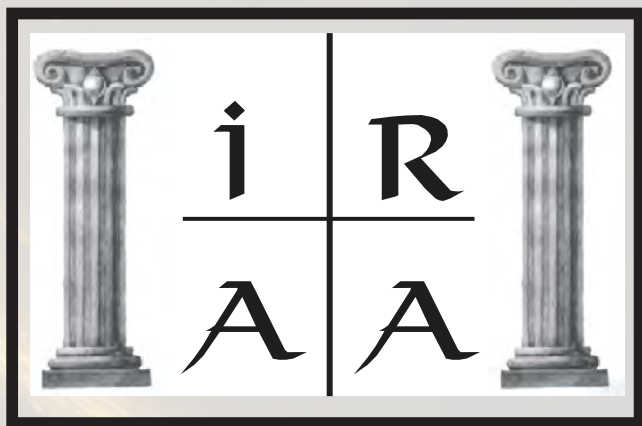


IRAA 2025 & 2026: A DOUBLE CELEBRATION OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE IN SOUND ENGINEERING & MUSIC PRODUCTION



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*The 19th and 20th editions of the **Indian Recording Arts Academy Awards** came together in one spectacular evening on 26th May, 2026. Here's a comprehensive overview of this landmark celebration that honoured India's finest sound engineers, music producers, and audio professionals.*

The **Indian Recording Arts Academy (IRAA) Awards** delivered an extraordinary celebration on 26th May, 2026 as it presented two editions simultaneously—the 19th and 20th IRAA Awards—in a grand ceremony that brought together the finest sound engineers, music producers, and audio professionals from across the country. Held at the *Aurika Banquet Hall* at Lemon Tree Hotel, Mumbai the evening recognized two years of exceptional work in sound engineering and music production.

The event organized by **Informa Exhibitions India**, was once again supported by **Platinum Partner Genelec**. With this celebration, Genelec has now supported five consecutive IRAA Awards, cementing a partnership that has been instrumental in elevating the event's stature. As a global leader in studio monitoring solutions, Genelec's association with IRAA reflects a shared commitment to technical excellence and precision in sound. Their continued support has not only enhanced the credibility of the awards but also reinforced the importance of world-class audio standards in recognizing outstanding achievements in sound engineering and music production.

The evening was truly extraordinary as it celebrated two editions in one spectacular ceremony. The event honored both IRAA 2025 (recognizing work released in 2024) and IRAA 2026 (celebrating the 2025 releases) simultaneously, doubling the celebration of excellence.

The IRAA Awards have long stood apart from mainstream music awards by focusing purely on technical merit rather than commercial success. Both editions of the awards together received an astounding 2,300 nominations across categories spanning recording, mixing, mastering, sound design, and music production—a testament to the awards' growing credibility and prominence in the industry.

Sound engineers and music producers often work behind the scenes, but

the evening shone the spotlight firmly on them, capturing the essence of what makes IRAA unique. For two decades, the awards have celebrated the technical journey from initial recording through mixing to the final mastered product—honouring the craft that transforms raw sound into art.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR EXCELLENCE

The evening commenced with the national anthem, followed by a welcome address from **Yogesh Mudras**, Managing Director of **Informa Markets India**, who underscored Informa's commitment to fostering trade, innovation, and recognition across industry verticals through its portfolio of exhibitions, conferences, and awards programs.

Anil Chopra, Chairman of IRAA, delivered the keynote address, while **Vijay Benegal**, IRAA Awards Director for the 2025 and 2026 editions, spoke about the rigorous assessment process, the challenges faced, and the standards required to maintain excellence. Together, they set the tone for an evening dedicated to celebrating technical mastery.

Arun Kumar, Business Manager for Asia & Middle East at **Genelec**, also addressed the gathering. Kumar's remarks highlighted how Genelec's partnership with IRAA transcends conventional sponsorship—it represents a shared vision of advancing audio excellence and supporting the professionals who dedicate their careers to perfecting sound.

