



## SIXTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RAILWAY NOISE—FOREWORD

P.-E. GAUTIER AND J. G. WALKER

The sixth International Workshop on Railway Noise (6 IWRN) was held on 4–6 November, 1998 on the Island of Les Embiez, near Toulon in the south of France. It was organized by SNCF, the French National Railways, and supported by the French Acoustical Society, and was attended by over 100 specialists in railway noise and vibration; this was more than the number attending the previous workshop in Voss (Norway) in 1995. Participants came from a number of European Countries, from United States and from Japan.

The Workshop was divided into five sessions, each comprising one or more plenary papers followed by contributed papers, and dealing with a specific topic. Most of the contributions are included in the Proceedings in this special issue of the *Journal of Sound and Vibration*. The papers are grouped by the Sessions in which they were presented at the Workshop; papers covering similar topics therefore appear together in the Journal. As the nature of the Workshop encourages short presentations covering on-going work which is of current interest, these are included in the Proceedings, although such short papers may not normally be published as individual papers in the Journal. The Proceedings form a valuable document which includes much of the current work on railway noise and vibration being carried out in many parts of the world.