

## Jussi Inspired Marriage Proposal

From reader Terry Zapotocky of Tucson, Arizona.... "Jussi has been my favorite opera singer since 1960 when I first heard a recording of him and fell in love simultaneously with opera and his voice. I also might not be in existence if it weren't for him, as my dad proposed marriage to my mother at a Jussi Björling concert!"

A song which Jussi performed frequently was "In the Silence of the Night" by Rachmaninoff:

Oh, in the silent night I dream that you are near,  
 With your caressing voice, your loving smile so dear.  
 Your hair in flowing strands of black...  
 How oft I bid you go- how oft I call you back!  
 With whispers of thy name, I wake the silent night...  
 But you are gone forever, my love, my life, my light!

## VAI New Orleans' Un Ballo Released

Video Arts International is distributing the April 1950 New Orleans *Un Ballo in Maschera* (2 CD set). This performance includes Suzy Morris as Amelia, Marko Rothmuller as Renato, Martha Larrimore as Ulrica, Audrey Schuh as Oscar, and Norman Treigle as Samuel. Walter Herbert conducts.

The CD cover and the notes by Don Goldberg were completed in August concurrently with minor corrections and improvements to the sound, which is very good. There are, however, several caveats associated with the release. There are some missing measures in tracks 1 and 16 of CD 1. A section of track 15, CD 1, was only available from poor quality acetates. It was included in order to present a complete JB performance. On CD 2, track 13, there is a bad pitch fluctuation during the last 2 minutes of the track. There are also several musical oddities which are mentioned in the notes. Nonetheless, we are most fortunate to have this recording.



Jussi as Riccardo in Verdi's *Un Ballo in maschera* at the Royal Opera, Stockholm. Photo courtesy of the JB Museum.