

Editorial

This volume of the Journal of Interdisciplinary Music Studies presents selected current interdisciplinary research in the area of musical structure. All contributions were originally presented at CIM08, the Conference on Interdisciplinary Musicology held in Thessaloniki, Greece in July 2008. The volume is not only an interesting research source, but also a permanent reminder of enjoyable days spent with music scholars of diverse disciplinary backgrounds and persuasions in the city of Aristoteles. We thank the CIM08 organizing committee, Emiliios Cambouropoulos, Costas Tsougras and Makis Solomos, for making that experience possible.

Each contribution to this volume is a collaboration between authors representing epistemologically remote disciplines. The papers cross boundaries that traditionally separate humanities from sciences, humanities from practically oriented disciplines, and sciences from practically oriented disciplines. Another set of papers from CIM08 is being published in a special issue of the Journal of New Music Research. The JNMR papers tend to be computationally oriented, whereas the papers in this volume have a stronger link to, or basis in, humanities.

The JIMS concept of interdisciplinarity goes beyond the familiar interactions within the humanities, or within the sciences, that characterize most “interdisciplinary” journals. Music researchers conceive and represent music in strikingly different ways – as culture, as a psychological or sociological phenomenon (experience, behavior, physiology, identity), as physical signal, as information. These contrasting approaches enable and invite a more challenging concept of interdisciplinarity. In taking up this challenge, JIMS has established a unique position not only among music journals but also among journals in other areas of research. The number of journals that bring together humanities and sciences is growing, but to our knowledge JIMS is the only such journal that carefully ensures that both humanities and sciences contribute both significantly and synergetically to each contribution. JIMS also extends that concept to include interactions between research- and practically-oriented disciplines.

The JIMS approach to interdisciplinarity and academic quality management is gradually being recognized by international research communities. Since the last issue, JIMS was indexed by the most comprehensive world-wide database, EBSCO-Academic Search Complete. The journal is also indexed RILM, DOAJ, INTUTE, ZDB OPCA and HeBIS.

Due to the number of CIM08 papers selected for publication, this volume is presented again as a combination of the Spring and Fall issues. We are grateful to the reviewers, the authors and the guest editors Costas Tsougras and Makis Solomos for their invaluable contribution.

Richard Parncutt and Ali C. Gedik
academic and administrative editors