

## Preface

The papers published in this issue of *The Nordic Journal of Aesthetics* were first presented at various conferences in aesthetics. The papers by Göran Sörbom, Gunnar Bucht, Lars-Gunnar Bodin, Alf Gabrielsson and Bengt Edlund in the first section, "Music", were presented at a Swedish-language symposium on the meaning and function of music (26-27 October 2001) organized by the Department of Aesthetics and the Department of Psychology at Uppsala University. The idea was to bring together composers, performers, musicologists and aestheticians interested in theoretical problems concerning the meaning, function and interpretation of music. Also questions concerning the reception and the description of musical works were discussed during the symposium, which received financial support from the Swedish Research Council. The papers by Peter Rinderle and Zdeňka Kalnická were originally read at the conference "Philosophy of Music", organized by the Department of Aesthetics at the Institute of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, 13-15 May 2002. The paper by Kuisma Korhonen was presented at the annual conference of the Nordic Society of Aesthetics, "Art and Art Research", organized by the Institute of Art Research at the University of Helsinki 16-18 May 2002.

The papers in the second section, "Dance", by Curtis Carter, Graham McFee and Jaana Parviainen were presented at the symposium "The Challenge of Dance", which took place at Uppsala University 8-11 february 2001. The symposium was organized by Susanne Jansson (Department of Aesthetics), in collaboration with the dance scholar Cecilia Olsson (Stockholm University). The point of departure for the symposium was a challenge: *the challenge of dance*. Speakers and dancers were invited to respond to the challenge, namely, that "dance," instead of being an object of research, should be considered a primary source of understanding, in that all communication starts and ends in the affirmation of bodies and "embodiments," of places and spaces. Hence dance informs or could inform, the language and methods of thinkers. The significance given to the various elements in the invitation was left to the discretion of the speakers and dancers. Generous funding was provided by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, the Swedish Research Council, the Letterstedt Association, and the Dance in Uppland Society. Thanks are due also to the Uppsala Art Museum and to the City Council in Uppsala for their support in hosting the performances.

The third section, "The Aesthetic Turn" contains papers, by Aleš Erjavec and Sören Stenlund, presented at a conference on the aesthetic turn and contemporary theorizing about aestheticization processes, organized by the Department of Aesthetics at Uppsala University 21-23 September 2001. The symposium received financial support from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation.