



RENAISSANCE MAN of the acoustic waveforms

David Gagnon (EE '07) came to Virginia Tech in 2002 intending to major in electrical engineering. But his diverse interests kept complicating his academic life. He will graduate this May with a double major in EE and music and a minor in mathematics, with a load of research projects on his resume. He's also principal cellist with the New River Valley Symphony.

For graduate school, Gagnon may add another subject area to the mix. He's being courted by two graduate programs—architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and physical acoustics at the University of Texas at Austin.

"I love learning," he says. "A lot of topics intrigue me."

Gagnon added the mathematics minor because he enjoys it. He added music because he loves it and has played with the New River Valley Symphony for five years. An honors student, Gagnon started pulling his interests together with the Horton Honors Scholarship, which financed a trip to study the acoustics of European concert halls. Attending performances in Salzburg, Austria's 2,179-seat Festspielhaus during Salzburg Festival trained his ear in a way that performance never had, Gagnon says.

"When I'm on stage, I don't get to hear a lot of what goes on in the concert hall," he says. "In Europe, I compared venues

David Gagnon (EE '07) is also a music major and has a mathematics minor. He is interested in music acoustics—analyzing and characterizing the sounds of music.

