

# Ms. Haltum picks up Oakway Symphony baton

By DIANE ABRAMS

If she isn't teaching music at the Detroit Waldorf School, she may be performing a concert or toying with the idea of a possible recording.

But Victoria Haltum said her new post as concertmaster for Oakway Symphony Orchestra of Farmington is the most satisfying of all her endeavors.

"I really love my job as concertmaster," she said. "I like having the responsibility of being a leader."

Aside from leading the symphony,

which was established in September, Ms. Haltum has the job of tending to all the technical aspects in the string section of the orchestra. She also tunes the orchestra and plays first violin.

"I like playing solos, it's nice to be heard," she said. "I'm a very strong leader, it's undoubtedly part of my personality. In order to achieve a good ensemble playing, you have to be somewhat aggressive."

ASSERTING HERSELF has always been relatively easy for Ms. Haltum. She didn't hesitate to take a leave of absence from the New Orleans Sym-

phony, where she has played first chair violin for the past eight years, to join Oakway.

Ms. Haltum got her first job as a concertmaster in New Orleans. She stayed with the New Orleans Ballet Hyssell for three years and also taught music at a university in the area.

"One of the reasons I left New Orleans was because I felt as though I had done everything I could do after so many years," she said. "There is a very small population and I wanted to work into a more culturally developed area."

Having no regrets about returning to her home state, Ms. Haltum says an active schedule keeps her on the go and continually involved with new projects.

"I'm more or less a soloist who travels from concert to concert without being associated with one particular group, aside from Oakway," she said. "I act as a free agent and have to go out and promote myself all the time — I enjoy it. Here in Detroit every day is different."

PROMOTION ISN'T a problem for Ms. Haltum, though. She's been involved in a five-part chamber music series which she put together for the Detroit Boat Club on Belle Isle.

Ms. Haltum said it took some time to adjust to her hectic daily schedule.

"It took me a while to get used to this kind of fast pacing," she said. "I have to be very organized. I get up in the morning and run all day, but I'm doing all the things I want to."

But she said she enjoys her busy life-style.

"A lot of time goes into preparation," she said. "I don't think the average person realizes the endless number of rehearsals that are involved. Just playing the violin alone is a full-time job."

ALTHOUGH SHE started out with only a few small projects, Ms. Haltum now has several things going on at once.

"There's a lot coming my way lately," she said. "There were times that I thought I'd never make it, but now I don't even think about it. I just do it — I go from one concert to the next. Detroit has been very good to me so far. I'm getting a lot of work. I would like to stay in this area."

Next month Ms. Haltum will appear with Ben Vereen and Joel Grey at the Music Hall and will lead Oakway in the upcoming performance at 4 p.m. Dec. 2 at Southfield Lathrup High School. The concert features "Outdoor Overture" by Aaron Copland and Scherzerazade by composer Rimsky-Korsakov.

"This is really a feather in Oakway's cap," she said of the concert. "I've always dreamed of playing these pieces, but of all of Rimsky-Korsakov's work, 'Scherzerazade' is the most difficult to perform."

For ticket information call Oakway at 478-6544.

Ms. Haltum's professional training includes attendance at the University of Michigan and completion of her degree in New Orleans. She also attended

Interlochen Arts Academy.

Her love of the violin, however, came long before her college days: Ms. Haltum began playing the instrument when she was 11 years old.

"I always liked playing the violin,

but I didn't realize that I'd be doing it all my life. I never took it that seriously," she said.

"When I got older, I realized that's what I do best and decided I had better start taking it seriously."

## Tour the homes

(Continued from page 14A)

multitude of ornaments throughout her home.

Two trees will grace the house. One will be placed in front of a full length window in the sunken living room. It will immediately be seen upon entering the home.

A sloping ceiling to 32 feet above the front room. Fans hovering above move the heat downward in the winter and assist the air-conditioning in the summer.

The decorations will be color coordinated to match the earth tones throughout the home. Giant papier-mache ornaments of delicate angels, made by Mrs. Hall's mother-in-law, a designer in Oklahoma, are an indication of the size of the tree to come.

WHITE POINSETTIAS will line the stairs leading into the exquisite living room. Decorations are also planned for the hidden bar that forms yet another level in this massive room.

Perhaps the best place in which to view the many levels throughout the Hall's home is looking up from the couch in the living room or looking down from a bridge that spans the room.

Mexican quarry tiles from the Southwest cover the top of the steps leading from the front door. The sides are made out of finished wood and the total effect is as unique as every aspect of the entire museum-like home.

The combination of wood, tile and glass furnishings throughout the house adds to its diversity. From the wood furniture in the library to the fornicia in the bathroom, everything has its own style and complements the total design.

"We designed the house so that we could live on just one floor," said Mrs. Hall. "My husband's cousin actually drew up the blue prints for the house. Amazingly enough, he's not an architect, he's an interior decorator from Oklahoma."

room off the side of the kitchen, Hall talked about his cousin.

"My cousin designed the house without ever seeing the land," said Hall. "All he used was a topographical map and a lot of insight."

"He still hasn't seen the house even today. The man used to be a builder, but he's never been an architect."

A visitor to the Hall's home might be impressed by its magnificence. Mrs. Hall talks about things that need to be done.

"Building a house is frustrating, but it's very satisfying," she said. "It takes so long for some things to arrive and there's so much to think about. We still have a lot to do."

The Halls believe in adding their own touches to their home — and enjoy doing it.

"Builders should have more fun with bathrooms," smiled Mrs. Hall. "I kept changing ideas for our bathroom around because the architect just didn't understand my grand plan."

A huge, round tub in the Hall's private bath is bound to provide luxurious comfort. A skylight lets in the sun to illuminate the entire room. Surrounding the unique tub is a sparkling mirrored wall that makes the large bathroom appear even bigger.

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THE HALL HOME is designed in bridges. From the downstairs hallway, a long window reveals one such bridge which stretches over a rock garden in the rear of the house.

"My husband is planning a Japanese garden where the more-or-less improvised rock garden is now," said Mrs. Hall.

The bridge theme is carried into the house, which has four levels. A winding stairway in the middle of the living room enhances an illusion of space divided by many levels.

For ticket information, call 645-1030.

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