

# Newsletter of the Jussi Björling Society

## J.B.S.-USA and J.B. Appreciation Society-UK

No. 9, June 2005

Dear music-friends,

Here belatedly is your first communication from us since late December, when we mailed you our **Newsletter #8** with its reports on our September 2004 Congress of Björling Societies in Sweden.

1. We'll report here on **new CD releases** of interest, especially by Jussi Björling – who remains a sales phenomenon: His records continue year after year as top best-sellers, with minimal marketing help from the record companies. In an era with just a few big record companies still standing, and those concentrating on the pop market, we classical vocal fans need help!

Here JBS can offer some help, at least for hard-to-get CDs by Jussi Björling:

In a separate *announcement with this Newsletter* we report on a **Summer Sale** organized for JBS members by Harald Henrysson, Curator of the **Jussi Björling Museum** in Borlänge.

We urge you to consider two especially wonderful categories of CDs available from the Museum:

\* **Swedish Bluebell's The Jussi Björling Series** of recordings, usually from the archives of Swedish Radio and The Royal Opera in Stockholm: here Jussi is clearly *at home* and his happy rapport with his audiences adds to our own pleasure. (We recommend the thrilling Bluebell 092 with Jussi's Film and Radio Recordings.)

\* **Naxos's Jussi Björling Collection** aims to present just about every commercial recording Jussi ever made, as well as many of his broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera and elsewhere. Their most recent exciting release is the Met's 1950 broadcast of *Faust* with sound-engineering by Ward Marston. Other top sound engineers helping Naxos get the most out of Jussi's recordings are Mark Obert-Thorn and Stefan Lindström.

While music lovers in the UK and elsewhere outside of the USA usually can get Naxos CDs in their local stores, the USA's restrictive copyright laws currently allow NONE of Naxos's "Historical Series" to be generally available here. If you can find Naxos CDs of Caruso, Gigli, and Björling (in their superb transcriptions by Marston, Obert-Thorn, and Lindström), snap them up because they are not being replaced by Naxos-USA.

**Here JBS rides to the rescue:** You can get Naxos's Björling CDs directly from the Björling Museum, and in fact simple membership in JBS-USA during 2005 (i.e. payment of a membership contribution this year) gets you **Volume 4 of Naxos's Jussi Björling Collection** (imported from Sweden, together with a translation of Harald's authoritative notes).

**How else is our Jussi Björling Society justifying your support of its work?**

You can read here about activities so far in 2005, and our plans for the rest of the year.

In our next **Section 2**, you'll read about our progress toward making available to you and Jussi-admirers everywhere the **Library of Congress recordings** we reported about in our Journal #14.

In **Section 3**, you'll read about our "Mini-Conference" of February 3 at the **Los Angeles Opera**.

In **Section 4**, we offer ideas for **JBS group travel in 2006** and ask for **your preferences**. And we bring you some good news of **five music festivals honoring Jussi this summer!**

In remaining sections, we tell you about two new JBS-USA officers, the new Chairman of the Scandinavian JBS, plans for our next publications, and recent JBS support of young singers.

Your support of our Jussi Björling Societies continues to be deeply appreciated!

-**Dan Shea**, Newsletter Editor