

other famous artists such as Birgit Nilsson, Gösta Winberg, Elisabeth Söderström, Anne Sophie von Otter, and Sylvia Linderstrand. Jussi sings "Cielo e mar" (1959 Decca recording) and "Amor ti vieta" (also a 1959 Decca recording) and is pictured on the cover of the chocolate box. Truly a delicious idea! (Editor's Note: We're in the process of trying to find out how Marabou came to release such a unusual box of candy and also how to order these chocolates. We'll keep you posted.)

Available from the Metropolitan

The Metropolitan Opera has released a deluxe edition of the December 10, 1949, *Manon Lescaut* (Saturday matinee, Texaco-Metropolitan Opera House) with JB and Dorothy Kirsten as Manon. The cast includes Thomas Hayward as Edmondo and Giuseppe Valdengo as Lescaut; Giuseppe Antonicelli conducted. The set contains photographs from the rehearsal that have not been widely published previously if at all.

According to a Metropolitan Opera Guild representative, the *Manon* is available as a free gift with a \$300 donor membership in the Guild. It may also be purchased outright for \$200. Although Myto and other labels have issued recordings of this performance, we can expect that the sound quality of the Met issue will be significantly improved. JBS-USA plans to review this *Manon* in the May issue of the Journal. If you wish to purchase the set, please contact the Met directly.

"Jussi Sings Puccini" from Bluebell New CD Contains Previously Unreleased Live Performances

JBS-USA is indebted to Harald Henrysson, who authored the notes for the CD, for the information that follows.

"Jussi Sings Puccini" contains live performance recordings from a 1957 *Bohème* in Malmö, a 1959 *Tosca* in Stockholm, and a November 1944 benefit concert in Stockholm; all of the material on this CD is previously unreleased, except for a short excerpt from the *Tosca* that was once available on LP.

Harald points out in the release notes, "...recordings from only three of his 115 stage performances [of *Bohème*] have survived: Stockholm 1940 (only act 1 preserved; final part of act issued on Bluebell ABCD 013), Metropolitan 1948, and Malmö 1957, where three acts were preserved, and from which recording these previously unreleased excerpts were taken. In Stockholm 1940, Björling still sang his role in Swedish like the supporting cast, but in Malmö 1957, while the cast sang in Swedish, he used the original language."

A new *Bohème* production with JB was planned in Malmö (Sweden's third largest city) for the fall of 1957. But, as Harald points out, "At the beginning of September, the theatre board found that the ticket bookings for this performance exceeded the supply by more than a thousand, and therefore decided to make an attempt to engage the famous singer for another performance. Björling agreed again, but his additional performance had to be placed on 30 September, before the originally planned one, considering the fact that he was already engaged for a radio recording in Stockholm on 5 October (parts of which have been released on Bluebell ABCD 066). Thus, the first of Björling's Malmö guest performances, which is presented here, was in fact an extra one."