

Victoria Vorreiter



Victoria's life in music has taken several forms, all in search of the heart response to melody and rhythm. She was trained as a classical violinist, receiving Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Michigan. Later studies earned her a Master's Degree in the Humanities from DePaul University, in Chicago, Illinois.

As well as performing professionally 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 speak at international music conferences and workshops 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.

Victoria then turned her eye 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 witness and document the ancestral music of highland communities in Laos, Myanmar/Burma, Thailand, and China. Trekking to remote mountain villages for over a decade, Victoria has amassed an extensive body of work—films, photographs, recordings, and collections of musical instruments and textiles of the Akha, Lahu, Lisu, Hmong, Mien, and Karen peoples. This has given rise to the *Songs of Memory* archival project, including a book, compact disc, and multimedia exhibitions.

In recent years, Victoria has specifically explored Hmong culture through its rich trove of oral traditions and textiles. This has culminated in a comprehensive collection of integrative archival materials—the *Hmong Songs of Memory* book and film, photographs, and comprehensive collections of Hmong instruments, artifacts, and clothing. It is a joy and honor to share the fruits of this labor in the *Hmong Songs of Memory, Hmong Threads of Life* exhibition, created with the intention of supporting and preserving the age-old heritage and wisdom of traditional peoples.

Victoria Vorreiter
vvorreiter@yahoo.com
www.TribalMusicAsia.com