

## From the Editors



What can we say in apology for the very late arrival of this issue in your mailbox? Because of other commitments we were late getting going on the issue in the summer, but we had firm plans to have it out before the CSTM conference in Edmonton. Well, it just didn't happen. It was a case of Murphy's Law. "If anything can go wrong, it will". "Sh...t happens". O.K., you get the point. But here it is at last, and we hope you find something to enjoy among the articles, songs, and reviews. We are particularly happy for the opportunity to alert you to John Spearn's important "Canada Songs Project", and we're pleased that we found space to revive Rosaleen's column, "Singing the Child Ballads", that had been squeezed out from a couple of previous issues.

The CSTM conference at the University of Alberta was a joy. We especially enjoyed the two workshops on "Traditional and Contemporary Balladry" and "Western Canadian Song", and of the many good paper sessions two that stick in Dave's memory are those dedicated to Canadian aboriginal music and to songs of the West. Others, of course, will have their own highlights, including, I'm sure, the informal singing session on Friday night and the formal concert with Asani on Saturday. What made it so successful, we think, was the blend of academic study and the practice of traditional music. Long may CSTM retain and promote that symbiosis!

As for *Canadian Folk Music*, we expect to bring you very soon a special issue on Franco-Ontarian song. A little further down the line is another special issue, on the Canadian component of the Smithsonian-Folkways collection. But probably before then a regular issue in which, among other things, we try to catch up on the backlog of books and CDs that we have received for review. At this point we have only one submission in hand for 2008, so it is time for you to make sure the magazine reflects your interests by submitting the kind of copy you would most like to see in its pages. And that's an open invitation.

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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