

## 4. Ideas for Björling Society travel and events during 2006.

Given the great success of the Björling Societies' Congress in Sweden last year, and the amount of work needed to make that happen, it's pretty clear that *another meeting on that scale won't be attempted before 1997!* But smaller-scale events of one or two days, in interesting places, seem like a useful alternative: We'd like to hear your suggestions!

We especially need suggestions about a time and place that allows opera and activities of interest to our members, ideas for accommodations, and the names of key people to contact (e.g. opera officials). **Perhaps our February 2005 visit to Los Angeles can provide a model** (note that the program could be doubled without much extra effort).

Natural wintertime targets for these gatherings might be Sarasota, Houston, San Diego, Costa Mesa, LA, San Francisco, Seattle. Other natural places could be Chicago, St Paul, Portland, Charleston, New York, Washington DC.

**How about a Scandinavian holiday during July 2006?** To investigate ideas for 2006, Dan will visit Borlänge and the JB Museum, and the nearby Lake Siljan summer music festival, this July.

In mid-July a two-day Björling-related meeting ("Jussi in our hearts") has become established in nearby Voxna, organized by the Scandinavian JB Society. This year the program features a lecture-concert by former Jussi-costar Erik Saedén and his student, rising young tenor Mats Carlsson. There also will be a lecture by Harald Henrysson, and all arrangements are planned by famed JBS tour-organizer Stefan Olmårs. For more information, go to the Museum's website: [www. borlange.se/kommun /jussi](http://www.borlange.se/kommun/jussi)

Then Dan will travel to the famed Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland, to prepare for a possible side-trip for JBS members in 2006. (See [www .operafestival.fi](http://www.operafestival.fi))

If you check the museum's website noted above, you will see that besides the July Jussi-fest in Voxna, there are **four first-class music festivals during August 2005 that honor Jussi's memory!**

In early August there's a festival in Trondheim that this year will present Bertil Bengtsson's superb "Golden evening with Jussi Björling" and two major Jussi-related concerts featuring Lars Björling, Raymond Björling, and Gwyn Hughes Jones. For this see [www. olavsfestdagene.no](http://www.olavsfestdagene.no) .

Other programs will be held at Dalhalla on August 3 (with Badri Maisuradze and the Bolshoi orchestra and chorus); on Ljusterö August 12-14 (with Raymond Björling, Ingrid Tobiasson, and others, hosted by Bengt Krantz, as well as visiting artists from Convent Garden and the ENO); and in Göteborg on August 21 (featuring Tito Beltrán and Ann-Marie Backlund).

We especially note that tenor Maisuradze was third prize winner at the 1994 Jussi Björling competition, and tenor Hughes Jones was second prize winner – and a rising international star!

Our JBS excursion in July 2006 could involve a week at Borlänge and the Voxna and Lake Siljan Festivals (see [www. musikvidsiljan.se](http://www.musikvidsiljan.se)) and then there could be an optional further week at the Savonlinna festival ([www. operafestival.fi](http://www.operafestival.fi)), possibly with a stop in Helsinki.

Those traveling to Savonlinna also could consider a further possible side trip to nearby St Petersburg, Russia.

Our JBS and JBAS officers will be considering plans for 2006 and beyond in early autumn, and your ideas are especially welcome in the next few months: Call or email Dan at 608-836-6911 ([dshea @chorus.net](mailto:dshea@chorus.net)) or Eric Wimbles at 017 24710334 ([erickwimbles @onetel.com](mailto:erickwimbles@onetel.com)).