

Welcome to the Website of JBS-USA Thank You, John Gee!

JBS-USA is very pleased to announce that our website was launched on February 5th (JB's birthday)! By the time that you receive this issue of the Journal, we hope that the technical bugs will have been exterminated, and that the site will be available for viewing by everyone.

We are most grateful to Society member John Gee whose hard work and dedication is solely responsible for bringing up the site. John, an Information Technology professional at Chase Manhattan Bank, designed and developed the site, and serves as administrator.

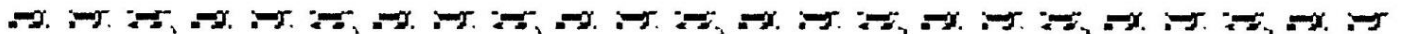
John was introduced to the Bjorling sound only two years ago, on a radio broadcast during an evening commute home. "On that particular night, George Jellinek featured Bjorling on 'The Vocal Scene' with guest Andrew Farkas. Jussi's voice was indeed magical, and of the way George and Andrew spoke about him -- like the fondest friend. The following morning, I combed all the local bookstores for a copy of 'Jussi' and read it from cover to cover. Only days later did I begin the frenetic spree to purchase all of Jussi's solo and concert recordings."

John, originally a clarinetist, is now a baritone studying in the evening voice program at The Juilliard School. John was so enamored by the Bjorling-Merrill chemistry of "The Pearl Fishers" duet, that he and a classmate tenor were compelled to perform the piece. "That, clearly, has been a highlight of my vocal studies, and JB remains an inspiration today." He adds, "As a matter of fact, I'd like to think I've a bit of Bjorling's spirit within me. I too, performed with Bob Merrill, albeit along side 46,000 other baseball fans, singing the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium!"

Having studied mathematics and operations research at Cornell University, John calls the Finger Lakes home as much as his native New York City. His specialty at Chase Manhattan is information security and biometric technology. John resides in Westchester County.

If you have an Internet connection, you can access the website at:

www.jussibjorlingsociety.com



Test Your Knowledge By Tom Hines

"Test Your Knowledge," is a regular feature of the Journal. Tom will challenge you regarding your knowledge of Jussicology- general items and obscure trivia that will provide some good fun and definitely test your erudition. You provide the answers- if you can!

1. What gala song (half in Swedish, half in German) did Jussi sing in the 1960 recording of Die Fledermaus?
2. In what city and what year did Jussi make his American debut as an adult performer?

3. From what opera are there recordings (commercial and private) of Jussi having performed three different roles? Name the roles and/or arias that he interpreted. (Thank you, Enrique Gilardoni, for submitting this question.)
4. In the 1959 Metropolitan Opera production of Cavalleria Rusticana with Giulietta Simionato, what slight mistake did Jussi make (because of the prompter's poor timing) at the beginning of the duet scene?
5. What aria did Jussi sing in three languages? (There's only one. And again, thank you Enrique Gilardoni for submitting.)

Answers on page 30.

Test Your Knowledge

If you have any interesting JB trivia to share, send it to:

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Ask the Experts! By Dan Shea

Your questions are solicited. Our experts are waiting and eager to help!

Ask The Experts!

Do you have a question that you'd like answered by an expert Jussicologist? Send it to:

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