

sounds in recordings. Fascinating!

Louis Simon: For me the most thrilling part of the conference was the roundtable discussion moderated by George Jellinek. To be in the same room with such greats as Regina Resnik, Lucine Amara, Robert Merrill, and Licia Albanese was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To listen to them reminisce about performing with Jussi added yet another dimension to my enthrallment with his greatness. It alone was worth the price of the conference although there was so much more, that I returned home feeling almost as excited as I did the very first time I heard Jussi Björling sing.

Kendall Svengalis: The founding of the Jussi Björling Society-USA is the realization of what was, for most of my life, little more than a dream. The fact that we have finally found each other and come together to share our love of Jussi's incredible artistry is something for which I will always be grateful—particularly to Dan Shea, Mickey Dove, Tom Hines, Bill Clayton, Harald Henrysson, and the Björling family. These conferences have given us the rare opportunity to put Jussi's artistry under a microscope (as Andrew Farkas expressed it) and have our prejudices confirmed that Jussi's technical brilliance and musicality were every bit as awesome as the qualities that move our hearts so profoundly.

Unidentified comment: I've listened to and loved Jussi Björling from the time I began studying opera. However, not until the conference was I able to share that appreciation. Having the opportunity to develop new friendships with like-minded people from around the globe was for me the biggest benefit of the conference.

New JB Recordings "ReDiscovered" in RCA-BMG Archives

By Cantor Don Goldberg and Harald Henrysson



One of the high points of JBS's October Conference in New York City occurred during a lecture given by Daniel Guss, an executive in BMG's RCA Classics Division, when he announced that BMG would release Jussi's complete Carnegie Hall recital of September 24, 1955.

Many of us know RCA's LP souvenir of that event, LM 2003, with its 16 songs and arias including Jussi's only known recording of Mozart's challenging aria "Il mio tesoro" from *Don Giovanni*. And those of us familiar with the *Jussi Björling Phonography* [authored by Harald] know that some selections from that concert were omitted from the LP, including six Scandinavian songs (Grieg, Sjöberg, Sibelius) and one aria (the *Cavalleria* "Addio").

According to the *Phonography*, p. 212, "most of the unissued items [were contained on an] acetate record in the JB family collection," and thus could be heard only in special circumstances, e.g. by special request at the JB Museum in Borlänge.

According to the *Phonography*, "A

master tape of the whole recital is presumed to exist in the RCA archive."

In fact, that tape was located by RCA officials and found to contain two additional arias at the end of the concert, "Come un bel dì" from *Andrea Chénier* and yet another version of "Che gelida manina" from *Bohème*. Thus Jussi had marked his return to the U.S. at Carnegie Hall with an arduous program of 25 selections, ending with these two demanding arias as final encores.

(Note: He hadn't sung in the U.S. since February 1954, a frustrating time of vocal difficulties and cancellations (see Jussi, Chs. 20-23) followed by some remarkable successes: just recall that two of his greatest recordings, *Manon Lescaut* and *Aïda*, were accomplished for RCA during the summers of 1954 and '55.)

BMG was able to fit the entire concert on a single CD (with some of the applause deleted), with release date September 9. Especially because of the nine new selections on this CD, it belongs naturally to RCA's well known "reDISCOVER" series.

We have enjoyed working closely with Elizabeth Wright, Director of Editorial Services at BMG Classics, to help provide accurate texts (especially for Geijer's poem used by Sjöberg in his little song "Tonerna") and suitable photographs of Jussi, as well as the liner notes [authored by Cantor Don].

N.B. This CD is reviewed by Kristian Krogholm and others in Kristian's column in this issue.