

recording companies. He has judged for numerous prestigious vocal competitions nationwide, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (since 1991) and the national competitions of both *Classical Singer Magazine* and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He also is in demand as a lecturer, teacher, opera coach and broadcaster.

Fred Plotkin is one of America's foremost opera experts and has distinguished himself as a writer, speaker, consultant, teacher, and expert on all things Italian. He does a great deal of broadcasting (including his program "Fred Plotkin on Fridays" on *idagio.com*) and is the lead opera writer for New York's WQXR.org. His book, *Opera 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Opera* is the best-selling opera education text in America.

Master of Ceremonies:

Walter B. Rudolph, retired broadcaster and musicologist, is a former President of JBS-USA. In addition to Jussi Björling, he has particularly followed the careers of Hans Hotter and Giorgio Tozzi. His most recent presentation was to the Richard Wagner Society in Washington, DC.

Anders, Lars, and Ann-Charlotte Björling are invited special guests. We also anticipate some lively panel discussions and surprise musical visitors!

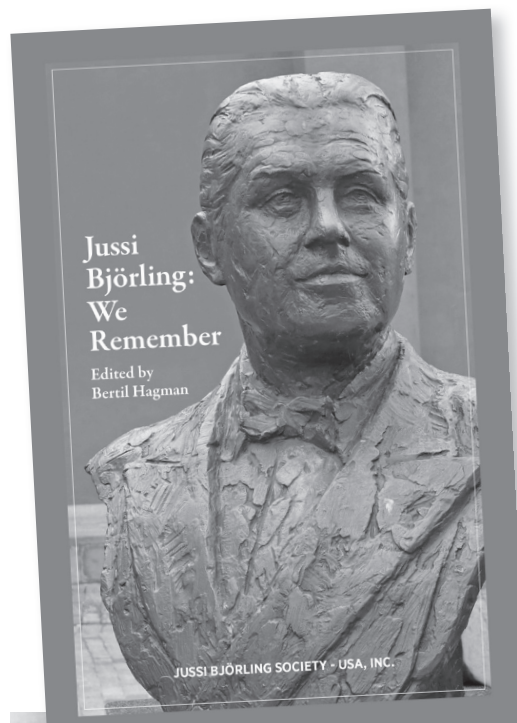
We hope you agree that we are bringing together the very best in musical events and presenters to provide an enriching and enjoyable weekend for our membership – and that getting together again will be such a welcome and happy occasion in itself.

The Conference, our first in Chicago, will also be an important part of our continuing recruitment efforts for new members. We will reach out to the city's musical, educational, and Swedish communities. It is our hope to win fresh interest and new members for the Society, and to remind Chicago of Jussi's two decades of performances in the city – including his 1937 United States opera debut!

It will be another wonderful JBS weekend, and we look forward to seeing you there! ■

Jussi Björling: We Remember (Jussi Björling en Minnesbok)

Now Published in English Translation by JBS-USA



Gail Campain

Short weeks after Jussi Björling's death in September of 1960, Bertil Hagman launched himself on an ambitious project: to record reminiscences of the great tenor while those memories were still fresh. Hagman interviewed several dozen friends and colleagues who knew Jussi and had performed with him, and by the end of 1960 had published *Jussi Björling en Minnesbok* (JB A Memory Book).

Due to the haste with which the original was published, a number of errors of fact crept into the text. The decision was made early in 2021 to produce a corrected, complete and richly illustrated edition of this unique book. Gail Campain (translator of the original US version) sought out Harald Henrysson's help and

the two of them have worked together to remove those errors, and provide illuminating footnotes as well as short biographies of all the contributors.

Janel Lundgren has shepherded the book through every phase of its publication, and has provided a remarkable number of entertaining and significant photographs as well as insuring that this book is both tremendously attractive and professionally produced in every way.

Translator Gail Campain was born in Melbourne, Australia and is a graduate of RMIT University. Her career has been chiefly in the Victoria State Public Service. She undertook private study of the Swedish language after falling under the spell of the voice and artistry of Jussi Björling, and

has been a member of JBS-USA since 1999. Her translation of the *Minnesbok* was previously published episodically in the *JBS-USA Journal*. This is the first publication of this remarkable book in its entirety in English.

Jussi Björling: We Remember is available only to current members of the three JB Societies. The postpaid cost is US \$35 (for delivery within the Continental United States. There will be additional shipping charges, as incurred, for other shipments). An order form is enclosed in this Newsletter. You may also order using the link on our web site at jussibjorlingsociety.org ■

— Sue Flaster