

# Arts & Entertainment

## Talented violinist plays for pleasure Music College welcomes non-music majors

By Dave Whitaker  
Staff Reporter

Lincoln's Music College is doing something many other colleges won't do. It allows non-music majors to study within the school and participate in the orchestra. Merrill or "Mae Mae" Magelli is one of the "latest in a succession of talented, non-music majors," as her teacher, Robert Emile, describes her. Magelli is a violinist and a pre-vet major. She has been playing the violin since she was 4 years old. Her parents told her she could play anything but the violin, so of course she picked that instrument. At about the same time, she became interested in quarter horses, which led to her pre-vet major.

She said her parents never pushed her in to playing the violin and she describes herself as "the kind of person who likes to do a lot of other things."

Even though the two fields seem different, Magelli says they complement each other. She is taking 23 hours this semester, so her music allows her some relaxation. In turn, the violin has taught her self-discipline with studying.

Emile, who is the orchestra leader as well as her tutor, says she is a "very mature and knowledgeable performer within the orchestra." He also described her as "very confident and talented." He said she could have improved faster had she been a music major, but it takes a great deal of time as a soloist.

He explained that it can be more rewarding playing for personal pleasure, even though it takes a lot of sacrifice and there is no financial reward.

Although Magelli is modest about her abilities with the violin, she admits to winning the National Orchestra Award twice. When she was playing in the World Youth Symphony in Michigan, she was ranked 10th in the world. The World Youth Symphony takes place every summer, but she did not participate last year.

The Ohio State Veterinary School has offered Magelli a scholarship as a musician. She then will get the chance to play in the professional Columbus Symphony. But she is considering deferring veterinary school for a year and going to Italy. There, she would play in the Italian Opera House Orchestra and be paid a monthly salary. She said it is difficult to decide between "getting it out of my system" or going on with schooling.

Magelli said she used to be competitive; but as she got older, she became less and less that way. She still enjoys being able to travel a lot and play all over the country, though.

Magelli also loves bluegrass music and likes to play the fiddle. She even played with the Charlie Daniels Band once after winning a fiddle contest. She thinks it is important for musicians to be able to listen to other types of music besides classical — to cover other areas.

Magelli said she is pleased with the music department here, because many schools would not accept her as a non-music major. The school has given her a chance to improve her skills plus the pleasure of playing the violin.

Magelli said that at times she does regret her decision not to major in music, usually after a lesson with Emile. She explained he always finds an area for her to improve in, which makes her wish she was "playing all the time."

Magelli doesn't plan to give up the violin, saying, "I'll always play in the symphony." Emile said he thinks she is "giving herself a lifetime of enjoyment," if she continues to play recreationally.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Magelli



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