

Test Your Knowledge

By Tom Hines

1. In the celebrated *Don Carlo* Metropolitan performance which opened the season in 1950, Jussi sang the title role and his close friend, Robert Merrill, sang Rodrigo. However, it was also a singular evening for four newcomers, all of whom were making their debuts in this performance. Each of these artists went on to have outstanding careers. Can you name them? Hint: they sang the following roles: Philip II (bass), Elizabeth of Valois (soprano), Princess Eboli (mezzo-soprano), and the Angelic Voice (soprano). For super credit, can you name the bass who was scheduled originally to sing the role of Philip II but who had to be replaced because of political difficulties with his visa (remember, this was the McCarthy era in the US)?
2. In what American city did Jussi sing his final complete operatic performance? For extra credit, what was the name of the opera company, and who was the Russian baritone that sang with Jussi? Hint: this occurred in 1960. For a ranking as a Jussiphile supreme, how much did Jussi earn for that performance?
3. Jussi and the great Zinka Milanov sang together on many occasions. In what five operas that are preserved on CD did they perform together? One of these has been released by the Metropolitan Opera and other "private" sources but was not a studio recording. For entrance into the Jussiphile Hall of Fame, in what opera and city did Jussi and Zinka perform together for the first time?
4. Who was the famous Italian soprano with whom Jussi made his Metropolitan opera debut in 1938? For extra credit, why did she not return to the Met the following year? For an extra star in your crown, what other soprano (Musetta) also made her debut in this now famous performance?
5. As expected, Jussi's most popular operatic role was Rodolfo in *La Boheme* (115 performances). What were his next two most important roles, in order of frequency of performance?
6. Which of the following singers that Jussi either sang with or knew well or who were great admirers of his art began their careers as baritones and were subsequently "moved up" to tenor roles: (a) Placido Domingo (b) Carlo Bergonzi (c) Set Svanholm (d) Lauritz Melchior?
7. Which of the following singers were students with Jussi at the Conservatory in Stockholm from 1929 to 1931 (Of course, we all know about Anna-Lisa.): (a) Set Svanholm (b) Nicolai Gedda (c) Einar Beyron (d) Sigurd Björling (no relation) (e) Hjordis Schymberg?

Answers appear on page 37. If you have any interesting JB trivia to share, send it to Tom Hines, PO Box 660725, Birmingham, AL 35266-0725. Email: Tom62836@aol.com



The Original Three Tenors

"The Original Three Tenors" - a fascinating British documentary about Caruso, Gigli and Björling which was shown at JBS-USA's June 1999 conference in Washington, DC and which was scheduled for Swedish TV on March 4, 2000- will not be shown in Britain at all nor in the US in the near term. According to Eric Wimbles, our JBAS colleague: "It is with