The exciting sounds created by a bluegrass musician playing "Orange Blossom Special" stirred David W. Shoup, Arizona Beta '90, then a fifth grader, to learn to play the fiddle. He was already taking classical violin from a Phoenix-area teacher and playing in the school orchestra when he decided to add bluegrass and old-time-fiddle lessons to his music schedule. To accompany him, his dad learned to play the guitar, the family purchased a travel trailer, and they were on the road attending jam sessions and festivals.

Continuing with classical training, David was accepted as a violinist with the Tempe Symphony Orchestra at age 17. That same year he joined the Cowboy Fiddle Band as a fiddler and vocalist, performed the role of fiddler in "Fiddler on the Roof," and taught himself to play the guitar and mandolin so he could accompany his students. In the fall of 1985, he became the state fiddle champion.

David shared his love of music with developmentally disabled teenagers and the elderly in convalescent homes. He organized musical groups to perform for worthwhile causes such as the Diabetes and Heart Associations and senior-citizen centers. The Exchange Club of Scottsdale selected him "Youth of the Year" in 1986.

The summer before entering college, he was troubled with excruciating pain in his left hand and was forced to stop playing the fiddle, although he remained with the band as tenor vocalist. He was told that he might not ever be able to use his left hand. Determined to continue his musical interests, he restrung his violin backward and proceeded to reteach himself the instrument. After six months of frustration, he was able to play decently — left-handed. A master violin maker from Prescott, AZ, Carl Reiter, generously loaned him a left-handed instrument, and for two years he continued to play in fiddle concerts where he performed great trick- and fancy-fiddle acts.

Meanwhile, he had located a doctor of osteopathy who resolved his hand problem through a series of stretching and releasing techniques. Now with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University, he has decided to attend medical school and devote his life to helping performing artists. A member of Pi Tau Sigma and the ASME, David will be in Pomona, CA, attending the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.