

EDITORIAL

Plainsong and Medieval Music is a new periodical, but it builds upon a well-established foundation. Members of the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society have for several years been receiving its annual *Journal*, edited by David Hiley and devoted largely, though not exclusively, to Western chant studies. The *Journal* has gained an excellent scholarly reputation that extends well beyond the Society through its purchase by libraries and institutions. The editors' first wish is that its successor should maintain that reputation.

In making a fresh start, the Society has reconsidered the objectives of such a publication. By issuing two numbers annually, it hopes to maintain a more abundant flow of ideas and information. Its scope has been drawn as widely as possible, embracing oriental material of various kinds (subject to certain typographical constraints), polyphony to the sixteenth century in the West, and plainsong of any period. Of course, such boundaries cannot be drawn with precision, and the editors will welcome suggestions for any article that can be claimed to belong to these fields. This first issue indicates something of the variety which we seek; the second will include one or more articles on chant and liturgy, and will provide a new home for Peter Jeffery's Chant Bibliography which, we hope, will continue with us on an annual basis.

We also hope to achieve (with the Society's encouragement) a notoriously difficult aim: a balance between scholarly integrity and readability. We do not believe that these ideals are incompatible, and indeed we hold the view that it is a scholar's duty to present his or her findings intelligibly. Different readers, however, have different expectations; our concern is that non-specialists may enjoy what is put in front of them, while specialists may have the detail that they need.

We plan to include reviews of books and recordings on a regular basis, and hope that the latter in particular will prove to be a useful guide to an area of experiment and enquiry where ideas change rapidly. We would also like the new journal to be a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and will gladly publish suitable short reports and observations. We shall often draw on the expertise of others in deciding what to print; we shall not reject material merely

because it expresses views that we disagree with, but will look above all for cogency of argument and presentation. Some guidelines for potential contributors are printed inside the back cover of this issue, and a more detailed version can be sent to anyone who requests it. With that encouragement we hope to be judged in the future as a fourteenth-century poet judged the Church:

Petre tua navicula
vacillat aliquociens,
resultat set pericula
post plurima multociens.

[Peter, your little boat / falters sometimes, / but it rebounds very often / after many dangers.]

JOHN CALDWELL
CHRISTOPHER PAGE