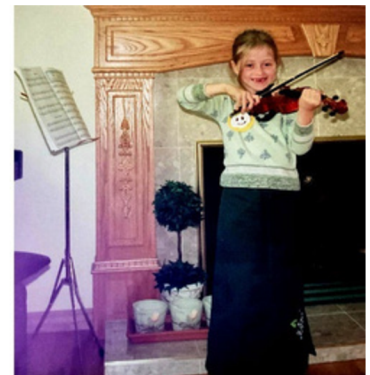


November 12, 2024

Dear reader,

My name is Majka Demcak, and I want to tell you the story of how I grew to be a professional Baroque musician ...

I remember the day I received my first period violin and bow when I joined EMV's Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Program (BOMP) at UBC. After developing a growing interest in Baroque music throughout my childhood classical violin studies, I was excited to finally make the switch and embrace the challenge of playing without a shoulder or chin rest. I fell in love with the sound and feeling of playing on the gritty gut strings with the lightness of the baroque bow.



My participation in BOMP was an immersive experience, filled with orchestra rehearsals and chamber coaching, and I decided to learn and absorb all that I could from our mentors Chloe Meyers, Natalie Mackie and Alexander Weimann - professional musicians from the Pacific Baroque Orchestra (PBO) and its Director.

Playing alongside the PBO mentors deepened my understanding of baroque style and technique, and I began to see the world through "Baroque coloured glasses", interpreting all the music I was learning with a new depth of meaning.



It was during an EMV presentation of Handel's *Fireworks*, a collaboration between BOMP students and the PBO, that I had the first thought of a career in historical performance.

After graduation I formed a Baroque chamber ensemble called Gallo Chamber Players with fellow BOMP alumni, allowing us to continue our passion outside of UBC by organizing our own concerts. I then moved on to studying at The Juilliard School where the skills I developed at BOMP laid a solid foundation for my success in the Historical Performance Program.

Returning to Vancouver after my studies, I continued to pursue my love for Baroque music while also starting a family. I relaunched my ensemble, and in 2024 became an official member of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra. I recently had the honour of performing alongside my BOMP mentors who inspired my journey as a Baroque musician at EMV's 55th Season Opener Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. Playing with the PBO has deeply reinforced my passion for this genre, and I can't wait to see what the future entails for the orchestra!



Sincerely,
Majka Demcak

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Majka's story reminds me very much of my own. I discovered early music at the age of 16 while studying modern flute in Montreal. Eight years later, as a young early music singer, I was hired by EMV to sing my first professional concert. Today, almost 40 years later, I am still utterly devoted to early music and care deeply about it flourishing because it enhances my life, it makes me feel joyful and calm. It takes care of my well-being in the fullest sense of those words, and I hope that it offers serenity, joy, and inspiration in your life too.

An essential part of EMV's 55-year history is the sense of growth, uplift and soaring to new adventure that we heard in Majka's story. We grow from a wonderfully strong foundation, and the support that you give has been essential to all that we create. We have chosen **Ascent** as our theme for the 55th Anniversary year – growing and rising to heights we haven't reached before, a climbing that requires both precision and vision for the future. Our goal is to raise **\$55,000** by December 31 to support **EMV's** and the **PBO's** performances, as well as the **Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Program** that helped make Majka's journey possible.

Your donations help us to continue to develop and nourish Baroque musicians and historical performance. We are so grateful to have you as part of our (and their) journey, and hope that you choose to continue your support.

With all my gratitude,

Suzie LeBlanc,
Artistic & Executive Director

P.S. – Thank you for reading our story. I hope we can count on your support before the end of the year – to help us grow to new heights!

P.P.S. – Donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax-receipt.

You can donate by cheque, credit card or online at earlymusic.bc.ca, or by contacting Carmen Murphy; Donor Relations Manager at carmen@earlymusic.bc.ca, or Natalie Rostov; Patron Services Manager at natalie@earlymusic.bc.ca. You can also reach us at 604.732.1610 during office hours.