

JBS-USA wins new Honorary Advisors: We are delighted to announce that **Robert Merrill** and **Birgit Nilsson** both have agreed to join our panel of Honorary Advisors. You will soon be able to read biographical summaries of each of these revered artists on our JBS website. While we have purposely kept our list of Honorary Advisors short and select, we can assure you that there will be several additional new appointments made during 2003. Your nominations for other candidates are solicited – please contact members of your JBS Board of Directors: Mickey, Bill, Ken, Dan.

Speaking of the JBS Directors, you've probably noticed that we've appointed a new member: **Kendall Svengalis** of Stonington, CT. Ken joined JBS in its early days (we're 5 years old, already!) and has done yeoman work for us with long articles on our 1999 and 2002 Conferences in the main Swedish-American newspaper *Nordstjernan*. Ken's long-standing friendships with Harald Henrysson and Björling family members are appreciated by all, as well. Ken has agreed also to serve as JBS Vice President.

After all these years, our longtime stalwart Directors **Tom Hines** and **Bill Clayton** have requested to be relieved of their duties as Directors – we thank them again for their many contributions, early and often on behalf of JBS, and hope that they will continue their valued support of our JBS publications and the Björling-list.

And of course your Directors also rely on an active **Advisory Board**, thus we are pleased that Tom Hines has agreed to serve on that Board.

Did we skip you with Journal issue #13? Some members have complained that our last Journal issue, #13 (dated Fall 2001 and mailed in February 2002), never got to them. This special 44-page issue with its articles on Bertil Bengtsson's presentation to the Smithsonian Institute, the 2001 Conference at Gustavus, and analyses by Soviet Academician V.V. Timokhin, Hal Sokolsky, Don Pruitt, Carla Ramsey and others sets the standard we hope to maintain in our future issues. Call or write Dan if you failed to receive your copy! (tel. 608-239-1593 or dshea@chorus.net)

Although we'll resume publication of the Journal with the Spring 2003 issue, our work for the New York Conference precluded further publications during the year. During 2002 you should have received from us, in addition to *Journal* issue #13, Newsletters #3 and 4, a double-fold blue Conference announcement, and our JBS Membership Directory.

Our Summer Newsletter #4 summarized some of attractions of our next *Journal* issue.

Invitations to all with computer-access (JBS members or not): Visit our recently refurbished website www.jussibjorlingsociety.com and join our online discussion group (for information on both of these projects, email Mickey at mdove@cox.net).

Special announcement to Washington DC area Jussi-fans: Bertil Bengtsson and Hans Thunström's program of "Jussi Björling in Sound, Word, and Picture" will be presented by Washington's Vocal Arts Society on April 29, 2003. For more information, go to www.vocalartssociety.org or call 202-265-8177.

For Zinka Milanov admirers, there's an important biography project nearing completion, that is in need of financial support at this time. For further information, call or write Dan (at 608-239-1593 or dshea@chorus.net).

Here is a preliminary announcement of **JBS's own contributions to young artists during 2002:** a total of \$1550 to pianist Aoife O'Sullivan, tenor Michael Mayer, and the JB Music Scholarship Endowment Fund at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Finally, we urge you one last time to **consider an additional contribution to JBS**, to enable your JBS Board of Directors to maintain and improve its work to help support the vocal tradition and its great exemplar, Jussi Björling. Contributions should be sent to JBS via Mickey Dove (see p. 1 for ways to do that).

Happy New Year, Gott nytt år, to all!

-from your JBS Board (Mickey & Bill Dove, Dan Shea, Ken Svengalis)