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## A LETTER FROM IASA'S PRESIDENT

*Tre Berney, Cornell University Library, USA*

Welcome to the 53rd IASA Journal. Despite being more globally connected than ever, there are serious challenges facing cultural heritage institutions in these tumultuous times. Resource scarcity and precarious employment affect far too many workers, and cost of living and inflation crises around the world have increased financial vulnerability. Climate change is affecting growing geographic regions, and with it comes new fears about the environmental impact of networked storage and new threats to cultural heritage sites. International conflicts, civil wars, ethnic violence, and insurgencies across the globe threaten cultural, scientific, educational and religious institutions and sites. The IASA community persists in its work, furthering its mission and recognizes that we must face these challenges as a community through collective action. Common practice in archives is borne by communities with shared needs, goals, challenges, and responsibilities. This is true for IASA as well as other sibling organizations in the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations.

As the Covid pandemic has subsided, in-person conferences have recommenced. Our 2022 IASA Annual Conference was held at the remarkable Fonoteca Nacional in Mexico City, with partners Fonoteca, IIBI UNAM, Memórica, and Ibermemoria. Our first in-person event since 2019 provided our community with the chance to both reconnect and to build partnerships in Latin America. Many IASA members were also present at a spate of recent events, including the Radio Preservation Task Force Conference in Washington, D.C. in April; the ARSC Conference in May in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the AES 2023 International Conference on Audio Archiving & Preservation in Culpepper, Virginia in June; and Broadcast Media Africa's International Conference on Audio-Visual Archiving and Preservation in Johannesburg, South Africa in June. While it's great to meet colleagues in person, IASA recognizes the importance of hosting hybrid events, which provide a vital link for community members unable to travel for conferences.

IASA's Training and Education Committee will hold its Training Programme 21-31 August 2023 in partnership with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in Shanghai, China. This is IASA's second training programme event and the curriculum offers hands-on training to participants by world-class trainers:

- Nadja Wallaszkovits (Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste)
- Enric Giné (Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya)
- Adam Tovell (British Library)

Our next conference will be held 11-15 September in Istanbul, Türkiye in partnership with the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM). For the first time, ICTM and IASA join forces in a shared scholarly setting. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for collaboration between the organizations and their many shared interests. The event will be hybrid, combining in-person and online components. Istanbul University will be the venue and we will also offer online access to significant portions of the event for those who are not able to attend in person. The IASA Conference will take place during the first four days. The ICTM Forum will be featured on the fifth day of the event, with the aim of bringing together both IASA and ICTM members/representatives. I am also delighted to report that renowned anthropologist, ethnomusicologist, archivist and record producer Anthony Seeger will deliver the keynote address on 11 September.

Continuing with the thread of collective effort, I encourage all IASA community members to take advantage of the many avenues to support our ongoing work. Along with the IASA Research Grant award and the Dietrich Schuller Award for Audiovisual Training, there are two new awards that have been generously supported by IASA Technical Committee Chair George Blood:

- The Lars Gaustad Award is given in recognition of his 22 years as chair of the IASA Technical Committee (TC), during which time many of IASA's most influential documents were crafted, significantly shaping the practice of audiovisual preservation worldwide.
- The Carl Fleischhauer Award was created in recognition of Carl Fleischhauer's legacy of patience, persistence, and commitment to guiding the development and deployment of IASA preservation standards and best practices. The Award is given to individuals who embody the qualities of Fleischhauer's legacy by demonstrating a thoughtful and intentional commitment to advancing the dialogue of audio-visual preservation.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone you wish for either of these awards at <https://iasa-web.org/awards>.

Finally, this is the last letter I will write as President for the IASA Journal. At the General Assembly for this year's conference, I will become Past President and will remain on the IASA Executive Board until 2026. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the IASA community and to be able to work with the Executive Board. The 2020-2023 Board began serving during a global pandemic; an era marked by a pivot to virtual conferences and activities. There was a tremendous amount of work that went into the virtual conferences in 2020, a joint conference with FIAT/IFTA, and 2021, a global conference held in 4 major time zones. This Board had not met in person until the 2022 Annual Conference in Mexico City. Despite only connecting and working together virtually, we were able to accomplish normal activities, business and otherwise. I am grateful for all of them - Secretary-General Elisabeth Steinhäuser, Treasurer Yuri Shimoda, Editor Jennifer Vaughn, Web Manager Richard Ranft, Past President Toby Seay; and Vice-presidents Margarida Ullate i Estanyol, Perla Olivia Rodríguez Reséndiz, and Judith Opoku-Boateng. All of them were invaluable to me in my role and I now count them as friends as well as colleagues. I look forward to continuing on the Executive Board as Past President and working with the incoming 2023-2026 Board members.

**Tre Berney**  
*IASA President*  
*August 2023*