

Permit Fee \$100.00

Town of Manlius

ACCESSORY USE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION

- 1. Owners Name: THOMAS AOSMER Phone: 315 637-1900
- 2. Address: 7101 E. Genesee St, Fayetteville NY 13066 or 315 395 0234
- 3. Tax Map No.: 1788A
- 4. Requested permitted use:
  - (a) Previous: VIOLIN SHOP
  - (b) Proposed: VIOLIN SHOP
- 5. Location of operation within the building: basement, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, garage:
  - (a) Previous: →
  - (b) Proposed: Same
- 6. Approximate square footage to be utilized:
  - (a) Previous: c. 2200<sup>sq</sup>
  - (b) Proposed: Same
- 7. Hours of Operation:
  - (a) Previous: Tue - Fri 11-5 Sat 11-4
  - (b) Proposed: Same
- 8. Days of Operation:
  - (a) Previous: Tue to Sat (closed Sat July+Aug)
  - (b) Proposed: Same
- 9. Operator's name:
  - (a) Previous: Thomas Hosmer
  - (b) Proposed: Same

10. Provisions for parking:

- (a) Previous: Rear lot 6 spaces (small cars)  
(b) Proposed: Same

11. Number of employees:

- (a) Previous: 1  
(b) Proposed: 1

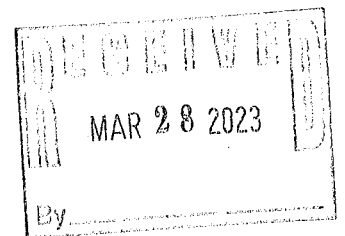
12. Average number of customers/clients to visit property daily:

- (a) Previous: 4  
(b) Proposed: 4

Show any changes to survey or site plan from prior approval and, if no changes proposed, please submit original survey or site plan.

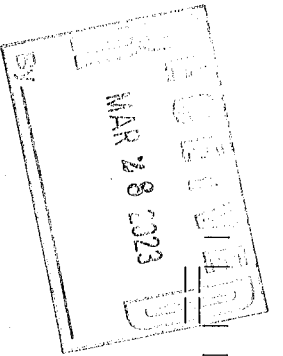
Show sign, if any, on survey or site plan and provide drawing or picture of same.

Submit Petition from neighbors regarding the continued accessory use.



# Strings attached

The hard work, honesty and good-heartedness of Tom Hosmer



BY CM McCAMBRIDGE  
PHOTOS BY ALAINA PATRIKUS

A fine layer of sawdust coats the workshop of Hosmer Violins in Fayetteville. Dozens of violins, violas and cellos are positioned carefully, with an array of tools at the ready for repairs, restoration and fine tuning. The occasional fiddle tune can be heard reverberating throughout the space.

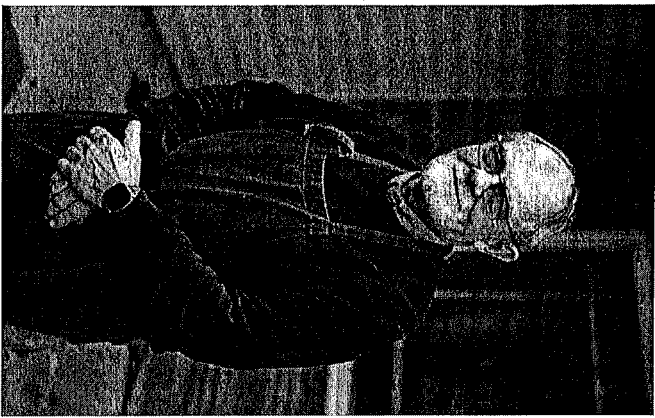
Hosmer Violins may look humble, but it houses work that has taken decades to perfect. If someone blinks, they could miss the sign in front of the unassuming façade, but they would also miss meeting the incredibly knowledgeable man behind it all.

Tom Hosmer has owned and operated the business for more than 50 years. Since originally opening his shop as Fretted Instruments of Syracuse, he has established himself as a vital part of the community and a valuable resource for professionals and novices alike. But Hosmer won't take all the credit for himself, noting he couldn't operate his business without master bowmaker and restorer Michael Hartala, whose skill level "makes me look like an amateur."