One of IRAA's defining strengths lies in its meticulous, multi-level jury selection process. This year's jury comprised industry veterans including **Pramod Chandorkar**, **Mujeeb Dadarkar**, **Shantanu Hudlikar**, **Donal Whelan**, **Indrajit Sharma**, **Ashish Saksena**, **Subhash Sahoo**, **Jim Satya**, **Raag Sethi**, **S Sivakumar**, **Sreejesh Nair**, **Yogesh Pradhan** and of course IRAA Director, **Vijay Benegal**. The jury members were felicitated on stage for their unwavering commitment



Emcee Aradhana Nayar welcomes and addresses the audience



Everyone rises for the National Anthem



Welcome address by Managing Director, Informa Markets in India – Yogesh Mudras



Keynote Address by Founding Director, IRAA Awards – Anil Chopra



Arun Kumar, Business Manager - Asia & Middle East, Genelec Oy addresses the audience



Vijay Benegal – IRAA Director, Anil Chopra & Yogesh Mudras felicitate Arun Kumar & Genelec as a key sponsor



Vijay Benegal, IRAA Director addresses the audience



IRAA Jury Felicitating

to maintaining the awards' high standards.

The event itself was a showcase of technical prowess. **Mega Sound India** delivered exceptional audio reinforcement, while **SSL Media Technology & Solutions** created a brilliant lighting and visual display that elevated the evening's ambiance.

Sudeep Audio contributed **W.A. Plugins** worth, for the 20th edition of IRAA, ensuring that every step of the journey—from submission to victory—was rewarded. Nominees received the **IMPRINT Transient Shaper Plugin**, while finalists received **DJFX Multi-Effects Plugin** and winners took home the premium **IGNITION Fx Toolkit Plugin**.

A LEGACY OF MERIT

IRAA is where merit reigns supreme and excellence is not only recognized but revered. This philosophy has made IRAA a coveted recognition in India's music industry, setting it apart as a benchmark of technical achievement. For deeper insights into the awards process and the ethos behind IRAA, read **IRAA Director Pramod Chandorkar's** exclusive interview on page 72.

CELEBRATING LEGENDS AND PIONEERS

The evening's most memorable moments came with the presentation of special honors recognizing extraordinary contributions. The **IRAA Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution to Music** was bestowed upon **Louis Banks**, the "Godfather of Indian Jazz," whose 50-year career has shaped India's music landscape. From revitalizing the jazz scene in the 1970s to composing iconic works like *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara* and the *Hamara Bajaj jingle*, Banks' legacy includes a **Grammy** nomination, collaborations with legends like **Dizzy Gillespie** and **Ustad Zakir Hussain**, and the **Jazz@Prithvi** concert series.

The **Dronacharya Award for Shaping Audio Education** in India was presented to **Mujeeb Dadarkar**, a visionary mentor who has moulded generations of audio professionals. With over 40 years of experience as a Senior Live Sound Engineer, Co-founder of **Odble Consultants**, and FOH engineer for world-class artists, Dadarkar's greatest impact has been as an educator at institutions including **Digital Academy**, **Abbey Road Institute**, and **Sound Ideaz Academy**, raising the bar for audio excellence across the country.

The Studio Awards recognized creative sanctuaries where sonic magic happens. Bagging this ward was **AM Studios**, Chennai for 2025 and **Mariyano Studios**, Mumbai for 2026.

The awards ceremony also paid tribute to the late **Chris Athens**, an exceptional mastering engineer whose precision and artistry elevated countless recordings. **Shantanu Hudlikar** accepted the posthumous honor on his behalf, sharing heartfelt memories of the man behind the craft.

The evening was further elevated by the presence of **Guests of Honour Salim Merchant** and **Ehsaan Noorani**, two of India's most celebrated music composers, whose iconic work has shaped contemporary Indian cinema and live music. Their presence served as tremendous motivation for the winners and nominees alike.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE ACROSS CATEGORIES

A total of **237 winners** across 66 categories in 2026 and 70 categories in 2025 were honoured at the awards ceremony, spanning documentaries, independent music, web series, feature films, and short films. The complete list of winners is available on the IRAA website. In a move that reinforced IRAA's commitment to integrity, the jury withheld awards in certain categories where



IRAA 2026 – Jikku Joshi receives the award for Sync Sound Recording for Documentaries



Mohammad Shoaib, Rishi Kumar, Mohammad Iqbal (Paratwada) win the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer for Documentaries 2025 and Biki Lingden Limbu, Sonu Singh, Mohammad Iqbal (Paratwada) win the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer for Documentaries 2026



IRAA 2025 – Sukumar Nallagonda collects the award for Sound Designer for Short Films on behalf of Jai Ganesh



IRAA 2026 – Shreyank Nanjappa receives the award for Sound Designer for Short Films as well as Short Films Mixing



IRAA 2025 – Sukumar Nallagonda again collects the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Short Films on behalf of Jai Ganesh



IRAA 2026 – Sarath Kumar M and Anandh AK win the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience



IRAA 2025 – Swarnadeep Karan receives the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Short Films



