

Dear friends,

The 5th International Jew's Harp Festival and Congress (IJHF) will take place in Amsterdam from 28 to 30 July. The location will be Het Muziekgebouw, a modern professional music centre at the river IJ, right behind the Amsterdam train station.

The Program Committee, consisting of Fred Crane, Leo Tadagawa and Aron Szilagy, together with Margi Kirschenmann, the responsible curator for our festival at Het Muziekgebouw, and me developed over the past 3 months the program of the IJHF.

The organiser established a website for the festival - <http://www.muziekgebouw.nl/mondharpfestivaluk/> - where you find information on the program, tickets and accommodation (under Route/Map). Check the program and you will see that a many-faceted festival, linking ethnic tradition and contemporary urban approaches in a compelling way has been organised. For the second time after the 2nd IJHF in Yakutsk/Russian Federation, the festival will take place in a big city and in concert halls. This fact will have a direct impact on the mixture of the audience, on the atmosphere and on the possibilities for propagating everything linked to the Jew's Harp. We succeeded in allocating place and time for the jam session which in our opinion for the fun and joy and further development of the Jew's Harp is as important as any concert performance.

During the IJHF, the new board of the International Jew's Harp Society will be elected. For this task, I will establish a nominating committee of 3 persons, which out of all Society members (which is you as well) will suggest 16 persons. During the General Assembly, to be held on the last day of the IJHF, all of us will select the new board, consisting of 16 persons out of the 16 old and the 16 new members. The newly elected board will elect their President for the next period, which will last from the end of the Amsterdam festival until the next, the 6th festival.

By the way, one of the tasks of the (old) board meeting will be to decide on the location and timing of the 6th festival. But this is still some time to go. For the time being we are very much looking forward to see you, make music and have fun together in A'dam.

Boing,
Franz