

# Some Ideas for a JBS Conference in September 2004

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Are you ready for a trip to Sweden in autumn 2004? Last spring we began considering possible sites for our next conference, starting with a list of cities like San Francisco, Long Beach, Chicago, Madison that had been suggested by our members.

Then we learned from Harald Henrysson that autumn 2004 would mark the tenth anniversary of Borlänge's Jussi Björling Museum, and we decided to consider his suggestion to meet in Sweden at that time to help celebrate the occasion. One of us (Dan) was planning to be in Sweden and Britain a few weeks later, so there would be opportunities to start making inquiries of officers and members of the Björling Societies there.

In fact, discussions with members of the USA, UK, and Scandinavian chapters of our Society have led us to the following preliminary plan for 2004:

**September 9, 10 (Thursday-Friday):** We'll meet in Stockholm at some appropriate venue (we have some preliminary invitations to consider, e.g. by the Royal Opera), with a program based on favorite speakers and topics at the Björling Museum over recent years.

Of course the first night is a special date, being Jussi's *Todestag*, so we may try to schedule a special com-

memorative concert that night. We'd expect to be able to put together a world-class list of speakers, mainly from Sweden and Europe.

If our program grows to require one more day in Stockholm, we could begin on September 8.

**Saturday, September 11,** we'd take a convenient train to Borlänge (130 miles away) to continue the Museum's anniversary celebrations. It's likely that we'd have a very appropriate concert that evening at the Stora Tuna church where Jussi's grave is located.

On the following days, **Sunday and Monday,** there would be a celebration of the museum and its facilities—certainly some fine programs and receptions will be organized for these days! And there would be opportunities for you to sample the museum's facilities personally, or possibly take in nearby attractions in Falun and Mora.

Besides these organized events, you might want to schedule some free time, to see more opera in Stockholm or do tourism in Norway or Finland. We can report that the Royal Opera will present *Elisir d'amore* (Sept. 8, 10); *Bartered Bride* (Sept. 9); *Tosca* (Sept. 11, 14); and ballet on September 6, 7, 15, 16.

Finally, here's just one example of the sort of speaker that we hope to attract in Stockholm: **Stefan Lindström** has been working in the

field of sound reproduction since the 1970s and is responsible for many successful remasterings of Jussi Björling's recordings, for instance Volumes 1-3 of Naxos's current Historical Series of CDs called "The Jussi Björling Collection." We expect that he will be able to participate and give us some insights into his craft and some of the special problems associated with Jussi's recordings.

Thus his talk could be considered a Swedish analogue of Seth Winner's excellent discussion for our NY Conference last October. And to get some idea of how our program in Stockholm might look, just look at the other events of our NY Conference and imagine Swedish and European analogues. (And if this line of thought leads you to some suggestions for the program of the 2004 Conference, by all means pass them along to one of us!)

As we negotiate in the coming weeks for the facilities and programs that will be available for our conference, we'll try to secure special rates on airfares and accommodations in Sweden. Watch for our future Newsletters on this subject, as we gather ideas and establish our budget.

Seth Winner, October 2003 in New York.

