

5. Jussi's Recordings Still Eliciting Rave Reviews, for a New Naxos CD

Our previous Newsletter #5 mentioned the first two CDs in Naxos's forthcoming "Jussi Björling Collection," as well as other issues by Bluebell and Caprice. Now reviews are starting to come in on Naxos's Vol. 1, and here we'll just give a taste of the review from the American Record Guide for March/April (by Lee Milazzo), with a more complete survey to come in our next issue of the *JBS Journal*:

"The sheer sound still stops your heart and takes your breath – **only one voice had that clarity, purity, and beauty.** As we hear in Volume 1 of Naxos's complete Jussi Bjoerling Collection (1930-1938), the tenor possessed all of those qualities, plus a remarkable maturity in recordings made when he was only 19."

This CD, "where everything is sung in Swedish, also presents Bjoerling in repertory that he soon abandoned: operetta and popular song. If you have never heard these selections, here offered in excellent transfers by [Stefan Lindström], you are in for a treat. "Dein ist mein ganzes Herz," from 1932 – he was all of 21 – rivals any of the classic Tauber recordings; the Kálmán arias could hardly be bettered; and the arias from Offenbach's *Belle Hélène* and Millöcker's *Bettelstudent*, with its spectacular high D, are beyond compare. Here's one of those rare recordings you'll play again and again."

6. Issue #14 of JBS's Journal Is Slated for Spring 2003

Paragraph 5 above alludes to our next issue of the *JBS Journal*, and indeed that's in preparation now – with a preview of its "juicy" contents already listed in *Newsletter #4*.

7. Check JBS's Website for Continual Updates

Webmaster Mickey Dove has done a major revision of www.jussibjorlingsociety.com, adding many new features, and we recommend you check it periodically for updates.

8. JBS-USA has new Honorary Advisors Plácido Domingo and Neil Shicoff

Our previous *Newsletter #5* told of Robert Merrill and Birgit Nilsson joining JBS-USA as Honorary Advisors. Now with similar pride we can add the names of **Plácido Domingo** and **Neil Shicoff** to our list of Honorary Advisors – these two unique tenors share much with Jussi Björling, in addition to being great tenors in their own right: Let's just note here that their fathers were all professional singers; that they each were singing semi-professionally by the age of 8; and they'd all debuted in a major tenor role by the age of 19.

9. Invitation to JBS Members – An Excursion to Glyndebourne in June

Just about the toughest opera ticket to get, anywhere, is for the **Glyndebourne Festival** in England. And the hit of the upcoming season looks to be an all-star *Tristan und Isolde*. Thanks to generous help from this production's dashing Tristan, Robert Gambill, Dan has been able to obtain six tickets for June 25 and will be attending, as will Stefan Olmårs of the JB Sällskapet. Consider building a trip to the UK that includes this event, and call or email Dan to consult on arrangements. Check out also the website www.glyndebourne.com.