

## Victoria Vorreiter

Victoria has spent her life in music, which has manifested in diverse ways, all in search of the heart response to melody and rhythm. Trained as a classical violinist, her degrees include a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from the University of Michigan, and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from DePaul University, in Chicago, Illinois.

Having performed for many years in symphony orchestras, Victoria specialized in the Suzuki Method, a form of music education that inspires children through the “mother tongue” approach, in essence through oral tradition. These experiences propelled her to explore and write about the cultural importance and primal power of music embedded in all civilizations throughout time and space.

This lifework has taken her around the world, with teaching positions at music schools and universities in London, Marseille, Ann Arbor, and Chicago, and with invitations to teach and present at international music conferences and institutes in Asia (Japan, Singapore), the Pan Pacific (New Zealand, Australia), Europe (Ireland, England, Finland, Holland, France), the Caribbean (Puerto Rico, St. Barthélemy, Bermuda), Canada, and throughout the United States. Her most recent appointment was to the faculty of the School of Music at DePaul University.

In recent years, Victoria has shifted from teaching classical music to documenting world music. Inspired by her graduate studies at Cadi Ayaad University, in Marrakech, she began research in northern Africa, where she shot and produced her first film, *The Music of Morocco and the Cycles of Life*, in 2002.

Her next stop: Southeast Asia. Victoria moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2005, to explore and document the ancestral music of highland communities in Laos, Myanmar/Burma, Thailand, and China. Trekking to remote mountain villages for over two decades, Victoria has amassed an extensive body of work—journals, films, photographs, recordings, and collections of musical instruments and textiles. This has given rise to the *Songs of Memory* archival project, including books and multi-media exhibitions, created with the intention of supporting and preserving the age-old culture and wisdom of these traditional peoples.

To complete the circle, Victoria has launched Cultural Crossroads Asia, a massive initiative founded on two pillars: the CCA Museum in Chiang Mai, Thailand, that preserves material culture; and the Living Legacy Project that sustains ancestral knowledge through collaborative outreach programs in ethnic villages. May this circle be unbroken.

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