to appear—bringing the five-year total to forty-seven volumes. Five additional volumes will go to press in October.

Of these forty-seven volumes, twelve treat nineteenth-century German-language music journals; eight, French-language journals; nine, British journals; twelve, Italian journals; and six, journals of the United States. The coverage then is quite evenly balanced. And, while to date, RIPM has published volumes in English, French, German and Italian, its first Dutch-language volumes will appear in the near future, as will its first Spanish-language volumes, thanks to the efforts of RIPM's new Associate Editor for Spanish-Language Publications, Jacinto Torres. Work has also recently begun on Scandinavian journals, under the supervision of a committee composed of Danish, Norwegian and Swedish archivists.

Clearly, this result has been possible, first, because of the remarkable efforts of the Associate Language Editors—Marcello Conati, Christoph-Helmut Mahling, and Richard Kitson—of the Assistant Editor, Luke Jensen, and of each participating scholar; and, second, because of the rather unique marriage of traditional labor-intensive editorial practices and the use of advanced computer technologies.

Over the next five-years RIPM intends to complete at least fifty volumes, bringing the ten-year total to approximately one-hundred volumes. As we

approach the completion of RIPM's initial publication series, we shall take a hard look at other production media such as CD-ROM, while planning expansion of the undertaking to include Eastern European and Latin American journals.

We are grateful for the very favorable critical reception RIPM has received. And, we are gratified (and indeed to some extent relieved) that RIPM's production techniques and publication schedule—which when initially announced may have appeared to be based more on fantasy than on a generally accepted view of reality—have proven to be effective, efficient and realistic.

It has been an honor for me to be associated with this remarkable, internationally-coordinated editorial initiative and I wish to express my sincere, personal appreciation for the truly extraordinary labors of each author and each editor.