

(4). How about a Scandinavian holiday during July 2007?

You're invited: Join our friendly, international group of music lovers in Borlänge during July 3-8 for programs at the JB Museum there as well as concerts at the nearby "Music on Lake Siljan" festival. On July 8 we'll travel to nearby Voxna, to join a small festival organized by the Scandinavian Jussi Björling Society on July 9.

On the 10th, we'll travel to Stockholm to embark on a relaxing overnight cruise to Helsinki through the Swedish skärgård (archipelago), on our way to the Savonlinna opera festival. There we'll have five days for scheduling the three main operas presented at the ancient castle there (Verdi's *Macbeth*, Kortekangas' new *Daddy's girl*, and *Carmen*) as well as several smaller events: A concert of "Rising stars" in the opera school, a special Lied concert "for children and the young at heart," the children's opera *Canine Kalevala*, a 40th anniversary concert on July 15, and some local tourism around beautiful Lake Saimaa.

A very special event will occur on the evening of July 16: Of course Harald Henrysson will have helped plan our programs in Borlänge, and we can count on his genial expertise throughout this trip. But on the 16th Harald has a special birthday (some say his 65th), and we'll celebrate that with him, with a post-opera program at the Club Opera).

From Savonlinna we will go back to Helsinki on July 17 for a few days of further tourism and music: we expect to plan programs with the Gigli Society based there as well as with the Sibelius Academy. Most of us will arrange to return home directly from Helsinki on the 21st or 22nd, but great flexibility is possible throughout: come to Borlänge a little later, for instance, or stay on in Finland longer on your own.

For now, we recommend that you let us know at once if you might be interested in joining us on this excursion. To help you with this, by all means check the websites for the Savonlinna Opera Festival www.operafestival.fi/en and the Music on Lake Siljan Festival: www.musikvidsiljan.se.

If you'd like help with travel arrangements, you could call our friend Sari Heiskanen in Washington DC at www.scandiatravel.com.

We'll be updating this information and providing more details about costs, at least to those who express interest directly to us.

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(5). Issue No. 16 of our JBS Journal coming soon – aiming for March?

We are now assembling some excellent material for our next issue Journal issue, which concentrates on Jussi Björling in *Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria rusticana*. For instance Harald Henrysson has found reviews of Jussi as Canio in *Pagliacci*, in all the seasons when he assumed that role in Sweden as well as reviews from Nuremberg and Vienna in 1937. Harald assembles this material to give a vivid picture of our young tenor's assumption of this difficult role, and how his acting matured in the years between 1936 (!) and his last performance in 1955.

We also will bring you persuasive reviews of Jussi's recordings of these two operas by Stephen Hastings and David McKee – very fine analyses indeed, as well as reports on Jussi-related Cav/Pag issues by Don Goldberg, Karl Hekler, Bill Clayton, and Laura Homonnay-Demilio.