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Blowing Out the Candles Is Easy

Manny Brand

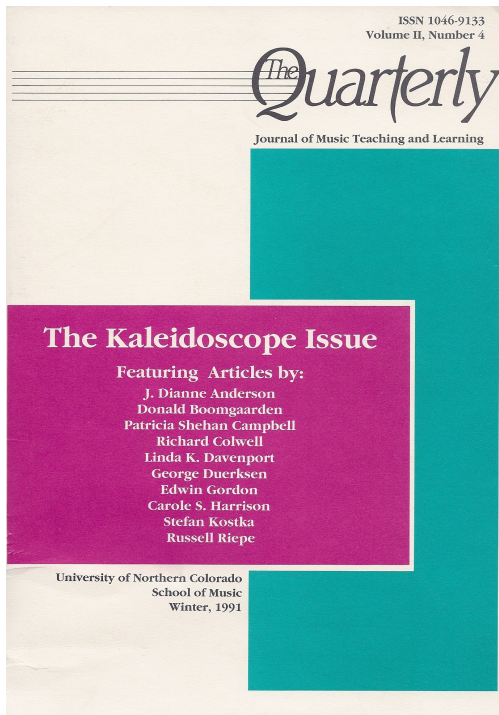
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Editorial by Manny Brand

Southwest Texas State University

Happy Birthday, TQ! That's why all of us at TQ, including staff, Managing Editor Doree N. Pitkin, members of the various editorial boards, and University of Northern Colorado, are celebrating. You see, TQ has reached an important milestone: We are about to turn two years old—a toddler in human terms, but a hallmark for an academic journal.

As you can easily imagine, initiating a journal—hiring first-rate staff, establishing editorial focus and vision, locating and maintaining adequate funding, and developing an enthusiastic subscription and author base—is difficult in good times. But particularly during this era of austerity in higher education, developing and sustaining a world-class scholarly journal is nothing short of amazing. University of Northern Colorado academic administrators like Howard Skinner, Richard Bourassa, and Shirley Howell are especially to be lauded for their staunch support in building TQ, the most important new publication in music teaching and learning.

Completing two years denotes the beginning of an exciting new growth stage for TQ. Since the “toddler stage” marks the beginning of more dramatic changes than any other time in life, we also have this great sense of anticipation. Naturally, parents wonder what their toddlers will become when grown.

I believe TQ will become the most significant scholarly publication in music education. To accomplish this, TQ must, with cogent and stimulating articles, “carve out” a unique role among music education publications by leading the intellectual way in music teaching and learning. We want to be the most prestigious and sophisticated journal in our field. We want to be different, iconoclastic, unconventional, and we want to feature the thinking of

the brightest and best of our profession. Finally, we want to raise broad issues and confront our readers with significant scholarship and ideas that others often ignore. The following upcoming theme issues demonstrate our commitment to present both better ideas differently, and different ideas:

- **Research in Music Education—Reconsidered**
- **Music Teaching and Learning in the Applied Studio**
- **Lowell Mason: A Realistic Portrayal**
- **Music Education in the Soviet Union**
- **Has Music Education Turned Its Back on Minorities?**

With founding editor Richard Colwell's initial and important ground-breaking efforts and through UNC's and TQ readers' continuing support, TQ is achieving this vision. Readers have responded with extraordinary positive reaction to our first several issues. Moreover, many of you have offered suggestions which help in the improvement and evolution of TQ. Your ideas (as well as your subscription renewals) are most welcomed, and we continue to turn to TQ readers and editorial board members for comments regarding journal content, format, and direction. In return, TQ's commitment remains constant; we will do our best to earn your respect and loyalty with each and every issue. Regarding our editorial board, with this issue Clifford Madsen joins our board. Insights and contributions from this foremost music education researcher will be invaluable.

Just like celebrating a toddler's birthday, blowing out the candles is easy. Nurturing a child, or in this case a first-rate journal, is the hard part. Take a big breath, all together now—one, two, three! 