

UPDATE from the Jussi Björling Society - Sweden

Appeal for the Jussi Björling Museum

With deep sorrow and dismay we have been informed that the Municipality of Borlänge has decided to close down the Jussi Björling Museum at the end of the year. Considering Jussi Björling's unique position in Swedish and international music life combined with him being deeply-rooted locally we find the decision thoroughly deplorable.

Jussi Björling was born in Borlänge almost 110 years ago. After having started his singing career at less than five years of age he carried through a thirty-year-long operatic career and occupied a unique position among Swedish singers within Sweden and abroad. This position he still occupies today, sixty years after his death. At the turn of the millennium he was, in several international media, voted the foremost among 20th century singers, by critics as well as the public. Contrary to common prejudice about opera as highbrow culture, Jussi Björling was in high degree appreciated by the common people. During the Second World War he was voted the most popular voice in Swedish radio, before a long row of greats within the popular music sphere, and this popularity he retained until his death. His position, not least internationally, has, if anything, increased during the years since his death in 1960. He still serves as a model and inspiration for singers worldwide, and he attracts new crowds of listeners through his unsurpassed recordings.

It is in a way a universal heritage that the Municipality now chooses to ignore. A universal heritage is of course not only of local interest but also international interest. The collections housed in the museum of items, archive copies of recordings, disc issues in all formats, reviews, personal documents, photographs etc. make Jussi Björling one of the most well-documented singers in the world. This must not be dispersed!

For that reason we want to pursue another solution: a solution worthy of Sweden's and one of the world's foremost singers of all times.

We fervently urge that the museum be retained in Borlänge or, if that is not practicable, that the State be engaged and create a new museum in Stockholm.

**PLEASE ADD YOUR SIGNATURE TO THIS PETITION BY SENDING AN EMAIL OF
ENDORSEMENT TO: matthewjmancini@mac.com.**