IRAA 2025 – Jitendra Vajpayee and Aaquib Shaikh win the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer for Short Films



IRAA 2025 – Romlin Malicherry collects the award for Sync Sound Recording for Short Films



IRAA 2026 – Shashi Kasare wins the award for Sync Sound Recording for Short Films



Louis Banks got felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution in Music



Louis Banks addresses the audience



Mujeeb Dadarkar got felicitated with the Dronacharya Award for Shaping Audio Education in India



Mujeeb Dadarkar addresses the audience



IRAA 2025 - Krishnan Subramanian receives the award on behalf of Riyasdeen Riyan & S Sivakumar for AM Studios for Studio of the Year



IRAA 2026 - Ishwari Tamhan collects the award on behalf of Justin Jose & Omkar Tamhan for Mariyano Studios for Studio of the Year



Chris Athens posthumously recognised for his contributions to the field of mastering



Shantanu Hudlikar speaks a few words in memory of Late Chris Athens



Special guest Ehsaan Noorani graces the stage and addresses the audience



Shantanu Hudlikar receives a special memento for Chris Athens



IRAA 2025 & 2026 – Arun Crasto wins the award for Advertisement Mixing



IRAA 2025 – Vivek Thomas receives the award for Instrumental Music (Non-Classical) – Recording/Mixing/Mastering



IRAA 2026 – Niranjan Joshi collects the award on behalf of Ashyar Balsara, Hersh Desai, and Adhithya Sivakumar, Jonathan Vainberg for Instrumental Music (Non-Classical) – Recording/Mixing/Mastering



IRAA 2025 – Vivek Thomas collected the award on behalf of Christo Xavier



IRAA 2026 – Gino Banks collected the award on behalf of Rhythm Shaw for Instrumental Music (Non-Classical) – Music Production



IRAA 2025 - T.S. Ayyappan, Hariharan, and Nishanth, Saji R Nair won the award for Indian Classical Music – Vocal Recording/Mixing/Mastering



IRAA 2026 – Ajinkya Dhapare won the award for Indian Classical Music – Vocal Recording/Mixing/Mastering



IRAA 2025 – Chinmay Mestry & Anand Dabre received the award for Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Devotional / Spiritual Music



IRAA 2026 – Nandhu Kartha & Jaison J Nair received the award for Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Devotional / Spiritual Music



IRAA 2025 – Deval Desai won the award for Devotional Spiritual Music – Music Production



IRAA 2026 – Shamita Bhatkar won the award for Devotional Spiritual Music – Music Production



IRAA 2025 - Rupjit Das & Vineet Khorwal, Ashish Raitani received the award for Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Traditional Folk Music



IRAA 2026 - Francisco Nicholson & Kartik Shah received the award for Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Traditional Folk Music



Radhika Bhide won the award for Music Producer – Traditional Folk Music 2025 & Kailash Jangid won the award for Music Producer - Traditional Folk Music 2026



IRAA 2025 - Sudeepta Sadhukhan won the award for Sound Designer for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Ankita Purkaysatha won the award for Sound Designer for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2026 – Pranav Shukla received the award for Sound Designer for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 – Kishore Kamraj won the award for Sound Designer for Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2026 – Deepak Poojary won the award for Sound Designer for Web Series – Regional



Yogesh Mudras – Managing Director, Informa Markets in India felicitates special guests Ehsaan Noorani & Salim Merchant



Ehsaan Noorani addresses the audience



Salim Merchant graces the stage and addresses the audience



IRAA 2025 - Sudeepta Sadhukhan received the award for Mixing Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2026 - Sarath Mohan received the award for Mixing Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 – Krishnan Subramanian accepts the award for Mixing Web Series – Regional on behalf of Tony J



Dr. Pramod Chandorkar, IRAA Jury Member addresses the audience



IRAA 2025 - Ankita Purkaysatha won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2026 - Donar Raja & Rahul Shinde won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Krishnan Subramanian won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2026 - Hitesh Khaneja won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2025 - Gaurav Shakya receives the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Sugoto Basu won the the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2026 - Imran Shaikh, Krishank Das, Amarjit Barman & Uddhav Boro win the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 & 2026 - Karnail Singh, Sajjan Chowdhry and Rajendra Gupta receive the award for Foley Engineer and Foley Artist Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Sankar Settu & Vijaykumar VN won the award for Foley Engineer and Foley Artist Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2025 - Alen C Kuriakose got felicitated for winning an award in Sync Sound Recording – Web Series category



