

*The eight-year English instructor will use his knowledge of the music world in his teaching next term*

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Feature Editor

David Mount, Clackamas English instructor, opens a worn case and exposes two delicate fiddles. He gently pulls one from its quiet resting place and fingers the bow with his right hand, while holding the instrument in his left.

Then, his fingers begin to fly, moving up and down the frets — his face distant with careful concentration.

Fiddle music fills his tiny office in Streeter Hall and I am immediately transported into another time and place.

Suddenly, I am not in an office anymore...I'm not at school anymore. I'm sitting on a porch, somewhere in the mid-west. The setting is reminiscent of a Mark Twain novel; boys in overalls sit with their shoeless feet dangling off the railing; girls in long dresses are tapping their feet to the addicting rhythm of the music.

Just as quickly as it began, the music stops and I'm back at Clackamas in an office by the parking lot.

"What I love the most," Mount says, putting his fiddle back into its case, "is the sheer sound of an instrument."

Starting spring term, Mount will be teaching a music and literature class (EN-299) where he will be combining his passion for music with his knowledge of literature.

"We may start with a story and then listen to some music that relates to the story somehow. We will free-write to music and have guest speakers come in and share their knowledge," Mount explained.

Students don't need to worry about a lack of musical knowledge; the musical focus will be more intuitive than technical.

"We will try to educate each other on what we know," Mount said. "I hope students will add their knowledge of contemporary music to the discussions."

The class was the creation of Mount who wanted a way to use his first love, music, as a teaching tool in his literature classes. Many stories throughout time have a musical background and many musicians have used music as a way to put poems and stories into a universal language.

Mount's own musical background dates back to childhood

when his parents forced him to sing in church choirs. "I didn't like it at the time, but I thank them for it now," Mount said, laughing.

While his peers were making their GI-Joes fight each other with guns, Mount was cutting out pictures of electric guitars from Sears and Roebuck catalogs and arranging his GI-Joes to play in a band.

Electric guitar was his instrument of choice during his high school years, much to his parents' dismay, and he remembers the instant approval from his peers because he was in "a rock band."

"I never did get any dates though," he laughs.

When Mount went to college, he intended to be a professional

musician.

"The saddest day in my mom's life was when I dropped out of college to pursue a music career," he said.

Mount played clubs up and down the Sunset Strip in Hollywood and soon realized that he didn't want to spend the rest of his life trying to make people interested in his music.

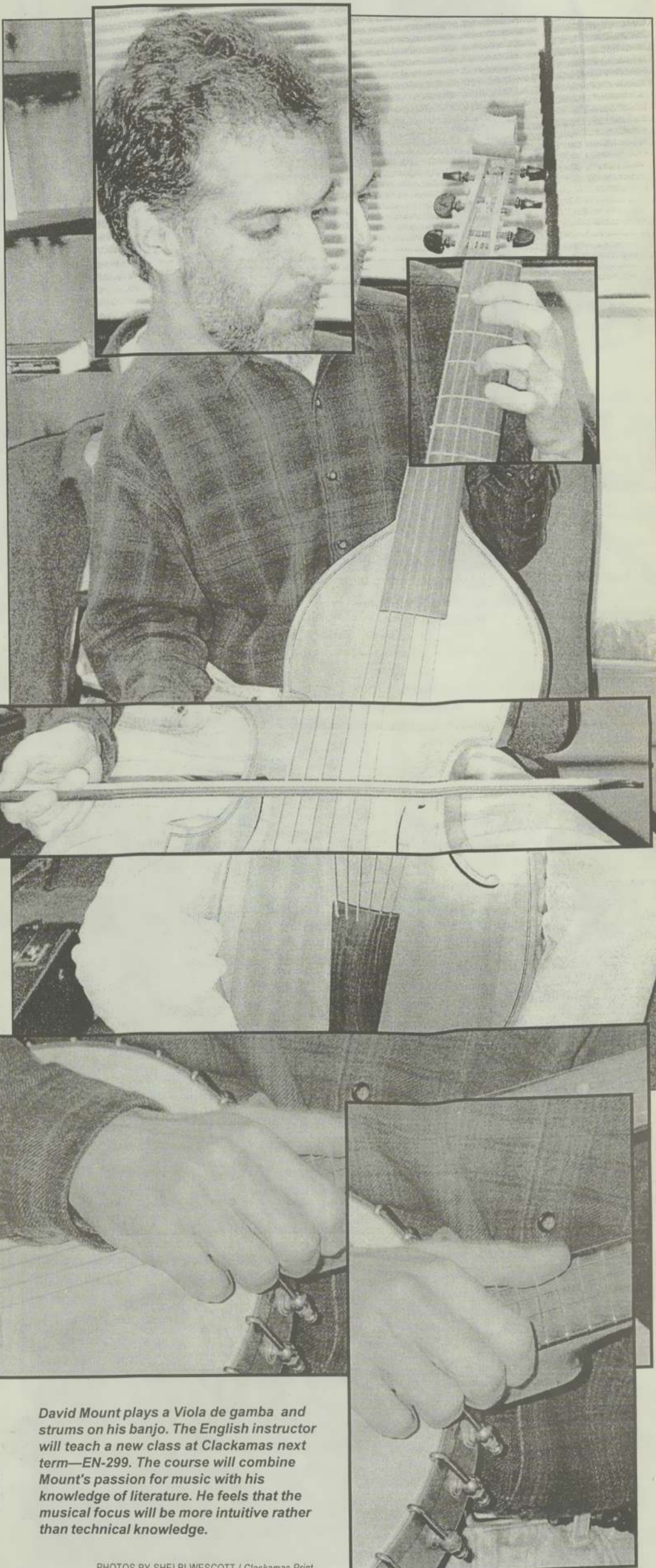
He changed his direction to teaching and yet never lost his musical focus. Even while working on his Ph.D. at UCLA, Mount could be found over at the music department, playing instruments with friends.

As Mount got older, his taste changed from rock and roll into more old-time music. During a trip to England, he became enamored with the sound of the Viola De Gamba and knew he wanted to learn to play it.

Instead of playing contemporary viola music, Mount researched the historical music and learned to play sheet music from the 17th Century.

It is his incredible passion for music, historical and otherwise, that makes him the perfect candidate for teaching the new Music and Literature class. Students can expect to become immersed in a different world of music and words combined as one.

"Music and Literature...it's just one language to another."



David Mount plays a Viola de gamba and strums on his banjo. The English instructor will teach a new class at Clackamas next term—EN-299. The course will combine Mount's passion for music with his knowledge of literature. He feels that the musical focus will be more intuitive rather than technical knowledge.