

1. Björling-events in Borlänge, Mora, and Voxna during July.

Harald Henrysson and friends from the JB Museum and the Scandinavian JB Sällskapet have put together some very attractive programs for Björling Society members who join a JBS-USA tour during July. Here's a brief outline:

July 4-6 at the Museum brings us these opportunities for discussion:

Borlänge native Göran Forsling tells about "Great Swedish Singers" and

Roger Alderstrand will show us "Jussi in caricature" on July 4;

Ragnhild Nyhus from Norway will describe "Kirsten Flagstad and her Museum" and

Christer Eklund will tell about his work for the Kerstin Thorborg Archive on July 5;

Jan-Olof Damberg and Harald will conclude this series with reports on "Jussi and sports" and "David Björling: Background, early years, and the beginning of the Björling quartet."

During these days, some of us will take in events at the nearby "Music on Lake Siljan" festival, the highlight for us being Raymond Björling's concert on July 7 of "solo music with a typical touch" in Mora. Earlier, Bertil Bengtsson will give us an insider's tour of Mora and its Anders Zorn Museum devoted to that truly marvelous master of oils, watercolor, and sculpture.

The scene changes for us on July 8 when we travel north from Dalarna to the adjacent province of Hälsingland, known for its music, handicrafts, and hospitality as well as rich connections to Björling family history. We'll travel to Voxna to join a mini-festival organized by the Scandinavian Jussi Björling Society; we'll sample Swedish culture, food, and hospitality, and begin to "walk in the footsteps of Jussi Björling, his father, and his grandfather." On July 9, we'll have a talk by Bertil Bengtsson on three great Swedish voice teachers, stop briefly at a special art gallery, and visit Björling family sites in Voxna; there we are to hear a concert featuring tenors Mats Carlsson and Hans Qvarfell, and baritone Bengt Krantz, hosted by Kerstin Meyer and other friends of Jussi. There will be an excellent smörgåsbord at the Voxna Herrgård and a further Jussi-program there hosted by Mme. Meyer. [And as a special accommodation to our travelers, the discussions will be in English this year.]

After this big night of authentic food, music, and discussion, we bus to Stockholm, then cruise to Helsinki, where a substantially different touristic and musical experience will begin. To see a brief discussion of that, go to www.jussibjorlingsociety.ORG and click on <Travel>. A full report may appear in a later Newsletter.

An encouraging comment from JB Sällskapet member Per Bäckström: "I think the concert in Voxna will be especially fine this year. Recently I attended a concert near Stockholm especially to hear Mats Carlsson. I'm glad to report that he has made considerable progress in the past year and now has become a really great tenor."