

- [www.jussibjorlingsociety.com/](http://www.jussibjorlingsociety.com/)
- [www.best.com/~els/Bjorling/bjorling.shtml](http://www.best.com/~els/Bjorling/bjorling.shtml)
- [members.nbc.com/jussi\\_list/](http://members.nbc.com/jussi_list/)
- [www.geocities.com/Vienna/4315/](http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/4315/) [check under "Misc" postings from Opera-L for Bjoerling]
- [utenti.fastnet.it/utenti/sciocchetti/](http://utenti.fastnet.it/utenti/sciocchetti/)

Forty years after his death, it is a testament to Bjoerling's talent that he is remembered so fondly still by his fans.

4. Bob Dilley of Opera-L also provided an especially memorable posting. (We owe to Toby Hekler the information that Mr. Dilley posts every day the birthdays and death dates of famous singers, and he ends his posts every day with JUSSI LIVES AND RULES!)

I wish to pay tribute to our beloved Jussi for just a moment. What can one say about his peerless, gorgeous voice? [Jussi already has been canonized by gifted critics.] I can only tell you that when I first heard Jussi on the radio (I was about 11 or 12) I could not believe what I was hearing. To this day, I can call up and hear in my mind that beautiful, gorgeous "ring" in his voice. Besides the ring, two other attributes of his voice left me imprinted—the "purity" of his tone, and a crystal clear true tenor sound. From that point on until this day, I have been a devout Jussi Bjoerling lover. For me, Jussi set the standards in opera for all other tenors, both before him and those who followed.

(Bob makes further remarks, and ends with a list of Jussi's roles that he never recorded commercially, as well as his traditional mantra: JUSSI LIVES AND RULES!)

5. And Jerry Waldman's post on Opera-L was especially enthusiastic, here is part of that one: One is always awestruck not only by the plangent beauty of his voice, but also the immaculate control and exquisite shadings with breathtaking *diminuendi* and *pianissimi*. How fortunate we are to have had his special artistry grace our stages and enrich our lives. It would be wonderful to hear from older folks who were privileged to see Jussi at his peak in live performances. [Now, for this, we refer you back to postings #1 and 2!—*Ed.*]

## The Smithsonian Presents . . . Bertil Bengtsson

En route to his talks at the Gustavus JBS Conference, Bertil Bengtsson will speak in Washington DC under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. This talk is titled *Jussi Björling: A Swedish Tenor Who Became an American Favorite* and will take place at 6:30 PM on June 26 at the auditorium of the Hirschhorn Sculpture and Art Gallery, 7th and Independence Avenues, with a reception following.

Here's a publicity blurb that appears in the Smithsonian Associates Bulletin for April:

Sweden has produced many great singers, but during the century just passed none was so widely admired as tenor Jussi Björling. His extraordinarily beautiful voice and impeccable musicianship earned him critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences right from his professional debut, in 1930 at age 19, until his untimely death in 1960.

*Swedish musicologist Bertil Bengtsson will use rare recordings, slides, videos and archival material to describe this fascinating tenor's career by presenting an intimate view of Björling's 40-year-long odyssey as a Swede on the American stage. Bengtsson also will include a short survey of Swedish opera singers in the US, from Jenny Lind to the present, putting Jussi Björling into a historical context, and helping justify the old saying that Sweden has exported three things above all: wood, steel and singers.*

This event is co-sponsored by JBS-USA and the Embassy of Sweden. We are grateful to **Bea Bobotek** for her enterprise in suggesting this idea and pulling together many strings!