

Who is Doing What

VWS Alumni Corner

Interview with Andrea Siradze Class of 1988



VWS: Tell me about your work and education after graduating from the VWS.

AS: I studied violin performance at the Vancouver Academy of Music, where I was fortunate to also teach in my last two years of study. I saved my paychecks for travel as my tuition was covered by scholarship, and was happily independent, roaring to study/work on my ever-so-cool motorbike. An accident nearly ended my dreams in music, but I decided to push through. With the settlement awarded me, I purchased my beautiful violin which I play to this day. After completing my violin studies in Vancouver I was primed to go into music therapy training, as the world of music performance had left me feeling already quite jaded, and this at only 21! I didn't ever want my deep passion for music to be spoiled. Before commencing this training, I decided to attend the foundation year at the Musikseminar Hamburg, an anthroposophically based music university. As determined as I was to be back in my beloved Vancouver, I did stay five years in Hamburg. Within a month I met and fell madly in love with a Georgian Fellow, and three months later we were married. I began to work as a violist throughout Germany, teach classroom music to Grades 1—12 at the International School of Hamburg, Bergedorfer Waldorfschule. During these years Dato and I travelled by car to Georgia over seven times, each trip flavoured with passport problems, impossible border crossings, car trouble and lots of coca cola to keep our stomachs clear.

VWS: What kind of work/study are you involved in now?

AS: I love my work in the Vancouver Opera, where I am assistant principle second violin. An exciting new quartet project is in full swing: Microcosmos Quartet, music of the 20th century. North Shore Sinfonia, freelance work for recordings and my dear students in my studio also keep me happy!

VWS: How did Waldorf education affect your life, and your choice of career?

AS: Firstly, I most appreciate the process of learning at the Waldorf School. I benefit now from having learned my subjects slowly and with repetition. My knowledge is undoubtedly mine. I am also fortunate that I was able to form such strong bonds to the people in my life: teachers, classmates and parents. It has provided a feeling of trust in my surroundings and enables me to operate at full capacity.

VWS: What do you enjoy most about your work?

AS: I love to make music. It's such a thrill to create in the moment, to live for just that fleeting second, but to have it as a constant companion throughout my day every day. It has an indescribable beauty for me. I feel very lucky to experience my job as being pleasurable.

VWS: What do you think are your greatest successes in life?

AS: Being part of a happy family.

VWS: What are your fondest memories of your time at the VWS?

AS: Camping trips, drawing, Christmas Fair cleanup (I got to ride on the broom when my dad cleaned up), friends and amazing teachers!

*Interview by Michelle Gibson, for Development
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Editor's note: Andrea and Dato Siradze have two children at the VWS.