

All in the family

Violinist's art is lifelong endeavor

Practicing the violin with her mother was part of Linda Snedden Smith's childhood.

Mrs. Smith, who started taking music lessons when she was 3 years old, was prodded, encouraged and tutored in playing the violin by her mother.

The instrument is almost a family tradition. Her mother, great aunt, brother and cousin played the violin.

When it came time for her to choose a profession, Ms. Smith thought it was only natural to pick music.

"I never questioned it. That's what I've always done. After all that investment of time and money, I never thought about doing anything else," she said as she sat in her Farmington Hills living room.

Ms. Smith and her husband, Bruce, came to the Detroit area in 1967 to allow him to pursue a doctorate in music at the University of Michigan.

She won a position with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra that year and has been there ever since. Her husband is also a violinist with the orchestra.

Ms. Smith will be a guest artist with the Oak Park Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19 in the Oak Park High School, 13701 Oak Park Blvd.

AS A CHILD she studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Later she attended the Eastman School of Music and the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

But it is the early sessions with her mother which she credits with establishing her on the road to becoming a professional.

With her mother watching her play, she avoided developing bad habits. With her mother's insistence on regular practice sessions, she progressed at a good pace.

In many ways, her experience with her mother echoes that parents and children have under the Suzuki method of teaching violin.

She praises that method as one which allows children to get a feel for the instrument and music without pressuring them to learn music and theory at an early age.

Her own children, Erik, 10, Marlan, 9, Cameron, 7, and Andrea, 4 1/2, are taking music lessons or will start taking them soon.

And, for the moment, she can't think of anything else she would rather do than play the violin.

"I'm really happy with what I'm doing," she said.



Linda Snedden Smith has honed her skills through many years of practice finally winning a position with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Donald enters air academy

James A. Donald, son of Edward Donald of 24755 Roosevelt Court, Farmington Hills, has entered the freshman year at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

The cadet is one of more than 1,400 freshmen who were officially accepted into the cadet wing after completing six weeks of intensive field training, physical conditioning and survival instruction.

Located eight miles north of Colorado Springs and occupying 18,000 acres of mesas and valleys at the foot of the

Rocky Mountains, the academy specializes in both military affairs and scientific technology.

Donald begins four years of academic study and military training that will lead to a bachelor of science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

His mother, Mrs. Thomas Coe, resides at 7222 Buckhorn, Orchard Lake. Donald is a 1980 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, Walled Lake.

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