

Who is Doing What

VWS Alumni Corner

Interview with Shaine Rose Ireland
Class of 2006



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

SI: Because I had been studying classical voice training in opera since I was 13 years old, I attended the UBC summer opera program and was invited to submit an application to enroll in their Bachelor of Music program. I then transferred to Vancouver Academy of Music to study with David Meek, a world-renowned opera voice teacher. I was in the Academy's opera productions of *Die Flierdermaus* and *The Coronation of Poppea*.

In another area and at the same time as I was studying opera at VAC, I met the producer who worked with Michael Blublé and was asked to compose music with this producer and sing in a jazz/pop style band, which was quite outside of my classical training. I was intrigued and am now enjoying playing and writing with musicians that play with Michael Buble, Whitney Houston, Jan Arden, Nickelback, Raffi and KD Lang. We are working on a CD to send to producers.

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

SI: I am currently recoding a jazz/pop CD with my producer and co-writer. It will be recorded at the Armoury Studios with a full band including drums, bass, guitar, full wind instrumental section, and will also have members of the VSO playing cello, violin and viola. It should be out in about two months. I am also working at the completion of my Communication Degree at Capilano University. To support my passion for singing and studying, I work part-time at the Holly burn Country Club.

VWS: What do you enjoy most about your work?

SI: I have an incredible love of performing, singing and writing poetry. It is empowering and therapeutic, also very rewarding to see the results of what I love so much become a reality.

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

SI: Having such great friends and family. I appreciate the support they give me. I am so grateful for being given the opportunity to follow my dreams. I recognize that not everyone would have been given the chance to follow such an unusual and risky passion but my friends and family have been so supportive and encouraging.

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

SI: Our class was the first class to do a High School musical theatre show and we did "The Pirates of Penzance". I had one of the lead roles as Mabel. One of my fondest memories was doing the Grade 12 Project. It was the hardest thing I have ever done but I loved my topic: Opera—The Third Ingredient! That made it easy to love! I also loved handwork, water colour painting and woodworking. It was amazing to be in a class from Preschool to Grade 12 with a lot of the same people. I got to know them all so well and they will be friends for life.

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

SI: The teachers at Waldorf always encouraged the students to follow their passion. The music program gave me a strong foundation, which, as I now understand, has helped my with some of my learning challenges. I am indebted to the teachers for helping me accomplish skills of perseverance, strong organization skills and passion for learning. I feel that I have an advantage in post-secondary schools because of this.

*Interview by Michelle Gibson, for Development
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Editor's Note November 5th, 2013: Shaine is currently finishing her Bachelor's degree in Communication at Capilano University and is recording her musical compositions with her band 'Masonette', available on iTunes.