

## GLUCK FELLOWSHIP DIGITAL DIY CURRICULUM SYLLABUS 2020-2021

EDUCATION | HEALTH | CULTURE | CREATIVITY

Introduce | Inspire | Involve | Impact

**ANNA EMILOVA SIVOVA**

Department: MUSIC

Title: TRAVELING WITH MY VIOLIN

**Abstract:** This is a project of three videos that feature a violin solo performance and three different shooting venues. The first video, "Meditation of Thais" represents the moments of inspiration, even meditation at times, when while practicing the violin, my mind suddenly goes away, following the melodies of the violin. The second video, "My Violin in Sofia" was shot Sofia, which is one of the oldest cities in Europe. The third video was filmed in Seville, an overwhelmingly beautiful city with many layers of history.

**Target Audience:** K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, Middle School, High School, Family Learning

### Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By using this Digital DIY Curriculum students will learn to identify the sound of the violin solo. They will also get familiar with three different compositions by three very distinct composers (Massenet, Kreisler, and Sarasate). In addition to the audio material, the videos are shot on three very different venues. Two of them are two main European cities, Sofia and Seville. The images will attract the attention of young and older students by providing them visual information that brings them close to two very different cultures.

**Anna Emilova Sivova** is a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at the University of California, Riverside. Her research focuses on the chants performed during the Holy Week processions in Andalusia, Spain, specifically Seville, under the guidance of Prof. Walter Clark. She obtained an MA in musicology at the University of Hawai'i in Manoa, Honolulu and published two books that study the social impact of classical music in Seville's society before and after the Universal Exposition in 1992. She also holds a master's degree in orchestral studies from the International University of Andalusia/Barenboim-Said Academy in Seville. She obtained her bachelor's degree in Violin in the prestigious music school Reina Sofia, Madrid and the Conservatory "Padre Soler" in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid. Anna has also studied orchestral and choral conducting at the University of Seville.

Born in Sofia, Bulgaria, she moved with her family to Seville in the early nineties. At age five, she started studying violin with her mother, the violinist Madlen Kassabova. Anna obtained numerous violin prizes in Bulgaria and Spain, and scholarships from the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Andalusian Government, Foundations Albéniz, Cruzcampo, El Monte. Since the early two thousand, Anna holds violin positions in several symphony orchestras: Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa (principal of seconds), Royal Symphony Orchestra of Seville, and West-Easter Divan Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim. She has performed in the most important music halls in Europe, both chamber and symphonic music and has participated in music Festivals such as the Proms, Ravello, among others.

### Gluck Creative Classroom Digital DIY files:

#### Video 1: "MEDITATION THAIS"

My name is Anna Emilova Sivova and I was born in Sofia. Currently, I am a Ph.D. candidate at UCR, and I am a professional violinist. I started playing the violin at age 5 with my mother. I remember when I was young that sometimes, while practicing the violin, my mind suddenly went away, following the melodies of my violin. I was able to imagine interesting stories and see images that the music inspired me. My first video, "Meditation of *Thais*" represents those moments of inspiration, even meditation at times. I perform on my violin the music from the violin solo of the opera *Thais* composed by Jules Massenet in 1894. I recorded the piece and edited the sound to give the impression that I am performing in a big hall. I needed someone to help me with the video recordings and since I was in contact only with my family, due to the Covid-19 situation, I asked my mother to be my camera. She happily agreed and we both went to the site where the video was shot. We filmed in mid-July 2020 in Mazagon (Huelva), a small coast village in Southern Spain. I edited the material and finished the video.

## Video 2: "MY VIOLIN IN SOFIA"

My second video, "My Violin in Sofia" is very dear to me, since I shot it in the city where I was born and which I enjoy visiting very much. I love the nature of Bulgaria and remember very clearly the walks I used to take with my parents or with my grandparents in the parks of the city. Sofia is one of the oldest cities in Europe, but the decades of communistic dictatorship submerged the country in an illusory bubble that had its effect on every level of people's lives. The arts were an important tool that was used as a carrier of ideology. I tried to represent in this video some of the absurdity of it and the hope that nature gives to all of us. The music I used for the video is my solo performance of *Prelude and Allegro* by Fritz Kreisler, composed in 1905. The first part of the video was shot in the city of Sofia in three different sites. The first one was the Borisova Gradina (Garden of Boris), and I had the help of my sister. We filmed on a stage in the Garden that is usually used for free evening performances of children's dance groups, beginning rock or jazz groups, and many other. When no one is using it, it is actually a very beautiful place to play and record. The second filming site was the Theater Garden in Sofia, where I filmed some of the statues there. The second part of the film is featuring the nature that surrounds the city. I filmed some of the material in the Borisova Gradina, but most of it is from the mountain nearby Sofia: Vitosha Mountain. The filming and editing happened during my stay in Sofia in August 2020.

## Video 3 "SEVILLE"

My third video was filmed in the city of Seville, where I moved with my family when I was 10 years old. Seville is overwhelmingly beautiful with many layers of history. However, there is a past that cannot be hidden. On the one side, the Inquisition that expelled the Jewish population from Spain in 1492 was very powerful here. On the other, the ships coming from the Americas full of gold and silver by exploiting these lands stored those materials in Seville. In my video "Seville", I tried to picture the beauty of the city, but also its triviality, underlying the dark yesterday. The music I am performing here is the *Playera* by Pablo Sarasate, composed in 1880. In this video I do not appear performing the violin. I am also the camera and editor. I filmed the material in different sites in Seville: Parque de María Luisa, Plaza de España, Barrio de Santa Cruz or La Judería, and Jardines de Murillo. It can be seen how the very popular touristic destination that Seville is is almost empty due to the Covid-19 travelling restrictions. The video was filmed and edited at the end of August, 2020.