

# The Jussi Björling Recording Survey – “Song” Results

By Walter B. Rudolph



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Jussi hears a reference recording on January 21st, 1939

In our home, not a day passes without a telephone call survey. Any purchase, chat, or other inquiry one makes on the Internet is followed by a survey. Going to the Post Office or any fast food joint always invites a survey on the receipt. Truly we could call our world today “The Survey World.”

So when we offered the opportunity to participate in this first JBS-USA survey, we hoped you wouldn't all be surveyed-out, and decline participation. Nearly 20% of our membership sent in their choices, and only a couple arrived after the deadline, so we decided to also include them in the results. And while the goal was to identify the Top Five Song and Aria Recordings, and the Top Three Opera Recordings, there is much more to be seen, heard and explored.

We promise the aria and opera results in forthcoming publications.

Fifty-four (54) individual song titles received votes in the Song category. The survey allowed for specific performances to be identified, and approximately 30% of participants provided that information for most of their submissions. In many cases this information is insufficient to be conclusive. Therefore any preferred performance listed for each title is provided only when a clear choice was indicated. Also, please keep in mind that all participants may not

have had access to (or made choices based on) all of the Jussi Björling recordings. “I know what I like and I like what I know” becomes the basis of this adventure. And we do not know how many votes were for a favorite song versus a favorite performance.

So here is the full list of all 54 songs, listed in order of preference by the participating members of the Jussi Björling Society-USA. The second (inner) row shows where the multiple ties occurred. The first (outer) row shows the order of all 54 songs, randomly removing the ties. The year in column 4 indicates the most often selected performance, when one was indicated, unless there is only one performance from which to select.

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Note that in the top 10 songs, most of Jussi's languages are represented – German, Swedish, Italian and English. Two French songs are sung in Swedish and English. There are two female composers in the list (d'Hardelot and Beach), and many other details to be gleaned. We hope you will enjoy these ample considerations.

Obviously there are songs which received only minimal votes. Perhaps you'll find some you don't know or haven't heard recently? There are surprises lurking! ■

## JBS-USA web site

Please visit our new, ever-so-improved, attractive and updated web site at [jussibjorling-society.org](http://jussibjorling-society.org). Our own Janel Lundgren put in countless and productive hours working with web designer Amory King to give us something we can both use and be proud of. Note that for the first time, both the PHONOGRAPHY and the performance Chronology can be accessed from our site. Many thanks to all those members who helped to defray the cost of this huge and welcome project.

1.	1.	Adelaide	Beethoven	1939
2.	2.	O helga natt	Adam	1959
3.	3.	Tonerna	Sjöberg	1957
4.	4.	L'alba separa della luce l'ombra	Tosti	1949; 1959 tie
5.	5.	Skogen Sover	Alfvén	1959
6.	6.	Jag längtar dig	Alfvén	1960
7.	7.	Ideale	Tosti	1937
8.	8.	Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair	Foster	1945
9.	9.	Because	d'Hardelot	1948
10.	10.	Ständchen	Schubert	1955
11.	10.	Säv, Säv, Susa	Sibelius	1959
12.	11.	Till Havs	Nordqvist	1953
13.	12.	Am Sylvia	Schubert	1940
14.	13.	En Svane	Grieg	1959
15.	13.	Trollsjön	Söderman	1959
16.	14.	Die Allmacht	Schubert	1958
17.	14.	Cäcilie	R. Strauss	
18.	14.	Mattinata	Leoncavallo	
19.	15.	Jungfrun under lind	Petersen-Berger	1958/1939 tie
20.	15.	Svarta Rosor	Sibelius	
21.	15.	Land du välsignade	Althén	1957; 1937 tie
22.	16.	Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte	Sibelius	1957
23.	16.	In the Silence of the Night	Rachmaninoff	1947
24.	17.	Sommarnatt	Schrader	
25.	17.	Så tag mit hjerte	Alfvén	
26.	17.	Traum durch die Dämmerung	R. Strauss	1955
27.	17.	Ehre Gotte aus der Natur (Guds lov i nature)	Beethoven	
28.	18.	Tristans död	Rangström	
29.	18.	A Spirit Flower	Louis Campbell Tipton	
30.	18.	Only a Rose	Friml	
31.	18.	Mother o Mine	Frank E. Tours	
32.	18.	Lilacs	Rachmaninoff	
33.	18.	Die böse Farbe	Schubert	
34.	18.	Kung Heimer och Aslög	Söderman	1957
35.	18.	Sverige	Svenhammar	
36.	19.	Lilla princessa	Enders	
37.	19.	Nämner du Sverige	Widestedt	
38.	19.	När jag för mig själv i mörka skogen går	Peterson-Berger	
39.	19.	Ständchen	R. Strauss	
40.	19.	Morgon	Eklöf	
41.	20.	Pieta Signore	Niedermeyer	
42.	20.	Die Mainacht	Brahms	1959
43.	20.	Rangstrom Ballads	Rangström	
44.	20.	Var det en dröm?	Sibelius	1957
45.	20.	Zueignung	R. Strauss	
46.	21.	Sylvia	Oley Speaks	
47.	21.	Ninon	Jurmann / Kaper	
48.	21.	Säg mig god natt (Eric Odde)	Ray	
49.	21.	Sjung din hela längtan ut	Widestedt	
50.	21.	Aftonstämning	Körling	
51.	21.	Ah Love But a Day	Beach	
52.	21.	Ay, Ay, Ay	Pérez-Freire	
53.	21.	Die Forelle	Schubert	
54.	21.	For You Alone	Geehl	1937