

From the President



Dear Members,

We twenty-three who are back from our recent journey to Sweden can report that we enjoyed our travels together, especially the music and the friendship--despite the rather hectic travel schedule, which turned out to be more strenuous than I realized!

Now that we are all recovered, we can honestly say we had a wonderful time, and we missed all of you who were unable to join us! Our adventures are outlined in the three-part article "JBS-USA in Sweden," in this newsletter.

As our 20th Anniversary year draws to a close, the Board is putting plans for 2019 in motion. We are pursuing projects which we hope will result in exciting new items for your JB library, and will keep you posted as they develop.

On a less pleasant topic, we are taking steps to address the issue of declining membership. Plans are taking shape for placing ads on radio stations, beginning a three-month campaign on Facebook, and swapping website space with other musical organizations. Do you belong to an organization which might want to participate in this exchange? If so, please let me know!

As a part of these efforts, we need to recognize that a younger generation of members may not be interested in printed materials, but will prefer to receive our publications by electronic means. To accommodate that change, and to meet rising costs, we will need to make an adjustment in **membership dues for 2019**, as follows:

*Individual membership with electronic publications will be \$35 annually.

*Individual membership with printed publications will now be \$40 annually.

All other membership levels will stay the same, and will continue to receive printed publications unless we are instructed to do otherwise by the member. Student memberships will continue to be \$10 annually with electronic publications only.

As you renew your memberships with the enclosed form, we ask that you be as generous as you can. There is much work to do to introduce the world's most beautiful voice to another generation of opera lovers, and in the process, to keep our Society alive. We will need your help if we are to succeed.

Thank you all!

With warmest greetings and best wishes for all the holidays,
Janel E. Lundgren, president

P.S. A new **JBS-USA 20th Anniversary Commemorative Poster** is now available for purchase. In full color, this 8 ½" x 14" poster is offered at the special member's price of \$15 postpaid.

To order through our website, visit www.jussibjorlingsociety.org / Shop / Merchandise. Or simply use the order form (on the reverse of your membership form), and send your check to treasurer Steve Fischmann at the indicated address.

20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR
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Part 2: Adventures in Hälsingland

by Sue Flaster

As the 20th anniversary celebrations of JBS continued, Harald and I joined up with the group at the hotel in Hudiksvall on Friday evening, August 31. Our arrival coincided with the town's "water festival," and there was abundant and well-fueled joy on the streets until the wee hours. Stefan Olmårs had arranged for a visit to the provincial museum early Saturday, but many of us had a less structured morning. At 1:00, we were bused up to Strömsbruk where hostel owner, Johan Adlercreutz, gave us a very pleasant and informed tour of the old---and not so old---industrial area where David Björling was born, and where his father worked.

An annual treat at the Strömsbruk event is a concert by the local brass orchestra, Ströms Brukorkester, and this year they

ANDERS HANSE



Jussifest singers Tyler Duncan, Malin Hartelius and Yinjia Gong onstage with guest pianist Erika Switzer

did not disappoint, but provided an hour of Swedish marches and folk tunes in the style of "spa" entertainments of long ago.

2018 was Stefan Olmårs 13th Jussifest at Strömsbruk, and each year he has managed to present a valuable and musically