

## From the Editors

Well, we've just about recovered from hosting the 2003 CSTM conference and AGM in Athabasca, Alberta. It was a good conference, we think: some fine papers, two excellent workshops, and a most enjoyable concert on Saturday evening. Moira Cameron and Paddy Tutty were in fine form during the second half of the concert, and by all accounts Robert Rodriguez stole the show in the first half with his moving rendition of "The Last Battle", Bill Gallaher's song about the second Riel Rebellion. And now we look forward to the FSAC conference in Winnipeg at the end of May, while next Hallowe'en CSTM will rendezvous on the campus of York University, courtesy of Carole Carpenter. We confess we were more than a little disappointed at the way many of the photos taken at the Athabasca conference turned out, but we have nonetheless found a few to reproduce in this issue. The photograph on the back cover of John Leeder and other performers at the Saturday night concert was taken by *Athabasca Advocate* reporter Gerry Bulmer, and it is reproduced with permission and thanks. Four more of Gerry's photographs, including one of Robert Rodriguez singing and one of Norman Stanfield playing the tin whistle, are included with the report of the conference and the AGM. If anybody else took photographs at the conference or at the concert, we would appreciate receiving copies. If we get some good ones we'll include them in the next issue. And eventually we'll pass them all along to CSTM archivist Maureen Chafe.

As is customary, this post-conference issue includes the minutes of the AGM, various reports, and a list of the Society's new board of directors and officers. You will also find the winter update to the Festival Directory, and, as always, a goodly number of CD and book reviews. Our lead article explores a fascinating aspect of the mosaic that is Canadian musical culture. It is an interview with Indo-Canadian singer Kiran Ahluwalia, the foremost Canadian performer of Punjabi folksongs and ghazals (pronounced "guzzles"). Ghazals are a type of romantic and often allegorical poetry, usually written in Urdu, and set to music. Persian in origin, they have a long history in South Asia, and certainly count as a form of Indian traditional music. And now, thanks to Kiran Ahluwalia, this Indian musical tradition is also alive and well in Canada. The photographs of Kiran and her group were taken by David Gregory at the 2002 Calgary Folk Festival. We are also pleased to print an article by Phil Thomas on three Canadian songs about the Great War (including the tunes and texts of the songs), and the music and lyrics of two other songs, "Cotter's Lament" and "The Cruise of the Spear", thanks to contributors James Prescott and Mike Ballantyne respectively. So there's plenty to enjoy in this our last issue of 2003.

While we've got your attention, please take note of a couple of corrections to the fall issue (37.3). The publisher of David Atkinson's excellent book *The English Traditional Ballad*, is not "Ashcroft", but Ashgate Publishing Co. Also, the company has recently moved; its address is now 101 Cherry St., Suite 420, Burlington, VT 05401-4405, USA. And in the review of Tim Readman's recording *Into the Red*, "Joseph Swann, the inventor of the telephone" (p. 42) should read "Sir Joseph Swan, the inventor of the lightbulb". One other thing: CSTM has been forced reluctantly to raise slightly its membership fees to accommodate rising postal and printing costs. You will find the new prices on the inside back cover. Membership is still a bargain!

Dave & Rosa Gregory.

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