

# Newsletter of the Jussi Björling Society

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

No. 11, January 2007

Dear music-friends,

This Newsletter is your first communication from us since June, when we mailed you a copy of the **Bluebell 2-CD** set called "Jussi Björling – Radamés. Alfredo, Roméo" of previously unreleased and rare opera recordings from the Swedish Radio archives, 1934-1951. Many of you wrote of **your reactions** to hearing these souvenirs of live performances from Stockholm, and we'll quote some of those below.

In a "mini-Newsletter" last May, we invited you to join a JBS-sponsored **weekend in Minneapolis** in mid-June, with meetings featuring Anders Björling and Harald Henrysson at the American Swedish Institute there, as well as a JBS Board meeting and concerts presented by the local Schubert Club during their Midsummer Song Festival. We'll report on a few of those events below, but will defer a substantial report – with photographs – to our forthcoming Journal issue #16.

At our June Board meeting, we decided to contract with longtime member Michael Mayer to refurbish our JBS-USA website and that process is now underway: You can visit the **new website** in its current state at [jussibjorlingsociety.org](http://jussibjorlingsociety.org) (the previous site had the same URL with <org> replaced by <com>). As a sample of the improvements, click on the link to <Events> and on the 2004 International Congress in Sweden: If you select John Steane's lecture "Jussi Björling in London," you'll find not only the text of that lecture but also **sound-clips** of the recordings that Mr Steane played then to illustrate his assertions. For other interesting additions to this website, see our article later in this issue.

There's also news here of a **new book** with a spectacular assessment of our tenor: We'll tell you about Danny Newman's just-published memoir "Tales of a Theatrical Guru." Newman played a big part in establishing Lyric Opera of Chicago in 1954, and he especially admired the great singers who played key roles at Lyric: He devotes whole chapters to Callas and Tebaldi, di Stefano, Domingo, Pavarotti, Tucker, Gobbi, and Björling. He was a friend and confidant to these artists, as well as a knowledgeable admirer. We'll quote some highlights from his **chapter on Jussi**.

Although Jussi's recording career ended in 1960, **new releases** continue to become available – and as usual we have some news here about the latest plans. Sometimes we're even in a position to help encourage sound-technicians to improve existing recordings and make them more widely available, or occasionally, as with this year's new Bluebell release, to help publish material never before available.

For all this, as well as news of our **next Journal issue** and our plans for **travel to Sweden and Finland in July 2007** – for music festivals near Borlänge and Savonlinna – see the next few pages!

From the JBS Board: *Greg Fitzmaurice, Sue Flaster, Laura Homonnay-Demilio,  
Dan Shea, Art Skantz, Kendall Svengalis*