

I am Anastassia Khorosheva. I am a mezzo soprano.

They say we are what we were in our childhood. So, let me start my story from the very beginning.

I was born in Siberia and still remember its nature, so beautiful and severe at the same time.

I can remember my Grandpa, his wrinkled face and hands with paper-like skin.

He was an accordion tuner and taught me to love music since my earliest years.

«Music is all around you, you just need to learn how to hear it,» he used to say and I learned to listen to the song of the wind and the lovely chime of spring drops, I learned to hear the barely audible melody of the leaves, I learned to love the improvisation and polyphony of the birds' signing and I realized that music is actually everywhere.

When I was a child, I realized that music knows no nations and borders, that each musical instrument has its own voice and those voices unite in a melody.

That's what I know now as well because music is a universal language, which everyone can understand.

Music is some sort of a universal religion.

I am a believer and I can honestly say music surpasses any possible controversies and diversities.

At a music school, I studied accordion and classic vocals.

Since my early days, I have been performing and was a success, I was a soloist at a children choir and my music school.

Each performance was a journey to the unknown for me and deep in my soul, I knew I needed to become an opera singer.

I kept believing it was destined to happen and I never stopped thinking about it, even for a single second.

One day, opera singers from the Bolshoi Theater came to our city. I can still remember my emotions and feelings. I was literally stuck at my seat, that's how impressed I was.

It's very hard to describe how I felt. Later, I learned it's called catharsis.

Meeting real artists became a turning point for me. From that moment, there was no way back.

At the age of 18, I became a student at the Schnittke musical college and combined studying theory and practising.

I found out there is 'music of spheres' which exists in every poetic line and in every phrase, which defines the melody and the sound of the speech.

I fell in love with Marina Tsvetaeva poems. This Russian poet was adamant that 'symbols spark Music'.

After college, I decided to go on with my studies and entered the Schnittke musical institute. I graduated with excellent marks.

While studying in Moscow, I often took part in international contests and classes conducted by famous singers, such as Fiorenza Cossotto, Galina Vishnevskaya, Mauro Trombetta, etc.

The reason is I believe that if you want to be a professional, you need to self-educate, develop, gain experience on a regular basis.

That's why I combined studies with an internship at the Galina Vishnevskaya center. It was really beneficial for me because that's where I learned acting and performing on stage.

I knew for sure: everything I was doing was going to help me in my career.

I was right: huge experience I gained there defines the way I am today.

I remember singing major and secondary parts in the works by foreign and Russian composers.

That was a massive experience for me as well because I realised I was able to work on various pieces and roles.

After graduating, I was offered to become a lead singer in Vladimir Minin's State Chamber Choir, well-known in the country and abroad.

This job demanded fast learning of large amounts of music including opera scenes and contemporary music.

We also toured abroad a lot. Touring gave me priceless experience in terms of signing cantatas and oratorios.

I find inspiration in literature, architecture, travels and cooking.

I am sociable, optimistic, positively minded, confident and I can work in multi-cultural teams.

I like to spend my free time with my family and closest friends.

My main hobby is sports.

Currently, I am a lead singer of the Vladimir Classic Music Center conducted by Artyom Markin.

I believe that the opportunity to make music is a gift everyone should get at least once in their lives because people need beauty and light brought by music, especially in tough times.

Thinking about my hobbies I realised they all are somehow linked with music.

Literature and music go hand in hand in perfect harmony and I feel the connection between them with all my soul.

When I read a piece of fiction, I literally hear the way it 'sounds', the rhythm, I'm looking for it in rhymes, alliterations, lexical and syntactical sequences.

Speaking about poetry, it instantly occurs that plenty of poems became music lyrics. The inner music of a poem plays a major role in the impression it makes on a reader, including me.

On the other hand, many beautiful pieces of opera music have a solid 'literature foundation' or basis.

Obviously, to deal with your role better you need to master that foundation and understand the mentality of the character you are playing.

Architecture is a sphere of arts which requires inch-perfect precision. It is necessary to make any building solid, beautiful and well-set.

Similar harmony is very important in music.

Perhaps, each musician is aware of mathematical basics in every piece of real music.

That's what great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin was writing about in his 'Mozart and Salieri' (a part of 'Little Tragedies' poetry cycle).

As for traveling, it gives me a unique opportunity to see the beauty of nature and architecture of different regions and countries. Besides, it gives incredible joy of getting acquainted with various national melodies.

And as far as cooking is concerned, the link is obvious and natural. When I cook, I always do it listening to some good music. I have even noticed that the taste of food, for example, my favorite desserts, actually depends on the kind of music I am listening to.

Besides, I realized that a good cook is like a real conductor who leads his orchestra to success. He mixes ingredients in proportions known only to himself and creates a real cooking masterpiece which can only be compared with an exquisite and magical melody.

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