

# Editors' note

In this newsletter you will find a wide variety of topics from new CD (and MP3) issues to an overview of last summer's activities in the North. There is also an article about Joan Baez, one of our honorary advisors. In the future, we plan to make short pieces about our advisors a regular feature of the newsletter, and perhaps of the *Journal* as well. These are people who care deeply about the music of Jussi Björling, and we should know more about them!

We also begin talking "officially" about the planned conference to take place in Charleston, SC May 15, 16 and 17 of 2009. It's been quite a while since we were all together, and this gives us a chance to meet in the US before the major celebrations of 2011.

On the subject of 2011, the city of Borlänge has set up a committee and allocated funds for the celebration. Harald Henrysson is, of course, on the committee, and he will keep us informed as plans are firmed up.

There have been some changes to our membership policy, and they are as follows: membership in the JBS-USA runs from January 1st until December 31st of the calendar year. An exception will be made for membership monies received after November 1st, as they will be credited toward membership for the following calendar year.

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so in the near future. We can't operate without your contributions, and indeed there is no Society without your membership. Please mail your 2008 membership donation to Greg Fitzmaurice at 4208 Swarthmore Road, Durham, NC 27707.

We would also be grateful for more of you to sign up on the Yahoo groups email list. That can be done by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bjorling/> and clicking on "join this group." This list is an excellent way to stay in touch, pass along information quickly and share opinions with your fellows.

The next newsletter will reach you in early November, and will be followed by the larger, more "academic" *Journal* at the beginning of February of 2009. We are always happy to receive manuscripts of particular (or general) musical interest, and those may be sent to any of the members of the editorial committee, to wit:

- Sue Flaster, Chair  
sueflaster@earthlink.net
- Greg Fitzmaurice  
GregFNC@aol.com
- Ward Murray  
wvmurray@hotmail.com
- Don Pruitt  
stedon@earthlink.net
- Dan Shea  
dshea@chorus.net

Apologies to Bill Clayton for a misprint on page 32 of the most recent issue of the *Journal* ( no. 16, Feb. 2008): people were described as "besides" themselves, when they were clearly meant to be "beside" themselves. In the same article, please note that "trained" in the last sentence should have been "drained."

*Baez continued from page 1*

take along a friend with a digital camera and equally emotional memories.

Baez was relaxed, chatty, confident in our warmth, full of humor, and—alas—suffering from a throat infection. What can one say? It hardly mattered. This person in some way represents my entire generation, and to hear a warm story about Martin Luther King can sometimes be more moving than a great musical performance. And her imitation of Bob Dylan got a big laugh.

Afterwards we stopped backstage briefly. She was welcoming and open, but clearly very tired and not entirely well. I left her with a Jussi pin, a copy of the 'Fram' CD, the Museum brochure and the best wishes of all 3 Societies.

Of course, this is not the first "official" meeting with Baez: Dan Shea saw her perform and visited her backstage in 2005 ( see picture above). To keep up with Joan's current activities, and her US and European tours, visit her web site at [www.joanbaez.com](http://www.joanbaez.com). ■

Sue Flaster and Joan Baez at the Charleston Music Hall, April 6, 2008

