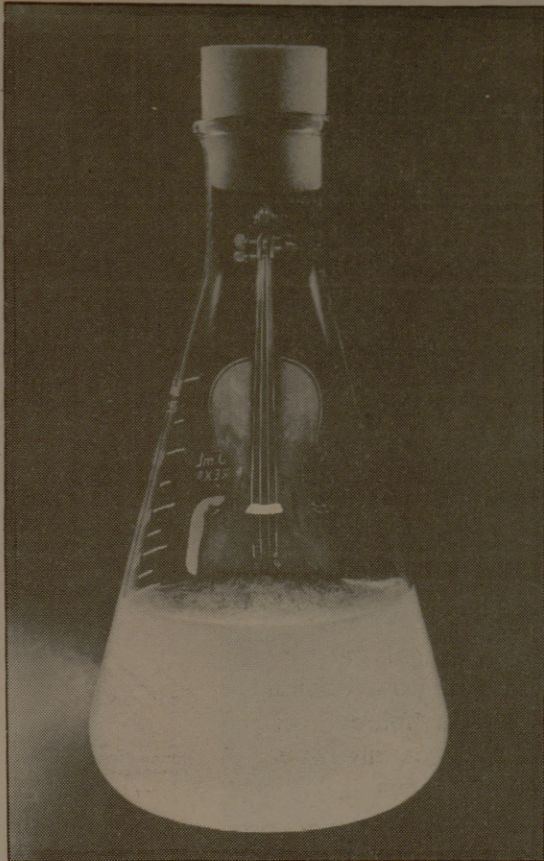


At Ease

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The secret behind the sound of the great violins of the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly those of Italians Stradivari and Guarneri, has eluded scientists for centuries.

Joseph Nagyvary, professor of biochemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M, stands at the forefront of research being done on the great old violins. He has taken the information gained from his studies to build his own violins, which he uses to test his theories. In the process, he has acquired a reputation as a violin maker.

Nagyvary has received international attention for his work and seems to have solved at least half of the puzzle of what made the Italian violins great.

At Ease Staff

Editors	Bill Hughes Marybeth Rohsner
Staff writers	Tony Cornett Karen Kroesche Nancy Neukirchner
Reviews	Karl Pallmeyer
Photographer	Bill Hughes

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Retired A&M physics prof Gilbert Plass spends several hours a week playing classical music as a disc jockey for KAMU-FM. The job fell into his lap eight years ago, and with 2,500 recordings in his collection, he's never played the same song twice.

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Scientist Joseph Nagyvary is using a combination of scientific and historical research in pursuit of the secrets of 18th-century Italian violins. He says he has half of the puzzle solved. And he'll be making history if he solves the other half.



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