

## Letter from the Editor

In this Jubilee year, the memorial and celebratory events which have already taken place, and the enormous number which remain, demonstrate quite clearly that the genius and humanity of a great-hearted artist do not fade or lose their power, and are not dimmed by successive waves of artists, however brilliant or popular.

The launch of the WHRA 4-CD set has been an unqualified success in the US and in the UK. Those events were described in our last newsletter. In this JOURNAL, we reprint Lars Hemmingsson's notes on the Stockholm event, where the set was presented to a full house of enthusiasts. More new CD issues are also described in this issue.

We also complete our translation of Harald Henrysson's fascinating saga of David Björling. We follow him through his marriage and early professional life, and conclude with newly gathered information about his untimely death, which surely had a powerful impact on the lives of his young children. Harald has also been able to provide us with newly-found

posters illustrating the career of the touring Quartet. We reproduce some of them in this JOURNAL.

From Michael Mayer we have an expert and personal piece on Jussi Björling's early music training—an intriguing and difficult subject that many others have not been able to describe comprehensibly!

As plans for the June conference in St. Peter firm up, we are able to provide more information about the very exciting program, and also ask you to please fill out the form included with your JOURNAL, and send in your deposits.

I am very sad to have to report that Karl Hekler, longtime friend and Jussiphile, has passed away. Karl heard Jussi in performance 33 times, and his recollections of those events, his humor, his warmth and his great vitality are going to be deeply missed.

*Note:* we apologize for delays in shipping the CD set; demand has far outstripped the quantities we have had available, but we do expect to be current by the time you receive this publication.

### Two large Jussi Björling centenary issues from Sweden

In February, Bluebell will release all of Jussi's recordings from the Gröna Lund open-air stage for the first time. The three 3 CDs, "Jussi at Gröna Lund: Complete recordings 1950-60" will contain 65 arias and songs, carefully remastered by Christer Eklund. The issue will be sponsored by the Scandinavian and US Jussi Björling societies.

Naxos will also celebrate Jussi's memory with a Swedish-produced box containing 11 CDs: A) the 8 volumes already issued in "Jussi Björling Collection"; B) volumes 9 & 10, containing arias and songs 1951-60; and C) a bonus CD with excerpts from Jussi's complete opera recordings of music which he did not record outside of those performances. This issue has been remastered by Stefan Lindström, who has had access to the original tapes of the songs in Swedish from 1957 and 1959.

The English notes for Bluebell are written by Kristian Krogholm, for Naxos (which takes over Bluebell distribution from January 1) by Harald Henrysson. The Bluebell issue will be released on February 5th in Borlänge, when the Scandinavian Jussi Björling Society holds its annual meeting there. ■