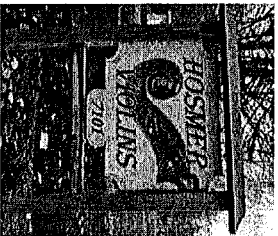
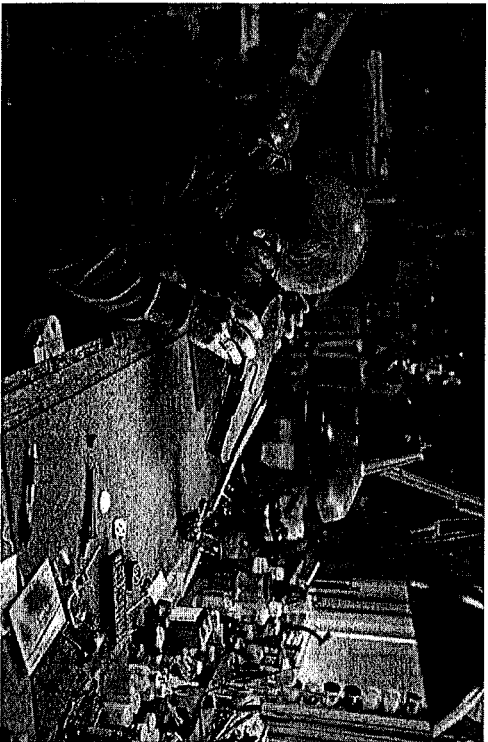
Hosmer himself has been playing violin for decades, and his affection for bluegrass and folk music is immediately apparent when he picks up a fiddle. However, most of his clients are from the classical world. When he starts to talk about his history and his craft, Hosmer's features soften, and a smile traces its way across the lines of his face.

Well known among local musicians for his personality, Hosmer can come off as blunt, but never unfriendly. He's no-nonsense, honest almost to a fault. He has built a reputation for his ability to repair and fine-tune instruments, but also for his eagerness to set up new players for success. He says he makes a point to show students to everybody who walks through his door.

"There's one thing I do when I sell a violin: I throw in a shoulder rest," he says. "I throw in some stuff that helps keep the instrument functional. If you go to some other places, they try to nickel and dime



- Jan 23 env mag art profile Hosmer pics (CREDITS: FOR CNY MAGAZINE photos by Alaina Patrikus) - Jan 23 env mag art profile Hosmer pics (CREDITS: FOR CNY MAGAZINE photos by Alaina Patrikus) - Jan 23 env mag art profile Hosmer pics (CREDITS: FOR CNY MAGAZINE photos by Alaina Patrikus)



➔ For more information: visit [hosmer-violins.com](http://hosmer-violins.com).

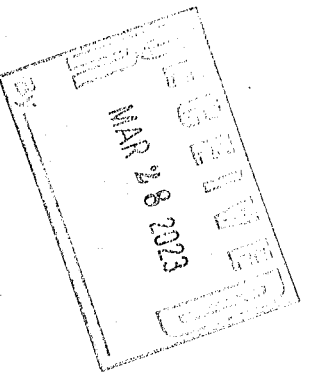
you for everything. I also spend a lot of time instructing the musician in the care and maintenance of the violin, which is especially important with instruments of the violin family."

Lindsay Groves, a cellist in Symphoria, recalled many occasions over the decades when Hosmer's expertise helped her, from determining that a cello had been sold to her with an incorrect label, to understanding right away that a recommended adjustment would crack her instrument. More importantly, Groves says, Hosmer was always available to lend a helping hand when she needed.

"I played principal cello for the Hawaii Symphony for a year, so I moved there," Groves says. "It's a difficult climate, and I realized there was really nobody in Hawaii who could handle the cello problems. No Tom Hosmer in Hawaii? Okay, I'll move back."

Local violinist and teacher Joe Davoli also has his share of stories about Hosmer, whom he has known since 1973. "We always felt that we're kind of lucky to have a guy like Tom in Syracuse," Davoli says. "He knows the business well, and you know when you're getting a fiddle from him, you're getting what you paid for. He tells it like it is."

When Hosmer was a teen, his first guitar was a "piece of junk. Almost immediately I started trying to 'improve' it. Same thing for the next instrument. Acquiring knowledge on how to do it was difficult, so my first efforts were strictly 'improve.'" However, he was lucky to make some professional contacts who were gracious with their information. Hosmer began repairing guitars in his apartment while working on an English degree with a minor in photography at Syracuse Univer-

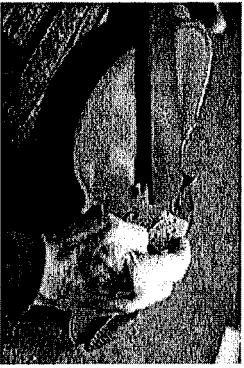
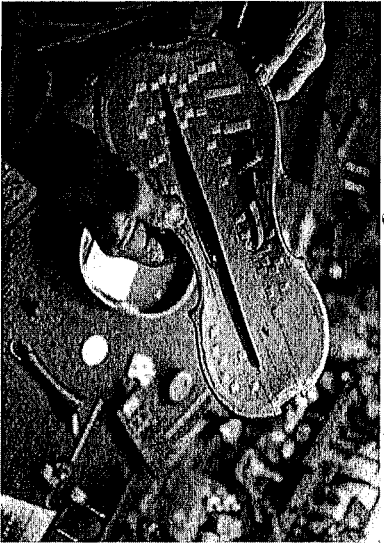


shop. Once out of college, he worked at a camera shop until he was let go in 1976, at which point he opened his own guitar repair business.

