

## Victoria Vorreiter



Victoria's life in music has taken several forms, 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.

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 primal power of music and the cultural importance of music education embedded in all civilizations throughout time and place.

This lifework has taken Victoria 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.

Victoria next cast 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 on traditional music, **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, Thailand, and China. Trekking to remote mountain villages for over two decades, Victoria has amassed an extensive body of work—films, photographs, recordings, and comprehensive 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** archives, including a book, flash drive of music, articles, presentations, and fulsome multi-media exhibitions.

In recent years, Victoria has devoted her energy to explore Hmong culture through its vast trove of oral traditions and textiles. This has culminated in a new, in-depth archive—the **Hmong Songs of Memory** book, richly illustrated and fitted with a one-hour film, and full collections of Hmong instruments, artifacts, and clothing.

Now Victoria's focus turns to launching **Cultural Crossroads Asia**, a dynamic center of traditional culture of the peoples of the Golden Triangle in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with the vision of preserving ancestral heritage of the past while engaging indigenous youth to sustain and innovate such wisdom and practices into the future.

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