

In 1959 after attending a Björling concert in Baltimore, Tom began to collect any Björling memorabilia he could obtain. He admits that this passion has grown more insistent and demanding over time. "However, I am a lucid fanatic," says Tom. "While I find that other artists wear a little thin over time, I never grow weary of listening to Jussi Björling. There is a subtle magic in Björling's artistry, an alluring quality to his timbre, as well as an apparent vulnerability in his style that makes him a close friend. Or a brother."

Tom is currently a professor of French at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He also runs an academic publications firm (Summa Publications) that specializes in French critical monographs and comparative literature studies and does translation work in his spare time.

Florence (Mickey) Dove: Mickey, as she prefers to be called, first heard Jussi Björling in the late 1950's when she was about 17 years old. "I had a few extra dollars in my pocket, and I wandered into a record store. I noticed a record set featuring an exotic Egyptian design on the cover. It was Aida, and the tenor was Jussi Björling. When I played it, I was stunned by the glorious sound coming out of my record player! That LP began a love affair that has endured for more than 40 years, both with the incredible Björling sound and opera in general." Mickey was especially pleased recently to be able to donate the Aida set to the Björling Museum in Borlänge.

Mickey lives in Broad Brook, Connecticut. Until she took early retirement in 1996, she managed large computer technology projects for Aetna Life and Casualty. About five years ago she began work toward an advanced degree in fine art photography, and last year she opened a home-based business utilizing her photography skills.

III. Mission and Objectives/Ethical Principles of the Jussi Björling Society - USA

We are working toward finalizing a statement of mission and objectives and expect to have this task completed by the end of March. I'll provide the full text of the statement to you as soon as we have agreement on the exact wording.

Additionally, we are developing a statement of ethical principles for the operation of the Society. This statement, too, will be completed by the end of this month and included in my next letter.

IV. Membership

The Society expects to provide the following membership contribution levels, although we are still working out the details of the specific benefits to be offered at each level:

Individual Contribution:

\$35 per year. Includes the Newsletter, currently anticipated to be published 3-4 times per year.

Family Contribution:

\$50 per year. Includes the Newsletter, and extends individual benefits to the entire household. This will likely include the option to register for any future Society-sponsored trips and meetings at a reduced family rate.

Founder Contribution:

\$100 per year. Includes all of the above benefits plus an audio tape or other offering exclusive to the Society (more on this later).