"The day I got fired, I went downtown and got my tax number," he says.

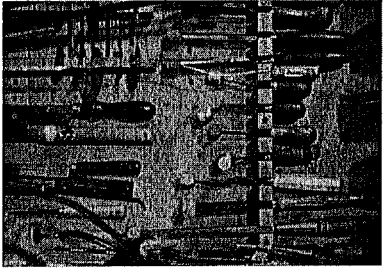
He got good at guitar repair. "I got so I could make a bridge from a block of rosewood and glue it on the guitar within an hour." Then violins, violas, and cellos began coming through his door, so the shop eventually shifted to violin family instruments. "I got into violin repair because I found it more interesting than guitar repair. Violins are more interesting because you can take them apart, usually not an option with guitars," Hosmer says.

Early in his career, Hosmer spent two days in a small workshop of people learning basic bow rehabing and repair from William Salchow, who is colloquially referred to as the dean of American bow-makers. "It may have been the two most important



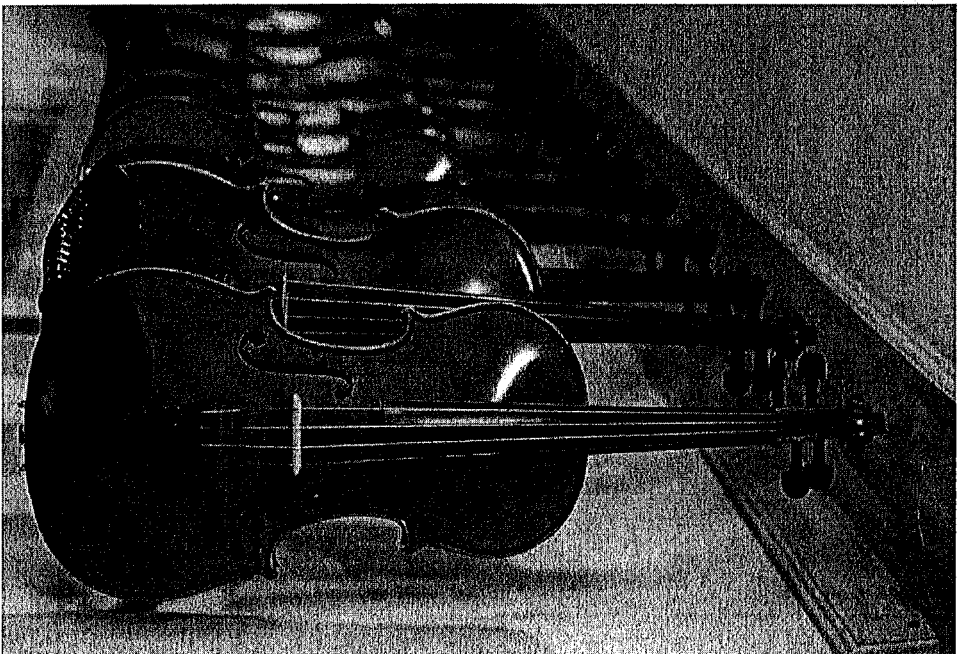
two days of my professional life, since I developed a lifelong relationship with Mr. Salchow," Hosmer says. "Bill was very free with information about how he did things and didn't hold anything back." The knowledge and skills he acquired led to work with the Syracuse Symphony and later Symphonia.

Gaining knowledge about violin repair techniques was another story. "It was difficult because the violin world is so secretive," Hosmer says, with many repair shops and manufacturers being highly protective of the details of their work. Hosmer had to spend a great deal of time figuring out the best methods for setup and restoration. But he made some contacts, expanded his skills over the years, and later attended the University of New Hampshire Summer Violin Craftmanship Inst-



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Joe Danoll, local violinist and teacher



tute, where he continued to learn about the construction and restoration of instruments with master violin maker Kad Roy, then the director of the State Violin Making School in Germany.

Amy Christian, Symphonia's principal second violin, describes Hosmer as "gruff but incredible." She recalled a time when she had approached him about a violin for a young boy with a form of inoperable brain cancer, ask-

ing Hosmer for the smallest violin possible as far as she could get it, so that it could be shipped across the country. "He picked the most beautiful violin, and he set it up within a day or two," Christian says. "I know how busy he is, he's just one guy. But he shipped it off to California in this beautiful little case with a bow and a note for this little boy, and he would not let me pay for it. That's the good-heartedness of Tom Hosmer."