

Newsletter of the Jussi Björling Society

No. 4, Summer 2002

The Björling Society's Work in Spring 2002 – A Report

Dear JBS and JBAS members:

After an intense effort this spring to line up a worthy program for our October conference at the New Yorker Hotel, we are now able to tell you more about our excellent speakers and other conference activities.

We also want to assure you about our plans for getting the publication of our *Journal* back on schedule, and this *Newsletter* gives you a few samples from articles we have “in the pipeline” for future issues.

First, some news about our conference speakers:

For Thursday, October 24, our program begins with five indisputable experts on Jussi's life: First, **Harald Henrysson**, the curator of the Björling Museum in Borlänge, will shed new light on the lives of David Björling and his three sons as they traveled throughout America during 1919-1921, singers for hire. Clearly these were important formative years for the boys, as they learned their craft and many life-lessons as well.

Also joining our program will be Jussi's three children with his wife Anna-Lisa: **Anders, Lars, and Ann-Charlotte**. As we know from the biography *Jussi*, his children accompanied him to many performances and recording sessions, and two of them have continued family musical tradition as singers in their own right. Biographer **Andrew Farkas** will moderate the program and offer his own observations.

We're pleased to announce that **Seth Winner** will discuss the art of transfers of vocal recordings, and demonstrate how transcription engineering can enhance our understanding of a voice – or not. You may have heard his work with Jussi-material on two Pearl CDs, or for the Leonard Warren Foundation with their recent excellent release (available from VAI), or for the **NY Vocal Record Collectors Society** (which recently has unearthed and published some long-sought Björling items on their own CDs). In fact we are cooperating with the NYVRCS and expect that this fine organization will have their CDs on display during our sessions.

Thursday's program will end with an appreciation of Jussi's art by **Albert Innaurato**, whose articles on Opera have appeared in *Opera News*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Gramophone* and *BBC Magazine* among others (some of which we've quoted in our own publications). He has written musically-oriented material for PBS, you may especially recall a highly-praised adaptation of *Eugene Onegin* that starred Renée Fleming and Dimitri Hvorostovsky. He is also an acclaimed playwright and has written for TV and film.

Friday's program will concentrate on Jussi and two of his co-stars during the 1940s and '50s: Representing the Leonard Warren Foundation, **Barrett Crawford** will speak of that organization's work – a fine model for honoring a great career.