

Newsletter

of the Jussi Björling Societies of the USA & UK

No. 18—November, 2010

The celebrations begin: Summer centennial and memorial events in Sweden

by Sue Flaster

The Voxna events this year were on July 12th and 13th and were the “official opening” of the Jussi year. Stefan Olmårs had arranged for us to hear the great mezzo Ingrid Tobiasson as well as Olle Persson—a baritone known mostly for intelligent lieder singing—and tenor Nils Olsson, this year’s JB Sällskapet prize winner. The young man is a big guy with a big voice, and quite a crowd pleaser, although one hopes that a greater sense of nuance will come with age and experience.

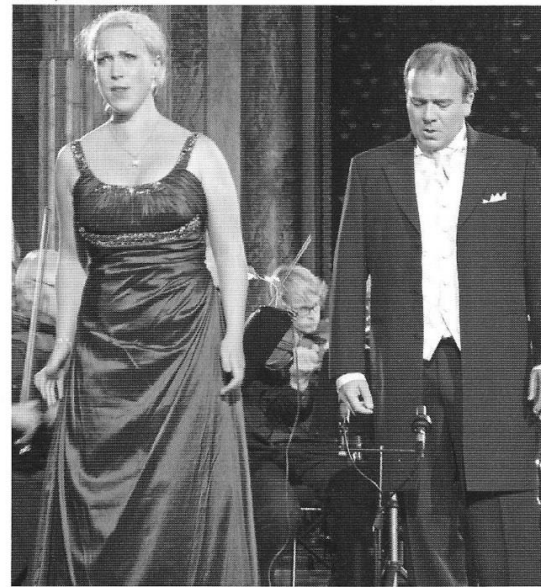
Ragnar Ulfung, now in his 80’s, joined us for the concert, and provided an hour of engrossing memories and critical thought in the morning, together with a short biographical film and some crafty and emotional tenor singing: it would be difficult to imagine a more personal and carefully managed “vesti la giubba.”

Ulfung’s presentation was another occasion to remember that great musical communication isn’t only a question of instrument and power.

On to Stockholm

A “Jussi Björling Memorial Concert” was the opening event in the Stockholm “Music at the Palace” Summer series, and

PELLE JANSSON

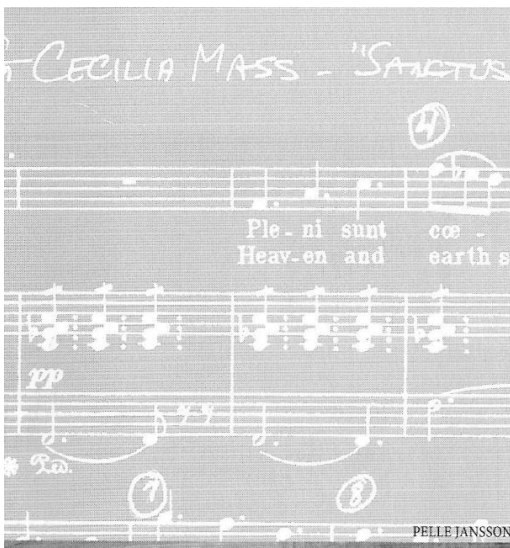


Paulina Pfeiffer and Mats Carlsson

took place on the evening of August 16th. Bengt Krantz introduced the concert, noting that Mats Liljefors, the conductor, had led the ensemble at the JB Memorial concert 25 years ago—a splendid connection.

Kerstin Meyer did the balance of the introductions, and told some charming stories of her contacts with JB, although handicapped by an inconvenient micro-

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Bengt Krantz welcomes the audience



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