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Journal

of the Jussi Björling Societies of the USA & UK

Jussi Björling

O Lola
O Lola
bian-ca co - me fior di
with thy lips like crim-son

spi - no, quan - do t'af - fac - ci te s'affaccia il so - le;
ber - ries, Eyes with the glow of love deep - en - ing in them,

Chi t'ha ba - cia
Cheeks of the hue

gra - zia piu bel - la a
For - tu - nate he who first

C'e scrit-to san - gue so
On thy threshold bl

ma di re - star - cia a
What do I care if

Se per te mo - joe va
Yet tho' I died and fou

ve-do il tuo bel vi
greet me, grief I should

di - so Mon c'en-tro
beam - ing, Wert thou not



Note on Back Issues

Copies of past issues of this Journal (Nos. 12–27) are offered on an “as available” basis to members at \$11 per copy postpaid. For a listing of contents of these issues, or to order copies, write to any of the following:

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Submission of Articles

The editor invites the submission of articles on subjects of interest to the members of the Jussi Björling Societies.

Please be advised that if you submit material to JBS-USA (letters, photographs, articles, etc.), you are granting Jussi Björling Society - USA, Inc. the right to publish, distribute and edit that material in any manner deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, including permission to share the material with Jussi Björling Society - USA, Inc.’s publishing partners, including other JB Societies. Unless you advise us specifically to the contrary, JBS-USA will assume that you are in agreement with these terms and conditions.

This Journal recommends to authors that they follow the publishing conventions set out by D. Kern Holoman in “Writing About Music” (Univ. of California Press).

ON THE COVER: Jussi Björling as Roméo, 1940

Photos courtesy of the Jussi Björling Museum, Borlänge, Sweden, unless otherwise noted.

Membership in this Society

Membership in the Jussi Björling Society-USA, Inc. is on a calendar-year basis.

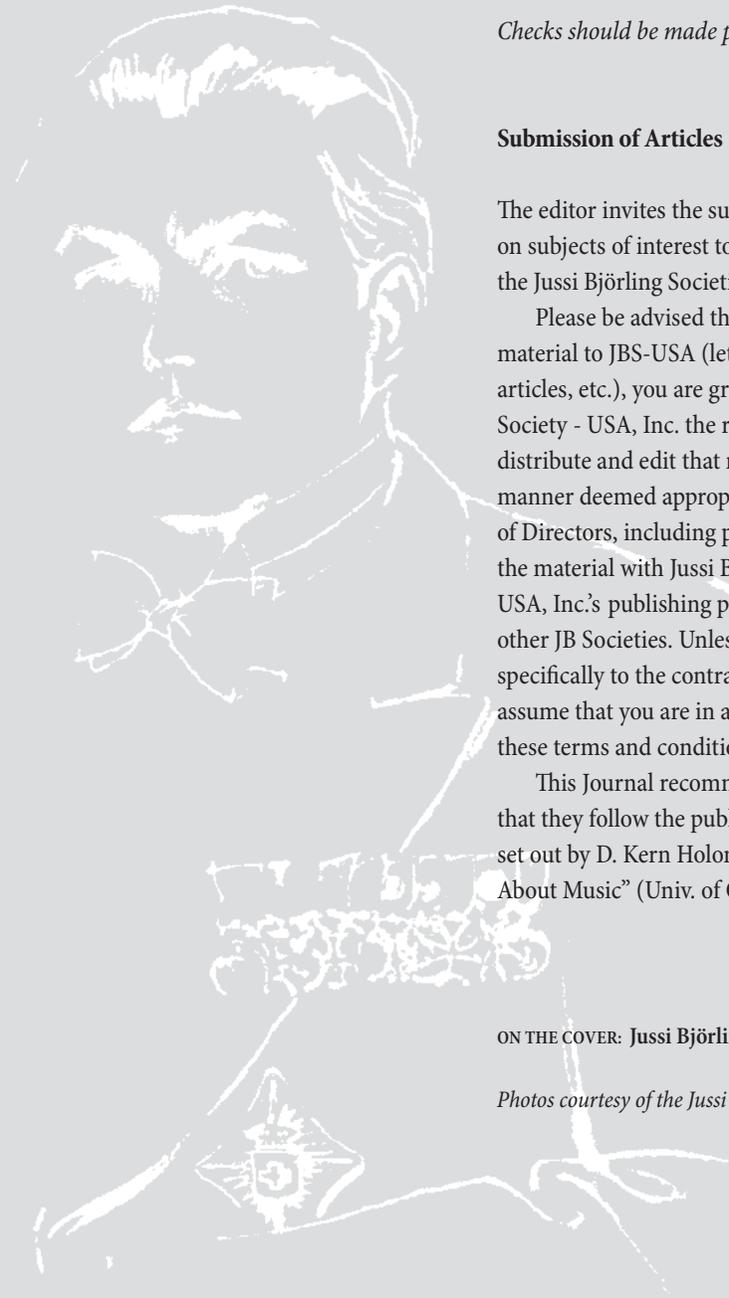
Membership contributions submitted to the Society after October 31st of any calendar year will be credited to the following year.

