

## From the Editors

We've heard Murphy's Law expressed in various ways, including "If something can go wrong, it will" and, more pithily, "Sh\*t happens". Well, the gremlins struck this issue of the magazine. Dave had pretty much assembled the issue over Christmas and then his laptop crashed. We had backup copies of the individual items, but all the editorial work was lost. This semester has been hectic at AU, one deadline after another, so the problem was finding time to start over. Finally Easter arrived, and lo! 38.4 rose again, albeit *très en retard*. The image on the front cover is of an illustrated manuscript of *chansons médiévales*, courtesy of Conrad Laforte, whose career and publications are the subject of the second article in this issue. The handwritten manuscript on the back cover depicts the music for a seventeenth-century French version of an English jig, courtesy of Pierre Chartrand, who has supplied our lead article on "La gigue québécoise".

This issue has the usual format of two articles, some music, a regular column, and reviews. It also includes a report on the 2004 CSTM conference/AGM at York University. Since the feature articles are quite short there was more room than usual for reviews, so we have quite a galaxy of them: three book reviews and lots of CD reviews. Even so, we didn't quite catch up on the backlog, as you can see from the "Darien" list at the end. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Editorial Board member Sandria Bouliane for the issue's francophone content, and all the reviewers for diligently performing their duties. A word to future reviewers: please keep those reviews – especially the CD reviews – concise and informative. We don't like to cut out your more self-indulgent or rhetorical flights of prose but we are going to have to in future. The more books and recordings we can cover, the more useful the magazine will be to our readers, so we'll be looking to squeeze in as many as we can, each and every issue.

We haven't yet received full information on the forthcoming CSTM conference and AGM, but we know that it will be hosted by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat at Douglas College, New Westminster, BC, on November 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. This issue includes a call for papers (deadline 1<sup>st</sup> September), and you can expect to find more details in the Spring issue (39.1), which will probably appear sometime in the summer. In the meantime, please don't forget to renew your CSTM membership and do take a look at our two websites: the CSTM main site and the Mail Order Service site. Consider, too, participating in the annual conference of our sister organization FSAC (Folklore Studies Association of Canada), to be held this year at Pointe Eglise, NS, on May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Incidentally, the editorial board of *Canadian Folk Music* still has a vacancy for an associate editor from northern Canada. We haven't had any luck in finding someone living in one of the Territories, so an alternative might be someone with a special interest in the aboriginal music of Canada and other parts of the northern circumpolar world. Since the main articles published in the magazine are peer-reviewed, associate editors are expected to evaluate and prioritize submissions as required. They also have the opportunity to prepare (or help prepare) a special issue on their own region or subject of expertise. Anyone interested in joining our team should write to the address below or e-mail us at [davidg@athabasca.ca](mailto:davidg@athabasca.ca).

David & Rosaleen Gregory

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