

On a Desert Island With Jussi

Edited by William C. Clayton

The bad news is that you and your million-dollar yacht have foundered somewhere in the South Seas. The good news is that, as you groggily come to on a stretch of sandy beach, you see beside you a precious waterproof package. No, it is not potable water, nor is it food or clothing or matches. It is something far more precious— your Walkman, a goodly supply of AA batteries, and, yes, your tape of *Ten Indispensable Items by the Beloved Björling*. Now you know that you will survive, for no vagaries of wind, weather, or lack of wherewithal can overcome you; you know that day after day, your spirit will be succored and sustained, by JB's magnificent voice. You know that come what may, Robinson Crusoe-like, you will survive. (Question- who first said, "Thank God, it's Friday"? Answer- Robinson Crusoe!!!).



Note to Members: A phenomenon occurred recently. Five Society members, within a short space of time, suffered the nearly identical fate described above. We can all rejoice in their successful return to civilization, and we breathlessly await their tales of survival, but in the meantime, they have been good enough to send, for your edification, their "top ten" lists which sustained them throughout their ordeals. Where possible, they have included the provenance of each recording, and those marked with an asterisk (*) indicate their presence in two or more lists. However, if the same selection appears but in a different performance, then there is no asterisk. Perhaps the lists will lead readers to items of which you are not aware. For those lacking details of the recordings, we refer you to Harald Henrysson's *Phonography*.

Sue Flaster:

*Cujus animam, Oct. 12, 1938 EMI JB Edition
 Salut! demeure, June 8, 1939 Hilversum, Bluebell ABCD 006
 *Skogen sover, March 1, 1940 Bluebell 050
 Questa o quella, March 27-30, 1944, EMI JB Edition
 Je crois entendre encore, Sept. 7, 1945, EMI JB Edition
 Jeanie with the light brown hair, Sept. 7, 1948, EMI JB Edition
 *O paradiso, 3/9/1951, BMG 68429-2
 En svane, 4/11/1952, RCA LM 1771
 Tonerna, 4/11/52, RCA LM 1771
 E lucevan le stelle, 9/24/ 1955, BMG 68429-2

Hans Thunström (sent nine):

Che gelida manina, 1956, EMI (from the complete opera CD)
 O Paradiso, 1951, RCA
 Nessun dorma, 1944, Bluebell (newly issued)
 Ingemisco, 1939, Bluebell
 O Helga Natt, 1959, Swedish Society Discofil (same as EMI)
 Oh! mostruosa colpa!; Sì, pel ciel. . . 1951, RCA
 Mattinata, 1944, EMI
 *Âu fond du temple saint!, 1951, RCA
 Ah, si, ben mio, 1952 (from the complete opera CD), RCA

John Schwarze:

- *O Helga Natt - 1959, studio
- Love Duet from Madama Butterfly - 1959, studio
- In fernam Land - 8/5/60, Gothenburg
- *O! mostruosa colpa...Si, pel ciel 1951. RCA
- *Kung Heimer och Aslög - 1957, studio
- Demanten på marssnön - 1959, studio
- Var det en dröm - 10/3/52, Stockholm radio concert
- Come un bel di di maggio - 4/13/59, Atlanta
- Till havs - 1953, from "Resan Till Dej"
- Recondita armonia - 1949, studio

Ellen Lienhard:

- *Kung Heimer och Aslög. EMI 4-disc edition
- Berceuse. *Ibid.*
- Adelaide. *Ibid.*
- Non piangere, Liù and the following ensemble. RCA complete recording
- *Ack Värmeland du sköna. EMI, *Ibid.*
- Bland skogens höga furustammar. *Ibid.*
- Entrance of Paris from La Belle Helene. *Ibid.*
- *Manon Lescaut broadcast with Dorothy Kirsten. Myto CD
- Romeo in the broadcast with Bidu Sayao. Myto CD
- *O Helga Natt. EMI, *Ibid.*

Bill Clayton:

- *Cujus Animam. 1938. EMI CD 7243 5 66306 2 8
- *Paris' Entrance Song. 1938. *JB: Operetta and Song. Vol. II.* Pearl CD 9042
- E lucevan le stelle. 1959. Personal tape from Met broadcast
- *Donna non vidi mai. 1956. Private LP from Met broadcast,
- Ingemisco. 1960. Complete *Requiem.* RCA
- *Romeo and Julliette Tomb Scene with Sayao. 1947. Private LP from Met broadcast
- Di quella pira. 1952. Complete recording. RCA
- *O Helga Natt. 1959. EMI *Ibid.*
- *Âu fond du temple saint. With Robert Merrill. 1951. RCA CD 7799-2-RG
- Die Forelle. 1958. RCA CD 60520-2-RG

The above should confirm the adage, "There is no accounting for taste." While a number of items appear more than once, those without an asterisk confirm what we have all known all along- that JB sang a multitude of songs and arias as well as, if not better than, any other tenor.

N. B.: if any others would like to cast a net, please do so. And do not feel reluctant if any of your choices have already appeared.

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