

## From the President

By Janel E. Lundgren



**T**he 20th anniversary year of JBS-USA began with our recent celebratory conference in Washington D.C.

Thanks to the planning and organizational skills of board member Sue Flaster, and the generous financial support of the membership, we enjoyed the musical excellence of Washington Concert Opera, a full day of distinguished speakers, a beautiful venue in the Swedish Embassy, and the warm fellowship of our fellow members in a reception hosted by Maija Bodow.

At the conference, a new, historic CD was made available for the first time, which members still may purchase by check or through our website. "Jussi Björling—Rarities from Opera, Concert and Radio" is an invaluable addition to your collection of early JB performances, and is available only to JBS members.

We extend a special thank you to Terry Williams, for his service as president 2015-2017. Significant projects were accomplished or initiated on his watch, including plans for the 2017 conference and new CD, and our new website. We hope you are making good use of the website, which is constantly updated, and is overflowing with

current activities, in-depth information, and links to other JB sites.

Our 20th year observances continue with this special edition of our 2018 Journal. In this issue, the results of Walter Rudolph's JBS Survey of Jussi's top 5 Favorite Arias appear. (Did you know, you now can listen to the previously announced 5 Favorite Songs on our website? The 5 Favorite Arias will be posted next month!) The results of the final segment of the Survey, the top 3 Complete Operas, will appear in the July newsletter, — at which time another tell-us-your-favorites survey is anticipated!

Also in these pages is an announcement of plans to meet in Sweden in early September 2018 (see page 29). We are working with Stefan Olmårs, Secretary of the Jussi Björling Society, Scandinavia, on an itinerary to include his Jussi Festival in Strömsbruk, beginning September 1st. Save the dates!

As we look to the future, we on the JBS Board are committed to continuing our traditional membership services, publications and special events. In addition, we hope to pursue some new online projects, such as development of our Facebook presence, and mutual outreach exchanges with other musical organizations—all aimed at sustaining and increasing our membership. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Last, we offer a final salute to another wonderful tenor, Nicolai Gedda (1925-2017), whose talents, successes and long career are explored in this Journal. We will miss the artistry he brought to the musical world, and his gracious presence on our Honorary Advisory Board.

JBS-USA is a very special and unique organization, because of the supreme artist it celebrates, and because of the friendship, participation and support of its members. Thank you all!

Warmest greetings,  
Janel E. Lundgren, President and Editor

P.S. A membership form is enclosed. If you have not yet renewed your membership, need we say it, that we can't do this without you?