IRAA 2026 - Jitmitra Jena got felicitated for winning an award in Sync Sound Recording – Web Series category



IRAA 2025 - Subash Sahoo won the award for Sound Designer – Hindi Film



IRAA 2026 - Niraj Gera won the award for Sound Designer – Hindi Film



IRAA 2025 - Shijin Melvin Hutton and Abhishek Nair received the award for Sound Designer – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - Anirban Borthakur and Naren Chandavarkar received the award for Sound Designer – Regional Film



IRAA 2025 - Krishnachandran C got felicitated for backing the award for Sound Designer for Foreign Films



IRAA 2026 - Vijay Rathinam got felicitated for backing the award for Sound Designer for Foreign Films



IRAA 2025 - Bibin Dev won the award for Mixing – Hindi Film



IRAA 2026 - Debajit Changmai won the award for Mixing – Hindi Film



IRAA 2025 - Shijin Melvin Hutton and Fazal A Backer received the award for Mixing – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - Anjana Manoj and Athul Vittal Prabhu G received the award for Mixing – Regional Film



IRAA 2025 – Sarath Mohan & Oussema Ayachi won the award for Mixing – Foreign Films



Aparajita Sen won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer – Hindi Film 2025 and Shijomon George won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer – Hindi Film 2026



IRAA 2025 - Akhil Hari received the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - M.N Abijith & Vikrant Kini received the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer – Regional Film



IRAA 2025 - Vinit Gala and Amandeep Singh won the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience – Hindi Film



IRAA 2026 - Vijay Rathinam, Sukumar Nallagonda, Shrikanth Sundar, and Santhosh Selvaraj won the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience – Hindi Film



Shijin Melvin Hutton, Vinayak Meda, Keerthan Berny, Manjith Paul, and Abhishek Nair won the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience – Regional Film 2025 and Manjith Paul, Athul Vijayan & Vijil Raveendran won the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience – Regional Film 2026



IRAA 2025 - Ram Kishan Nath & Girish Singh received the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer – Hindi Film



IRAA 2026 – Pranav Shukla collected the award on behalf of Cobblestone Foley team for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer – Hindi Film



Abhijeet Sapre, Nikhil Katkar, and Vicky Arolkar received got felicitated for winning the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer – Regional Film 2025 and Ram Kishan Nath, Girish Singh got felicitated for winning the award for Foley Artist / Foley Engineer – Regional Film 2026



IRAA 2025 – Dhiman Karmakar won the award for Sync Sound Recording – Hindi Film



IRAA 2025 – Shishir Chousalkar won the award for Sync Sound Recording – Hindi Film



IRAA 2025 - Alen C Kuriakose received the award for Sync Sound Recording – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - Sandeep Kurissery received the award for Sync Sound Recording – Regional Film



IRAA 2025 – Samir Dharap accepts the award for Song Recording & Mixing – Web Series – Hindi on behalf of Pranjal Borah & Hanish Taneja



IRAA 2026 - Arabinda Neog & Trihangku Lahkar receive the award for Song Recording & Mixing – Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Ram Sampath and Arabinda Neog got felicitated for winning the award for Song Music Producer Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2026 - Jerry Silvester Vincent got felicitated for winning the award for Song Music Producer Web Series – Hindi



IRAA 2025 - Nachiketa Sharma Miganakallu & Rajiv CN won an award for Song Recording & Mixing Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2025 - MS Krsna win an award for Song Music Producer Web Series – Regional



IRAA 2025 - S J Jananiy got felicitated for winning an award for Song Music Producer – Regional Film



Ram Sampath and Arabinda Neog receive the award for Song Music Producer – Hindi Film 2025 and Gaurav Vaswani and Vishal Mishra receive the award for Song Music Producer – Hindi Film 2026



IRAA 2026 - Mark K Robin got felicitated for winning an award for Song Music Producer – Regional Film



Harshul Khadse won an award for Song Recording, Mixing & Mastering – Hindi Film 2025



Shadab Rayeen won the award for Song Recording, Mixing & Mastering – Hindi Film 2025 and Trihangku Lahkar Song Recording, Mixing & Mastering – Hindi Film 2026



IRAA 2025 - Vishnu Sankar S and KS Maniratnam, Abishek Dharshan & Gethin John received the award for Song Recording, Mixing, Mastering – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - Vincent Joseph & Ashish Saksena received the award for Song Recording, Mixing, Mastering – Regional Film



IRAA 2025 - Saji R Nair won the award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Immersive



IRAA 2026 - Nirmal Rathod won the award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Immersive



