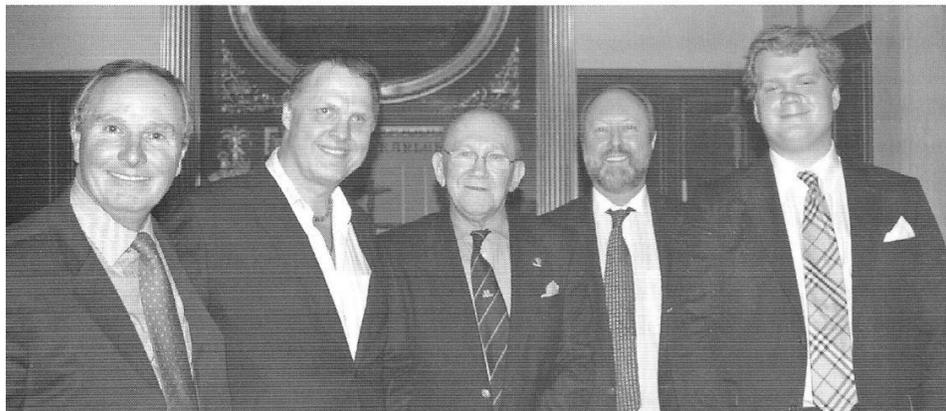


Centennial events begin!



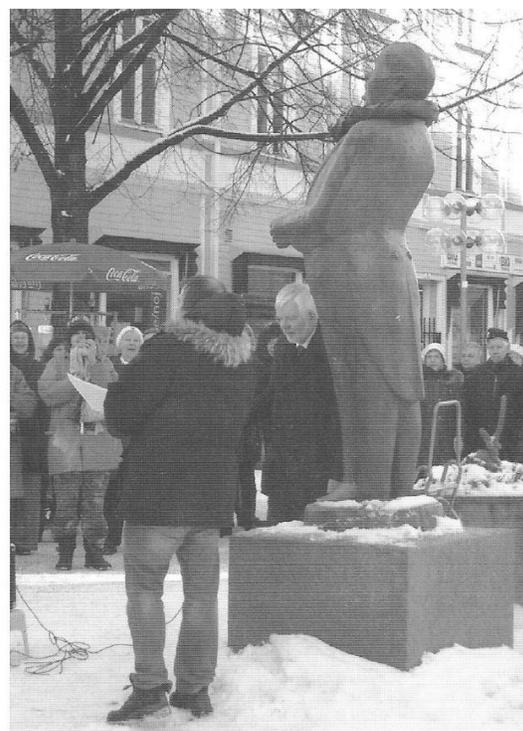
From the left: Robert Manderson, new Secretary and news editor of the Jussi Björling Appreciation Society, Raymond Björling, Eric Wimbles, JBAS President Richard Copeman and pianist Joakim Andersson.

Highlights of the “official” start of centennial year celebrations included an exciting concert on Feb. 5th hosted by the British JB Appreciation Society featuring Raymond Björling and pianist Joakim Andersson. At about the same time, the review of JB LIVE appeared in Gramophone magazine, written by the ailing John Steane. Mr. Steane, who had spoken at the Swedish Congress was a long-time supporter of all of the efforts of the Societies, and his incisiveness and enormous reservoir of experience and judgment cannot be duplicated.

Borlänge celebrates!

The Scandinavian Society held its annual meeting at the Björling Museum on the 5th of February. Harald Henrysson and Roger Alderstrand received this year’s Society prize for their diligent and productive research on the earliest part of the Björling boys’ career.

Before the meeting, we all assembled at the Jussi statue in Jussi Björlings Torg (square) where we were addressed by Göran Forsling, head of the centennial committee, and treated to Land du välsignade by Mats Carlsson. Mats gave a



Two chilly tenors (and Göran Forsling).

lovely and intimate concert in the Mission Church after the meeting.

Bryn Terfel, bad boy and Jussiphile

Bryn Terfel gave his well-practiced “bad boys of opera” concert at the Stockholm concert hall on February 23rd. Before starting the second half recital of assorted devils and villains, Terfel spoke warmly of what an honor it was for him to sing at an event dedicated to Björling’s memory. The concert was quite grand, as Terfel was accompanied by a full orchestra and chorus. ■

Bluebell Gröna Lund box, New Naxos box, New box from Sony

Your Society supported Bluebell Records in producing this elegant and very welcome 3-CD set of JB’s complete Gröna Lund recordings. The recordings have been carefully remastered, and are heard at the correct pitches and in wonderful sound. Copies of the set are available from the JBS-USA at \$30 + \$5 shipping.

Sony has released a cleverly packaged set of JB’s RCA LP recording issues, all now on CD. The set includes all of the RCA song and aria collections, as well as opera excerpts (one CD per opera) from the RCA complete opera recordings. There are 14 CDs in the set, including the magnificent “Jussi Bjoerling in Song,” LM 1771.

Naxos is preparing to issue an 11-CD box which will include all of their “JB Collection,” plus one new CD, currently being worked on. The set should be issued during the Swedish centennial conference in early September. ■