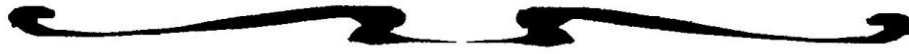


Similarly, Caruso and Gigli brought their own individual interpretations to the same repertoire.

Nigel Douglas will use interviews with fellow singers and directors in addition to background material. The film will not be divided into separate segments on each singer but rather will compare and contrast each based on the premises noted above.

Additional information will follow as it becomes available.



JB Memorial Tenor Competition in Borlänge, Sweden

In our last Information Letter we reported that the JB Memorial Tenor Competition, an international contest, will likely be held in Borlänge, Sweden, in the year 2000. As of late August, however, planning appeared to be temporarily on hold pending the outcome of Sweden's national elections. By the time you receive this, it is hoped that plans for the competition will be moving forward.

However, for those of you with questions regarding the competition- What is it? Who sponsors it? How does it operate? What happened in 1994?- the following information is provided courtesy of the JB Museum.

The competition was held for the first time on October 21-23, 1994, in Borlänge, Sweden. It was an international competition for tenors born in 1959 or later, (i.e., 35 years old or younger). The competition was in opera singing, with each participant judged on both the vocal and dramatic aspects of his performance.



Sponsors included the Town of Borlänge, the County Council of Dalarna, the County Administrative Board of Dalarna, and Music in Dalarna. The contest honored the memory of JB as well as the place of his birth, Borlänge. It aimed to be a challenge and an encouragement to young tenors from all over the world and to be a point of contact between young singers and opera houses, who find it more and more difficult to cast the many tenor parts of operatic literature.

The judges for the 1994 Competition included Elisabeth Söderström, Kerstin Meyer, and Jonny Blanc, the Opera Section Manager, Royal Opera, Stockholm, among others.

125 tenors from 38 countries entered their names for the competition. From the initial group of contestants, eight were selected for the semi-finals. Each performed two arias and one song (lied/romance). Three singers were then selected for the finals. Each performed two arias. A concert program then followed for the audience to allow the judges to make a decision.

In 1994 the winner was Chinese tenor Deng Xiao-Jun. Deng, 31, attended Beijing Conservatory before leaving China to study in Italy. He sang "La vita e' inferno all' infelice" from Verdi's *The Force of Destiny* and "Nessun dorma" from *Turandot*. Strength and drama were apparent in his performance.

The runner-up was Gwyn Hughes, the youngest and least experienced, who had sung as a tenor for less than a year. Hughes apparently 'stole the show,' however, with his performance of "Salut, demeure" from *Faust* and "E lucevan le stelle" from *Tosca*.

Naturally, the question that comes to mind is "What has happened to Mr. Deng since the competition?" Don Goldberg noted that he met Deng, who had moved to Queens, NYC. Deng apparently entered the Metropolitan in a small role. Unfortunately not much has been heard from this fine young singer since that time, and efforts by Don to follow up have proved futile.

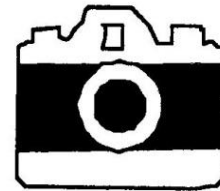


Autographed Photograph of JB Available

The Jussi Björling Museum has produced an elegant, autographed photograph of Jussi for sale. Please note that prices are approximate and don't include postage. To order, contact the JB Museum directly for exact prices and shipping charges:

**Mr. Harald Henrysson
Jussi Bjorlingmuseet
Borganaesvaegen 25
SE-78433 Borlange
Sweden**

Size 21x29.5 cm, white background: about \$3.50
Size 21x29.5 cm, yellowish background: about \$5.00
Size 29.5x42 cm, white background: about \$8.00



Contribute to the Journal of JBS - USA

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed so far to our Information Letters and now to our Journal. We'd like to extend an invitation to all of our readers for reminiscences, articles, reviews, photographs, and illustrations. If you have something suitable for inclusion, please contact the editor or any member of the Board of Directors. Suggestion- Write and tell us which is your favorite JB recording and why.