IRAA 2025 - Aman Arakh got felicitated for winning an award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Rock / Blues / Metal



IRAA 2026 - Shantanu Hudlikar got felicitated for winning an award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/Mastering – Rock / Blues / Metal



IRAA 2025 - Mohit Singh Dhundele and Jaivardhan Verma won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Rock / Blues / Metal



IRAA 2026 - Raag Sethi won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Rock / Blues / Metal



IRAA 2025 - Saahas Saritha Bala received an award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Electronic



IRAA 2026 – Ajasra received an award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Electronic



IRAA 2025 - Nived NP won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Electronic



IRAA 2026 - Sreedarshan Santhosh won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Electronic



IRAA 2025 - Nirmal Rathod, Derric D'Souza & Raag Sethi received the award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Pop



IRAA 2026 - Vivek Thomas received the award for Independent Music – Recording/ Mixing/ Mastering – Pop



IRAA 2025 - A Adithya Sreeram won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Pop



IRAA 2025 - Sparsh Agrawal won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Pop



IRAA 2026 – Raag Sethi won the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Pop



IRAA 2025 – Ajasra received an award for Independent Music – Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Progressive/Alternative



IRAA 2026 - Surel Ingle, Ritik Sinha, Ankit Mastakar and Onkar Tarkase received an award for Independent Music - Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Progressive/Alternative



IRAA 2025 - Raag Sethi received the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Progressive/Alternative



IRAA 2026 – Surel Ingle received the award for Independent Music - Music Producer – Progressive/Alternative



IRAA 2025 – Aman Arakh won the award for Independent Music - Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Acoustic



IRAA 2025 – Jonty Indra won the award for Independent Music - Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Acoustic



IRAA 2026 - Nitin Muralikrishna, Saurabh Lodha, Derric D'souza, Ajay Majethia & Ronak Runwal accept the award for Independent Music - Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – Acoustic



Raag Sethi won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – Acoustic 2025 and Kanishk Seth won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – Acoustic 2026



IRAA 2025 - Pranav Gupta received the award for Independent Music - Recording/ Mixing/ Mastering – Rap & Hip-Hop



IRAA 2026 - Vivek Thomas received the award for Independent Music - Recording/ Mixing/ Mastering – Rap & Hip-Hop



IRAA 2025 - Jay Stellar won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – Rap & Hip-Hop



IRAA 2026 - Vaishakh Jyothis won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – Rap & Hip-Hop



IRAA 2026 – Samir Dharap accepted the award for himself & Hanish Taneja for Independent Music - Recording/Mixing/ Mastering – World/Fusion Music



IRAA 2025 - Shubham Saurabh won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – World/Fusion Music



IRAA 2026 – Nishad G won the award for Independent Music – Music Producer – World/Fusion Music



IRAA 2026 - Satish Raghunathan, Anthony Karuna, Sathish Surender, Shamanth Nag & Harry received the award for Background Score - Music Production - Hindi Film



IRAA 2025 - Debangshu Roy receives the award for Sound Designer for Documentaries



IRAA 2026 – Madhu Apsara receives the award for Sound Designer for Documentaries



IRAA 2025 – Sarath Mohan wins the award for Documentary Mixing



IRAA 2026 – KS Maniratnam & Anjana Balakrishnan collect the award for Documentary Mixing



IRAA 2025 – Gokul K R gets felicitated for winning the award for Sound Editor Effects & Ambience for Documentaries



Yash Desai won the award for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Documentaries 2025 and Akshay Kunnummal, Camille Polycarp, & Joshua Fernandes wins the for Dialogue Editor / ADR Engineer for Documentaries 2026



IRAA 2025 - Debangshu Roy gets felicitated again for winning for Sync Sound Recording for Documentaries



IRAA 2026 - Suyash Kelkar won the award for Background Score - Music Production – Regional Film



IRAA 2026 - Vignesh Raja won the award for Background Score - Music Production for Web Series - Regional

submissions did not meet the required standard of excellence. This decision underscored their dedication to honouring only truly exceptional work.

As the evening progressed with the presentation of awards across multiple categories, one thing became abundantly clear: this was a moment the industry had eagerly awaited, a celebration that honoured dedication, passion, and craft. The joy and pride on the faces of winners reflected years of hard work coming to fruition, and IRAA stood as the platform that brought the community together to recognize and cherish these achievements.

Keep track of upcoming IRAA announcements by visiting <https://iraa.in/> for information on nomination timelines, eligibility requirements, nominee announcements, winners, and the 2027 edition.