

Newsletter of the Jussi Björling Society

No. 3, Winter 2002

JBS Schedules Conference in New York City

Save the dates: October 24-27, 2002, at The New Yorker Hotel

A report by the JBS Board of Directors

As you can read in our current issue of the *JBS Journal*, last year's conference at Gustavus Adolphus College was well-reviewed by its participants, for the quality of its programs and the social interactions that developed in the friendly environs of Janet and Anders Björling's St Peter, Minnesota, home. What next?

One option for 2002 was a year of preparation for a conference the following year, but in the wake of the events of September 11, we were persuaded to head next to New York City as quickly as possible. (Our most determined persuader was Cantor Don Goldberg, with important early support from Anders Björling, Dorian Bruzzi, Barbro Ehnbohm, Andrew Farkas, Carol Pozefsky, Martin Riskin, John Skaar, Robert Tuggle and others.)

While we are not yet able to give you detailed information about the program, we can explain some of its key features – which exploit some of the marvelous potential of the Big Apple itself. For starters, we were convinced by Dorian Bruzzi to try to cooperate with the Richard Tucker Foundation and its annual **Tucker Gala concert** of established operatic stars and promising young singers. Thanks to help from Bob Tuggle and John Pennino of the Met Archives, and JBS member Steve Galantiere, we were able to arrange a special block of tickets to the Tucker Gala: These are excellent orchestra seats listed at \$175, which have been made available to us at \$125 by group discount. As is our wont in JBS, we pass along the discount to you – along with a hint that we always appreciate your reciprocal support, as you can provide it. (*)

While the program for this early evening concert (probably 7 PM) concert at Avery Fisher Hall is not yet known, you can be fairly confident that it will feature Renée Fleming, José Carreras and Sam Ramey.

We are pleased that Ann-Charlotte Björling Grimås and Anders Björling have indicated that they will accept our invitation to attend, and possibly participate in one or more programs. Further, Harald Henrysson has ideas for two separate programs, that grow out of his current research projects. We are cooperating with Barrett Crawford of the Leonard Warren Foundation, and Milanov scholar Bruce Burroughs, to organize programs about Jussi's interactions with those great singers. We also hope that a representative of RCA Classics will be willing to join that part of our program. The brilliant Mark Obert-Thorn has expressed interest in telling us about the art of vocal transfers. We're especially looking forward to one of our main events: a discussion between several of Jussi's great colleagues who live in or near New York City – most likely with a strong moderator in charge! We hope also to cooperate with the American-Scandinavian Foundation and the Swedish Consulate in New York City, for programs and social events.

And of course we can hope for typical fine October weather in New York; in any case, there will be concerts and operas ongoing before, during and after our programs – which we will help you track, in our later notices. Further, some of our local members have some great ideas to offer you, for social activities in and near the City – you'll be hearing more on these plans too. [For more information on our **hotel accommodations** for this conference, see p. 3.]

(*) Here's a further hint: If you write directly to the Richard Tucker Foundation, 1790 Broadway, Suite 715, New York, NY 10019, you can ask to be put on their mailing list for information on the Gala, and get further information as it becomes available to the general public (late summer 2002, most likely). You will find that tickets in other locations and price ranges will be available – although not with our JBS group.

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