

## News from Gustavus and the Minnesota Björlings

Recently Anders Björling called to give us some news about his and wife Janet's alma mater, Gustavus Adolphus College, located in their hometown of St. Peter, Minnesota. You may know that the music department at Gustavus has a beautiful performance space called the **Jussi Björling Recital Hall**, with an impressive portrait and bust of Jussi. According to Anders, Gustavus now has installed a large display case in the lobby of Björling Hall to hold a permanent exhibit on Jussi's life and career, complete with a sound system and earphones.

The JB Museum in Borlänge has lent Gustavus one of Jussi's Faust costumes for exhibit at the new display case. This handsome costume was used by Jussi both at the Met and the Royal Opera, and was kept at Anders' home during the past summer—before construction of the display case was completed. During a visit

by grandson Erik Heim, Anders teamed up with Erik to catch him in an appropriate Faustian pose next to a portrait of his great-grandfather as another Gounod hero, Roméo.

Faust begins his opera as an old man, but clearly this photograph shows the young Faust—after he's made his devilish deal and is about to celebrate with the aria "A moi les plaisirs!" Erik is the son of Anders' and Janet's daughter Susie. He's now 14 and in 8th grade at Edina High School where he plays baseball, football, and basketball. His dad, Steve Heim, played varsity baseball at Gustavus and is now his coach in baseball and basketball.

Erik's brother Peter is a senior at the same school and currently making plans for college next year.

Another regular visitor to St. Peter is daughter Jennifer with her son Charlie Anders Jussi Björling. Many Society members have already met Charlie, who's been to two JBS Conferences: in June 2001 and October 2002, where he co-starred in some photographs with Regina Resnik and other opera luminaries. Charlie will be 3 in December. Here Anders' snapshot catches him climbing a tree in the backyard.

## Babes for Björling



Meet Angelica Louise Bengtsson, born to Elaine Karlsson and Bertil on June 24 this year, and seen here at her Christening Day on September 14.

Enzo Bruzzi was born on June 23, 2001 while his grandpa Dorian was flying from Rio de Janeiro to St Peter, Minnesota for JBS's Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College. His parents Rafael and Kathy live in Anchorage, and report that Enzo loves Schubert's song "Die Forelle."

