

New Issues on CD and MP3

Jussi Björling, songs and opera arias
1936-1955

(Mp3, 7 hours, 1 minute)

1. Their own compilation of Jussi's studio recordings, 72 tracks
2. 1958 Carnegie Hall recital (copy of RCA but incorrectly identified as 1955)
3. Copy of Rarities (VAI)

The sound is surprisingly good, if a bit tinny. The material is incorrectly listed as ending with 1955. This is probably to avoid copyright issues. Available through amazon.com

La Bohème, 1948, Metropolitan Opera
Manon Lescaut, 1956, Metropolitan Opera

Good news for all admirers of Björling! Ward Marston has just restored (from excellent sources) 2 more operas that are superior in sound to previously available versions. The 1948 *Bohème* and 1956 *Manon Lescaut* will be released on the WHRA label in Europe with notes by Stephen Hastings. The 4 CD box (WHRA-6020) set will be available in late July from the Jussi Björling Museum and from JBS-USA at a cost TBA.

Naxos 7: *Land du välsignade*

And, of course, it's useful to think about the rest of the splendid Naxos series, working their way through the entire Björling output. Naxos 7 is titled "Land du välsignade," and subtitled "Swedish national-romantic songs, 1929-1953." The current, Swedish version, has illuminating notes by Harald Henrysson, mostly about the songs and composers. The 20 items on this



CD include *I drömmen du är mig nära*, *Tonerna*, *Vita rosor*, *När jag för mig själv i mörka skogen går*, *Ack Värmeland du sköna*, *Sommarnatt*, *Sverige*, *Land, du välsignade*, *Sjung din hela längtan ut*, *Sjungdoms studentens lyckliga dag*, *Nämner du Sverige*, *Skogen sover*, *Morgon*, *Bön i ofredstid*, *Bisp Thomas frihetsång*, *Till havs*, *Sången till havet*, *Vis kring slånblom och mänskära*, *Jungfrun under lind*.

The disk is very nicely packaged, with a rarely-used photo against a background of Swedish lake-landscape.

Should make a really nice gift!

This CD is available from the Jussi Björling Museum, or from the JBS-USA for \$10 US (see below) for members.

Testament CD: JB in Song

The incomparable song session of 1952 in wonderful sound, plus previously unissued test pressings. This CD is available in the US only through JBS-USA. The price to members is \$12 per disc; price to non-members is \$47 (see below).

CD ordering

Members

Naxos 7 \$10 x _____ copies: Total \$ _____

Testament \$12 x _____ copies: Total \$ _____

Non-members

Naxos 7 \$45 first copy, additional copies _____ x \$10: Total \$ _____

Testament \$47 first copy, additional copies _____ x \$12: Total \$ _____

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