IU School of Music Signs Agreement with Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture

Indiana University's most recent international linkage could not be a more felicitous collaboration between natural partners. It is an agreement of cooperation between IU Bloomington's world-renowned School of Music and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Kingdom of Spain, "a country that has, and has always had, an extraordinary sensibility to music," said Dr. Gonzalo Gómez Dacal, Counselor of Education of the Embassy of Spain.

On Oct. 28, 1998, Dr. Dacal and Dean David G. Woods of the School of Music signed the official documents establishing this important new direction for both the School and the Ministry.

The main objectives of the agreement are to implement collaborative programs between the School and prestigious music institutions and universities in Spain which foster knowledge and musical performance through courses, teacher and student exchanges, musical events, and access to music collections. The agreement should also encourage cooperation, understanding, and friendship between U.S. and Spanish composers and musicians and, in general, forge cultural relations between two countries possessing a wealth of musical traditions.

Many other individuals at IUB and the Ministry worked to bring about this new cooperative endeavor. At IUB, these included School of Music Dean for External Relations Henry Upper and Professor of Guitar Ernesto Bittetti; Spanish Resource Center Director Milagros Sánchez de la Blanca; and Dean for International Programs Patrick O'Meara.

At the Ministry of Education and Culture in Spain were Esperanza Aguirre y Gil de Vizcaya and Juan Antonio Pugservier, and Dr. Tomás Marco, one of Spain's most prestigious composers and musicologists, and director of the national Institute of Scenic Arts and Music.

At the formal signing of the agreement, Dr. Dacal presented Dean Woods with a three-volume facsimile edition, originally published in 1922, of the work of King Alfonso X el Sabio, who was also one of Spain's most important medieval poets. The first institution in Spain to participate in this collaboration will be the University of Salamanca, which has a centuries-old musical tradition. The new agreement, says Sánchez de la Blanca, provides an excellent model for incorporating the field of music into the mainstream of international academic exchange.

At the formal signing of the agreement are (left to right) David Woods, Gonzalo Gómez Dacal, Henry Upper, Milagros Sánchez de la Blanca, and Patrick O'Meara.