

Letter from the Editor

It is with great pleasure that we launch the current issue of Min-Ad06, an issue that features pioneering research in many aspects of music inquiry. The topics discussed here include: pertinent historical information relating to matters from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Michael Bar-Shany, Avior Byron, Nelly Kravitz, David Kushner and Marina Ritzarev); analyses of complex text-music settings (Eliezer Rapoport, Naftali Wagner and Yael Reshef); the function of music within a cultural context (Esti Sheinberg); the beginning of ethnomusicology in Palestine (Judith Cohen); and a review of a collection of articles dedicated to one of Israel's foremost contemporary composers, Mark Kopytman (Ury Eppstein). Michael Bar-Shany's article commemorates the anniversary of Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's 200th birthday. I wish to thank all the authors for these important contributions.

The next two issues of Min-Ad will be devoted to specific topics. The first, entitled *Mostly Mozart*, will honor the anniversary of Mozart's 250th birthday, and will feature articles pertaining to Mozart the man, his works, his contemporaries and his reception. We have accepted several important contributions, and look forward to receiving additional articles from colleagues working in Israel and abroad.

The second issue will be devoted to a broad study of nationalism. Forthcoming articles include David Rakanati's, "The Sacred Musical Tradition of Saloniki Jews," and David Kushner's, "From Phosphate to Plantation: The State Songs of Florida." We welcome additional articles on this subject.

Please note the new format of the Min-Ad Homepage. In addition to the address www.biu.ac.il/hu/mu/min-ad, this page can be accessed by searching directly for **Min-Ad home**, or via links from any of the past issues of Min-Ad. We hope that these recent changes are helpful.

Best wishes to our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

Adena Portowitz, editor