

## Letter from the Editor

This edition of our *Journal* has grown a bit beyond the original plans! We have a report on Dan Shea's fruitful efforts to get some great singing made available in sound of the quality it deserves, and Karl Pierson's fresh account of the Carnegie Hall appearance of the Upsala Choir (with a copy of the program) together with JB.

On the more philosophical front, Bill Clayton has provided a fascinating and absorbing consideration of JB's dramatically changing physical appearance—while his voice went on, seemingly unaffected. Harald Henrysson begins a look at David Björling and his career before the Björling Quartet: in this *Journal*, we publish the first part of this long survey. We also have an unusual commentary on a Schubert song and Jussi's performance of it from a long-time member of the Scandinavian Society. Alas, this issue must open with a short obituary note on Erik Saedén and Elisabeth Söderström.



This January marks the beginning of an dramatic two-year period for us and for all others who share our enthusiasms and emotional ties. As of now, memorial events for 2010 include the following: a Gothenburg choir is planning two memorial performances of the *Pearl Fishers* at the Gothenburg Concert Hall on April 25th with the participation of Royal Opera artists; a memorial concert is planned at Skansen in Stockholm on August 28th. A memorial concert is scheduled in Stockholm (in the "Music at The Royal Palace" series) in August; this becomes more intriguing since the conductor will be Mats Liljefors, who conducted the JB memorial concert at the Stockholm Concert Hall 25 years ago! In Borlänge, there will be a commemorative ceremony at the graveside in Stora Tuna on September 9th. The 2010 program in Voxna will take place July 12-13.

So far in 2011 we look forward to major concerts in the Fall at the Royal Opera in Stockholm and in Stora Tuna Church, and an exhibit at the Borlänge Public Library. Also planned is a mini-conference in Borlänge which will include a presentation of the new Jussi Björling data base. Recent cheerful news is that Göran Forsling has been added to the Borlänge commemorative committee.

Not strictly tied to these dates, we await books from Jacob Forsell (a richly illustrated memorial with Harald Henrysson and Roger Alderstrand's complete chronology) and Stephen

Hastings (a comprehensive critical analysis of JB's recordings).

There may be three films in the making, CD issues from Naxos (the last numbers of the JB collection) and Bluebell, as well as the issues described by Dan Shea. I hope you are giving serious consideration to being present at many of these compelling events.

A recent well-timed and widely-reprinted interview with Bengt Krantz has gotten positive reactions both from the official Swedish cultural machinery and beyond (mostly beyond). We'll all stay tuned.

Finally, a reminder that the 2010 membership year is now underway: we have mailed this *Journal* to everyone who was on our mailing list in 2008 and 2009 in hopes that those of you who dropped out, for whatever reason, will please come home. We miss you and we need you. I believe you also need us, especially as this important period begins.

The sign-up form is at the back of this *Journal*, as ever.

Sue Flaster  
*Editor*