

Ernani in Stockholm could offer, since they were not impressed with the Metropolitan production. It was enormously invigorating and gratifying when she generously assured us that *Ernani* at the small theatre at Roslagsgatan far surpassed the MET in acting and singing. That authoritative statement warmed a young opera singer's heart.

"Kerstin Meyer was loyal to The Jussi Björling Swedish Society and contributed many great moments at concerts and gatherings. She was also a distinguished host at many concerts in other contexts. One unforgettable occasion was when she and Torsten Föllinger were hosts at "Opera Baddies" at The Royal Academy of Music in 1991, arranged by Hans Hiort. It was the seniors' turn to show up on the tightrope, and the concert was crowned with an acclaimed performance by Hjördis Schymberg, then 82 years of age. The warmth, love and humor that beamed from Kerstin that afternoon is kept in fond memory. Sadly, almost every singer from that occasion is gone now.

"Kerstin Meyer was honored with many distinctions, among them Illis Quorum, Litteris et Artibus, The Theatre Associations Gold Medal, and CBE, Commander of the British Empire.

"We continue to cherish the memory of a grand singer and a brilliant fellow human. Because that was Kerstin Meyer." ■

—Bengt Krantz

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Margareta Hallin as
Mimì in *La bohème*

ENAR MERKEL RYDBERG, ROYAL SWEDISH OPERA

Margareta Hallin 1931–2020

Margareta Hallin had an interesting and varied career, beginning with her debut in 1955 as Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* with the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm. She went on to sing more than 1,500 performances at the Royal Opera House over the next twenty-nine years and now has a bust there in her honor. This focus on Sweden was by her own choice; Nicolai Gedda, for one, thought that with her "beautiful coloratura soprano voice" she could have had an international career.

Although she never appeared in opera with Jussi, she took part with him and other Royal Opera soloists in the Gröna Lund concert of June 9, 1960. Recordings of duets with Jussi were planned in 1960, but prevented by his death.

Hallin received *Jussi Björlingstipendiet* (The Jussi Björling Award) in 1970. She also acted in films and released several pop hit records. After retiring from singing in 1984, Hallin began composing music, including a chamber opera based on the Strindberg play *Miss Julie*. Margareta Hallin died at the age of 88 on February 9, 2020. ■