

Second JBS Conference

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this time, the bus will make a stop at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport. For those able to stay later there will be a tour of the American Swedish Institute with a short concert to be presented there by JBS member Kevin Carlson.

If you're on our mailing list, you can expect to get registration information by early April. If you haven't heard from us by then, please write to Mickey Dove (see Masthead for addresses). Now, by all means, continue to the next story . . .

An Excursion to Santa Fe, July 3–8

Several of us are planning to continue the fellowship generated during our conference, by extending our trip to include an excursion to Santa Fe, New Mexico, for two operas and some exploration of the superb state parks and museums dedicated to the local Indian history and culture. We'll see Verdi's *Falstaff* on July 4 (Fenton will be sung by Greg Turay, dubbed "the new Bjoerling" last spring by The New York Times) and *Lucia di Lammermoor* on July 6. The opera house there is perched in a natural bowl in the Tesuque hills, just outside of Santa Fe, and is partially open to the resplendent evening skies. (Even people who don't enjoy opera go there for its setting.) Productions are well known to be lavish and adventuresome, we can expect to enjoy the performances as well as the setting. Among those definitely planning to attend are Bertil Bengtsson and Elaine, Maria-Luisa and Enrique Gilardoni, Young So, Mati Zeiti and Gail and Dan Shea.

We have reservations at the Hotel St Francis on the central Plaza in town (a favorite smaller hotel, comfortable and inexpensive by Santa Fe standards), and for mid-priced opera tickets (\$60–80). If you think you'd like to join this excursion, call Mickey or Dan (check the masthead for addresses and phone numbers) as soon as possible to start planning.

(For some excellent information on our hotel, with links to all that is going on in Santa Fe, visit the website www.hotelstfrancis.com or www.santafeopera.org or, for camera buffs, photoartssantafe.com will tell you about a week-long program that starts on July 6.) ■

Some Perspectives on the "Editorial We"

Welcome to the Spring 2001 issue of this *Journal*, our latest experiment in producing a permanent "hard copy" record of what the Jussi Björling Societies are doing: Let's take a moment here to look ahead at some of the featured articles in this issue:

♦ We bring you an overview of JBS-USA's next conference, June 28–July 1 at Gustavus Adolphus College. We list the events of four very full days, and hope to tempt you to attend by describing the opportunities for many social interactions with fellow Jussi-cologists. And we have news of an additional post-conference trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, for two operas and other excursions with your JBS comrades. We especially invite our British and Scandinavian comrades of the JBAS and JB Sällskapet to consider joining our Minnesota and New Mexico events.

♦ The extraordinary analysis by **Stephen Hastings** of Jussi's career, in "The Supreme Singing of a Shy Man," will give you much to ponder. You'll want to pull out your record collection, to keep up with Hastings' discussion. I especially liked his quote of Levi-Strauss, that "the invention of melody is the supreme mystery of mankind" and his opinion that "no tenor better than Björling enables us to understand the depth of that mystery."

These words remind me of other similar ideas that we've quoted in this *Journal*, for instance these of **Garrison Keillor** (in Issue 9): "none of [what was in the newspapers] had the slightest reality to me. What was most real was something missing from my life that was intimated in Great Music. I would look up from my desk to hear Jussi Bjoerling sing 'Nessun Dorma' from *Turandot* and suddenly know that my life lacked nobility and purpose . . ."