

The Centennial Conference: Jussicology! Fellowship! Music!



Baritone Sherrill Milnes



Mezzo Ingrid Tobiasson

Although there is a huge slate of exciting events planned for 2011 in Sweden, many of our members here may not wish to travel that far (or that expensively!). With that in mind, the Jussi Björling Society-USA will host a commemorative conference in St. Peter, MN, at Gustavus Adolphus College, June 22-26. We believe this will be the principal US celebration of Jussi's centennial, and we are very enthusiastic about this opportunity to meet again in Jussi Björling Recital Hall.

Many of us have warm memories of the JB Society conference held in St. Peter in 2001. Since then, we've been together in NY, Sweden and Charleston, but the meeting

at Gustavus Adolphus had many special qualities: we were all together conveniently for meals, the events themselves were concentrated at the College and we were treated to the warm hospitality of Jan and Anders Björling. This year, Anders has again offered to host a party for attendees at his home, an exciting prospect for us.

Highlights

The conference plans are moving ahead and I hope you will be as excited as I am about a varied and entertaining program with engaging talks and good music. The great American baritone Sherrill Milnes will give us a talk on "The Verdi baritone."

Mr. Milnes will be introduced by Barrett Crawford of the Leonard Warren Foundation. Many of us remember Barry warmly from his fine talk at the New York conference.

Stephen Hastings will join us again, always an exciting and illuminating prospect.

Harald Henrysson will come from Sweden and tell us about his new and intriguing database project. Bengt Krantz, president of the Scandinavian Society, will travel over—a real bonus both from friendship and vocal points of view!

Richard Copeman will represent the Jussi Björling Appreciation Society and also share new insights about the March, 1960 London performances of *La bohème*.

Dan Shea and Seth Winner will talk to us about the fantastic CD project your Society issued recently (through the good offices of Fred Maroth of WHRA). We reprint the report of the Scandinavian Society's public presentation in this issue.

We will have copies of Jacob Forsell's elegant new book about JB, *THE MUSIC, THE MAN, THE PICTURES*, as well as the editor himself, carrying his grandfather's notebooks and his own memories.

On Friday evening there will be a concert in the Jussi Björling Recital Hall featuring the great Swedish mezzo (and Royal Court Singer) Ingrid Tobiasson, tenor Mats Carlsson and Bengt Krantz, baritone. In addition the evening will include Charleston baritone David Templeton (see <http://music.cofc.edu/about/faculty-and-staff-listing/templeton-david.php> for more information about David) and two very gifted young singers: Nathan Matticks, baritone, and Johnathan White, tenor, since we also like to think about the future.

The "official" end of the conference will be at a gala dinner on Saturday evening. Just as some participants in the 2001 conference moved on to Santa Fe for other musical activities, it should be possible for folks to arrange to travel together to San Francisco for the SFO "Ring" cycle.