

JBS-USA travels to Minneapolis June 2006

The JBS-USA Board of Directors is required to meet for an Annual Meeting each November, and the most recent meeting came via telephone conference call on November 19, 2005. A key point of discussion: we can't keep meeting like this, it's much more fun to meet in person.

Thus we agreed in principle to arrange a meeting for late spring in Minneapolis or Washington DC, and now we can announce some preliminary plans for a JBS presence in Minneapolis-St Paul during June 9-11, 2006. Besides a "brain-storming" session on June 10 to help evaluate and rejuvenate JBS's programs and policies, we'll be able to attend some concerts of St Paul's Schubert Club's Song Festival held during June 9-17.

In fact, Anders Björling has agreed to present a multi-media program about his father, and for this we've secured the auditorium at Minneapolis's American Scandinavian Institute (ASI) on Sunday afternoon, June 11. Harald Henrysson also plans to join us and give a short talk about his recent work at the Björling Museum.

We plan to publicize this program via the ASI and Schubert Club publications, and hope to attract music lovers in the Twin Cities area to an afternoon about Jussi Björling.

We also invite all members of JBS-USA to join any of our work-sessions of June 10 as well as the JBS program at ASI on June 11. Also of interest are the Schubert Club's concerts, which involve concerts as well as films and master-classes:

June 9: Christopher Maltman, baritone

June 10: Joan Morris, soprano with William Bolcom, piano

June 16: Rose Ensemble with tenor soloist

June 17: Jennifer Larmore, soprano

June 13: Maria Jette, soprano; Jeanne Baxtresser, flute; Judith Kogan, harp; Thelma Hunter, piano

June 14: Movie and Popcorn Night
Baritone Håkan Hagegård will introduce a showing of Ingmar Bergman's *The Magic Flute*, the 1975 film in which he sang Papageno

Master Classes

June 10: Christopher Maltman

June 14: Håkan Hagegård

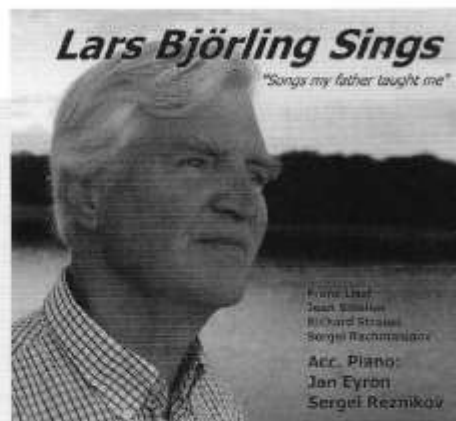
This preliminary information can be updated at www.schubert.org.

Note that Håkan Hagegård plans to attend many of these events and will formally retire during this song festival.

Information about local hotels will be made available later, if you're interested let Dan Shea know at dshea@chorus.net.

Summer travel to Sweden in July 2006 postponed.

Recall from our *Newsletter #9* of June 2005 that JBS has considered offering a trip that involved visiting the Savonlinna opera festival in Finland and the Lake Siljan festival near Borlänge during July 2006. Now we're postponing this trip, probably to July 2007.



"Lars Björling Sings" in a new CD

A new CD by Lars Björling is now available, 18 songs by Sibelius, R. Strauss, Liszt, and Rachmaninov with piano accompaniment, recorded during 2003 and 2004. The CD itself is titled "Lars Björling Sings, 'Songs my Father Taught Me'" and indeed four of the five Sibelius songs were favorites of Jussi, as were 3 of the Strauss songs. On the other hand Liszt's Petrarch songs and two of the three Rachmaninov songs were never recorded by Jussi, and probably were never in his concert repertoire. The songs are wonderful and we could wish that he had! While at this point Lars no longer concertizes, it's interesting to have this document, since the basic sound is classic Scandinavian and reminiscent of his father's.

The CD can be gotten from the Jussi Björling Museum, or in America from Anders Björling's Swedish Kontur store in St Peter, MN (email ajorlin@hickory-tech.net), or via JBS-USA (email dshea@chorus.net or telephone 608-836-6911). The \$22 price includes postage.