

DULUTH. . . When UMD's new music professor was a 13-year-old teen in Hastings, Neb., she tackled voice, piano and viola all at the same time. At 17 she was singing solo with the Lincoln, Neb. symphony.

Soprano Velda Stonecypher, now 27, will give her first local concert at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the UMD Humanities Recital Hall.

Miss Stonecypher added oboe lessons when she reached high school age and while still in high school played oboe and viola with the University of Nebraska orchestra.

She entered Indiana University as a voice and viola major; decided her sophomore year to concentrate on voice. She said her vocal training was slowed somewhat by her interest in the instrumental, but now values these orchestral performances which "lent a framework and an understanding for the whole of opera."

While getting her masters in music at Indiana she taught voice and sang and directed in the university's opera workshop.

In addition to teaching studio voice lessons and classes at UMD, Miss Stonecypher has the UMD Opera Workshop which is working toward a May production, and the Chamber Chorus which performs publicly each spring.

She compared a performing musician-teacher to a doctor -- "on call all day long." While her schedule in the UMD Music Department hasn't reached the proportions of a doctor's 24-hour day, she as singer, teacher and adviser anticipates many 10 p.m. windups.

Since it involves so many of her waking hours, she holds her career as her hobby. "Or I could say that my hobby -- my extracurricular interest -- is doing the things other people do ordinarily, like tidying up the house, cooking and sewing."