

2011 Update and membership renewal

by Sue Flaster

As of this writing, activities and events for the centennial year of 2011 are collecting in a satisfying way, even if some things do remain uncertain: the Royal Swedish Opera is planning a memorial concert to take place in Stockholm on 2 September 2011; the critical assessment by Stephen Hastings, which we are all looking forward to, should be out in the late Fall of 2010, and a major photographic book should appear at the same time; at least one film appears to be on the way in Sweden; the City of Borlänge is planning a memorial concert for 2011, while precarious finances may limit plans for 2010.

In addition, Naxos has just issued their 8th CD in the "Jussi Björling Collection (reviewed here)," and Hanna Hedman of Bluebell is considering re-issues of the Gröna Lund and Skansen concerts as well as a "best of the best" collection. As they appear, these CDs will be available in the US (to members) through JBS-USA, or by ordering directly from the JB Museum, through new curator Jan-Olof Damberg. A small quantity of the new Naxos is available now, and can be ordered by sending \$10 to Dan Shea at 3337 Conservancy Lane, Middleton, WI 53562.

Clearly these important events, possible group travel and easy access to the new books and CDs are important to anyone reading this newsletter! Please take this opportunity to renew your JBS-USA membership for 2010 by mailing your check for \$35 (individual membership donation) or \$50 (family membership) to Sue Flaster, 42 Chapel St., Charleston, SC 29403. ■

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breadth of Harald Henrysson's contribution to the legacy of Jussi Björling. In the past 15 years, he has given the entire world a route into Jussi Björling's life and art—a road which would not otherwise have been open. Harald's work and support have made it possible for recordings to be issued, books to be written and congresses to be held.

After visiting Borlänge in September 2004 during a Björling conference, John Steane noted that there is no other museum in the world like the Jussi Björling Museum, and the primary reason it has been so splendid has been Harald Henrysson—and his work (The Museum is entirely funded by the city of Borlänge, leading Harald to describe himself—with his usual modest good humor—as the "Municipal Jussicologist.>").

On the occasion of his retirement, Harald made the following statement, "I am happy to have had the opportunity to take care of this museum during its first 14 1/2 years. I am sincerely grateful for all gifts and depositions that the museum has received from the Björling Family, the Royal Swedish Opera and other institutions and from numerous lovers of Jussi's art all over the world, and for the unfailing support from the City of Borlänge.

I wish Jan-Olof all success and can only regret that he takes over in a financial crisis in the city which also affects the museum and the preparations for the Jussi Björling Centenary in 2011. I expect to have close contacts with Jan-Olof and the museum for the next future." ■

