

## Jussi Björling Statue Sings "O Holy Night"

By Göran Forsling

Central Borlänge, Sweden, was swarming with people ... the afternoon of Advent Sunday. It was the premiere Christmas window display, but towards half past three many gathered at Jussi Björling Square to witness for the first time Jussi Björling as street singer. The statue was discretely coloured in red through spotlight illumination ...

Swedish Television was there, the local radio and newspapers were represented; at 3:45 p.m. sharp, Jussi himself spoke and announced that in view of that it was Advent Sunday he was going

to sing "O Holy Night". The sound streamed out from a twelve-foot-high pillar, placed just behind the statue and it was clean and well-balanced ... a level corresponding to what it would have sounded like if Jussi had been there in person. Everything was tastefully done and the audience listened devoutly with undivided attention. When Jussi had finished the lighting was dimmed down and there was a respectful round of applause.

During the rest of Advent Sunday he sang every hour until 7 p.m. and all through December he sang

every day at 12 o'clock noon and 7 p.m. Henceforth there will be singing on chosen occasions, next in turn on 2 February, the date Jussi celebrated his birthday. ■

*Göran Forsling is a member of the Board of Directors, Jussi Björling Sällskapet, and served as our gracious host when JBS-USA members visited Borlänge in September, 2018.*

*Courtesy of the Jussi Björling Sällskapet, Sweden.*

*A video of this event may be seen at [www.jussibjorlingsallskapet.com/](http://www.jussibjorlingsallskapet.com/)*



LASSE ERIKSSON

*Jussi Björling*