

One man's lifelong affair with the violin

by KATHY RICHARDSON

IT IS almost 45 years since Braybrook musician Vladimir Kocibelli first heard the beautiful sounds of a violin but his passion for the instrument has not waned.

At the age of five, Mr Kocibelli was drawn to the sweet sounds emanating from a reception centre near his Albanian home.

"All the time I was thinking, 'how is this beautiful sound coming from such a little instrument'," he said.

A year later, Mr Kocibelli, 52, began violin lessons and studied the instrument throughout school and university.

In 1971, aged 23, he began working with the Albanian State Opera, a job he retained for 20 years until he moved to Australia in 1991.

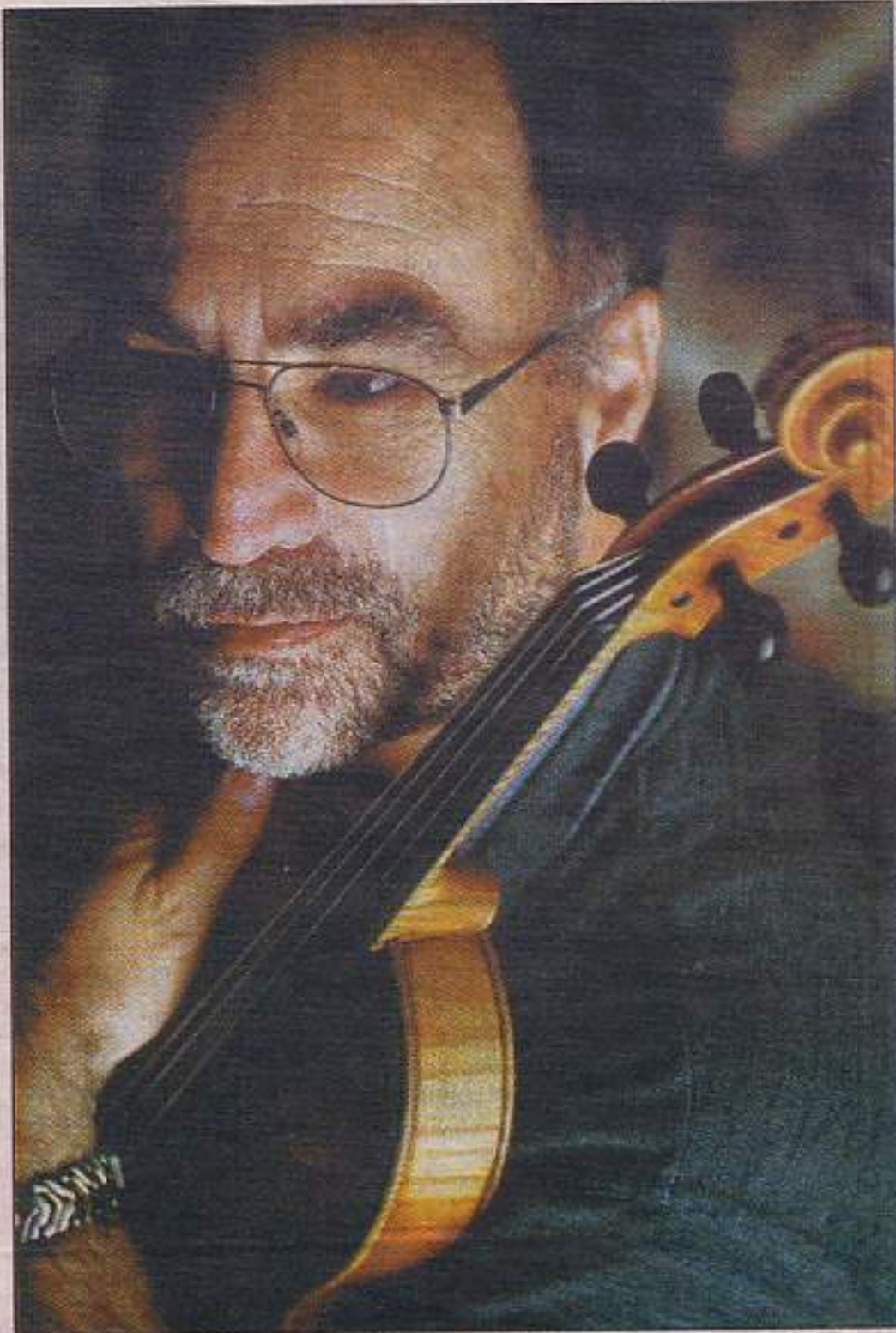
Mr Kocibelli said his devotion to the violin had never dimmed.

"I used to practise eight hours, 10 hours every day," he said. "I never tire of it, never tire."

"It's a very hard job but I like the music, I like the violin."

Mr Kocibelli was recently appointed a tutor at the Footscray-based Westrings Youth String Orchestra and teaches at Caroline Chisholm College in Braybrook.

He said he specialised in eastern European music but drew inspi-



Sweet sounds: Braybrook's Vladimir Kocibelli.

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ration from all over the world. He said he had performed at the Melbourne International Festival, the Melbourne Concert Hall and many other venues across Victoria.

■ Mr Kocibelli will perform at the Apollo Bay Music Festival this weekend. His second album, *World on a G-String*, is available at Fitzroy music shops.