This Journal is currently published once a year for the members of the Jussi Björling Society-USA, Inc. and the Jussi Björling Appreciation Society, and for those members of the Scandinavian Jussi Björling Society who chose “affiliate” membership in the Jussi Björling Society-USA, Inc. In addition, a Newsletter is also published each year for these members.

Please examine your mail label which indicates your last membership year paid.

For membership in the Jussi Björling Society-USA, Inc., please write to

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From the President

By Janel E. Lundgren



Welcome to the first *Journal* of the new decade, and Happy New Year to all our members!

In this issue, we explore the outer limits of Jussi's adult career, from his first years at the Royal Opera in Stockholm under the tutelage of John Forsell, to the final months of 1959, when, although suffering from debilitating health issues, his performances were among his best. Throughout his career, his art never wavered.

"Under Forsell's direction, ... I also learned my favorite role, Roméo. Perhaps I love it so because John Forsell taught it to me so carefully ... I sing something from *Roméo et Juliette* every day." (*Jussi Björling 1945 autobiography*, Med Bagaget i Strupen, Wahlström & Widstrand. Translation by Marianne Flach-Turnbull, produced by Donald J. Quinn, 1998, page 24.)

We all love Jussi as Roméo and are therefore thrilled to announce *Immortal Performances'* new release of *Roméo et Juliette*, a restoration of the complete 1940 recording with Hjärdis Schymberg. The 3-CD set also includes bonus recordings of a complete 1943 Act II of the opera, AND the world premiere commercial release of the complete Act I of *La bohème*, again

with Schymberg. Once again, Richard Caniell brings us Jussi at his best, in two of his favorite roles, and in *IP's* miraculously improved sound!

In these pages you will also find news of the activities of JBS-USA. Over the holidays, did you listen to our JB Christmas playlist on the *Spotify* music service? This month, it will be followed by a playlist of JB love songs, as selected by members of our board, each of us struggling to select only two or three of our favorites!

In addition, we have recently opened an account with Instagram, so you can now find us both there and on Facebook.

On the flip side of the music service trend is the question of the doubtful future of CD and LP collections, a topic we also explore. If you have not yet signed the petition to preserve the Swedish Radio Archive, please do so.

In connection with this same dilemma, on our website we are now offering a new free service to our members: a Member Marketplace where you can list musical items for sale, swap, or donation, — or add to your collections as well!

We hope members enjoyed our recent musical weekend in Washington, as we take a look back at those happy events. We also hope you enjoy these and other articles as you page through this *Journal*.

Going forward, we are happy to welcome new board members, Karen Messenger and Matthew J. Mancini! We also take this opportunity to salute the tireless work of Sue Flaster, who has resigned from the Regular Board and accepted a place on the Advisory Board. After two decades of service, she continues to be indispensable to the achievements and successes of this organization!

Most of all, we hope you know how much we value the friendship, participation and support of all of you, our members. Without you, there is no Jussi Björling So-

ciety - USA. We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas for the future. Please keep in touch with us, and thank you all! ■

Warmest greetings,
Janel E. Lundgren,
President and Editor

P.S. If you have not already renewed, a membership form is enclosed for your convenience.

Also, you may use the enclosed Order Form to pre-order your copy of the *Roméo et Juliette* CD at a discounted price! And there is still time to acquire your copy of Harald Henrysson's fabulous new book, *David Björling and His Sons in America: A Musical Family Saga Begins*. It is selling quickly, so don't miss your opportunity to add it to your Björling collection!

