

The Jussi Björling Society - USA, Inc.

The Jussi Björling Society – USA, Inc.
Mailing Address:
3337 Conservancy Lane
Middleton WI 53562 USA
Telephone: 608-836-6911

Website:
www.jussibjorlingsociety.com

Honorary Advisory Board:
Licia Albanese
Joan Baez
Plácido Domingo
Nicolai Gedda
Håkan Hagegård
Ben Heppner
Regina Resnik
Neil Shicoff
Elisabeth Söderström
Giorgio Tozzi
Rolando Villazón

Advisory Board:
Bertil Bengtsson
Anders Björling
William C. Clayton
Florence Dove
Barbro Ehnborn
Andrew Farkas
Donald Goldberg
Harald Henrysson
Thomas Hines
Martin Riskin
Walter Rudolph
Robert Tuggle

Board of Directors:
Gregory Fitzmaurice
Susan Flaster
Laura Homonnay-Demilio
Daniel Shea
Arthur Skantz
Kendall Svengalis

General Counsel:
Terry L. Williams
Kansas City, MO

Membership Chair:
Laura Homonnay-Demilio
2354 Buena Vista Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
Demiliod@upmc.edu
Telephone 412-271-5984

"...To hear him was a joy for body and soul. As the voice of the thrush rejoices in the summer night, so our singer rejoiced - the voice of the Swedish landscape itself..." Johannes Norrby

February, 2007

Dear Fellow Member of JBS-USA,

This is to express again our sincere thanks for your essential support! We love keeping track of Jussi Björling's splendid career with you, but your moral and financial support validates and enables what we do as a group.

Every once in a while this all becomes really clear – for instance at our Board meeting at Art Skantz's home last June 10, **Vern Kenney** joined us to hear about our issues and problems, and offered this idea: "All you officers are completely unpaid volunteers, putting in lots of time for us and in fact putting out your own money to travel here and pay hotel bills, etc. You have a bunch of valuable projects going, between the recordings that you're getting out to us, the publications you put together, the conferences you've arranged with really great speakers, as well as other opportunities that you arrange for travel and fellowship. Those of us who can afford it, should be contributing a lot more than \$35, really. Do many of our members contribute a lot more than the standard \$35?" Vern asked.

The answer is definitely YES, we do get some generous extra support from quite a few of our members who have the means to do so, and that's greatly appreciated. We have about 10 Lifetime members, who've paid \$1000 or more to support our work. And we have amazing members like **Walter Daly**, who describes himself as our "Roads Scholar" because he works as a taxicab driver in Fort Lauderdale. His cab has one of our JBS bumper stickers on it, and he plays Björling on his tape deck while driving his customers. A recent customer was Patrick Flynn, the Managing Director of Florida Grand Opera, and he emailed Walter afterwards that his was "the most memorable and enjoyable ride I've ever had in a taxi!" Suffice to say, Walter has given Mr Flynn copies of our JBS Journal as well as copies of reviews of a J.B. Trovatore in Miami, that he found for the Museum, and in appreciation Mr. Flynn has invited Walter to the opera's patron bar. Further, Mr. Flynn has sent us a kind letter about JBS's work, and Walter thinks that we're in a good position to have a JBS conference at the FGO house, if we but ask. Oh, and Walter sometimes gives JBS an extra \$100 of his hard-earned cash, along with some eloquence like this: "It is an honor and privilege to belong to JBS-USA and share the love and appreciation of JB and his craft with such a knowledgeable and erudite group!"

With support like that, how can we not find our JBS work validating and useful? This is of course a round-about way of asking YOU for your continued support, as we enter a new "Jussi-year," and there is a form enclosed for that purpose.

As many of you know, Anna-Lisa Björling-Barkman passed away on November 24 at the age of 96, and so regretfully we must remove her name from our list of Honorary Advisors here. We plan to provide an appreciation of her life with Jussi in our next Journal issue.

With sincere thanks again for your past, and we hope still continuing, support.

Dan,
for the JBS Board of Directors