



The upcoming book

(Decca 467 119-2) and the "O holy night" of Adam (WHRA 6036). In the "Wanderers Nachtlied" of Schubert (Bluebell ABCD 050) one is struck by the Goethean calm of a man who comprehends everything (even the mysteries of death), while the gesture of forgiveness of his Riccardo in *Ballo in maschera* (Myto 981 H008) has an otherworldly grace entirely the equal of the Verdian inspiration. Even the short tenor soli in Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* acquire in his voice an unusual prominence, and "et incarnatus est" from the Credo makes tangible the presence of a divine spirit which invests man. It is the man, Björling, although troubled and sometimes disordered in his private life, who never stops finding inspiration through music. Even in the last recorded concert of August 1960, we hear a Grail song of Lohengrin ("In fernem land," WHRA-6036), which seems the noblest farewell of "one of the purest among men." ■

"*The Björling Sound, A Recorded Legacy*" by Stephen Hastings, will be published by the University of Rochester Press in May, 2012.

Jussi Björling *Phonography* revision published on the web

By Harald Henrysson

At the end of November 2011, I published an update of substantial parts of my Jussi Björling *Phonography* on the Jussi Björling Museum's web site. Four PDF files, comprised of 304 pages, can be accessed directly at http://www.borlange.se/templates/BlgPage_____65925.aspx. An introduction describes in detail the principles applied for each part.

The Chronological List of Recordings (226 pages) now, as in the book, consists of two parts: A) Studio Recordings for Record Companies (152 pp.); B) Live Recordings; Studio Recordings for Broadcasting Companies; Radio Interviews; Films (74 pp). Nine recordings found since the book was published in 1993 have been added to the latter part.

The numbering principle remains the same as in the book, with recorded *items* consecutively numbered under A), and recorded *performances* numbered year by year, with individual items sub-numbered by letters, under B). The addition of recordings made re-numbering necessary for certain years. To avoid confusion, all numbers in the web edition, changed or not, have a period between year and the number within that year (3601 becomes 36.01, etc.).

Though I have compiled updated lists of all media with Björling recordings, only media sold today are included in the present web version: CDs (over 1100 compared to about 175 in 1993) and DVDs (not yet available in 1993). The number of CDs in an issue, sleeve titles and release dates are now also available for issues in the list of recordings.

The separate lists of CDs (48 pp.) and DVDs (2 pp.) offer further information about the issues (alternative numbers, series titles, first issue of a compilation, purposes of special issues, names of some authors of notes and engineers, etc.) besides the issue reference numbers.

The index (28 pages) is similar to the composer index in the printed *Phonography*, with an addition: an appendix lists music known to have been performed by Jussi Björling in public, but never recorded.

Ulf Sahlin, S2 Communications AB, Uppsala, Sweden, was responsible for the IT part of the project. A great deal of work has been needed to develop a well-functioning system which could encompass the many formats and types of information now viewable in the PDF files. We originally began this project intending to publish an on-line database including not only all recording information, but also the complete chronology of Jussi's performances (now available in the book *Jussi: sången, människan, bilderna*, edited by Jacob Forsell) and possibly more information like program details, pictures, etc. This will, however, still need much development. ■