



## YEAR PROGRAMME, MUSIC HIGH SCHOOL

### -SERBIA-

You are talented for music and play an instrument? You would like to go to a foreign country, learn their language, learn about their history and culture and meet new people? You have heard about student exchange programmes, but you don't want to miss a year of playing music? **AFS Interkultura Serbia** offers you the Music Programme.

You will be staying with a host family for a year, just like in a usual Year Programme, but you will go to a **Music High School**. This is a unique opportunity to do a year abroad.

Of course, there are some **special requirements** for this programme:

- ❖ school certificate or other kind of written proof about your prior musical education, preferably from a music school or an equivalent institution;
- ❖ a CD with a current video recording of a piece of music of your choice that we can show to the school principal – as obviously we cannot organise audition or entrance exam.

Our aim is to make it possible for students with special interests in music to experience living in a foreign culture.



Some music schools offer only music subjects and the students attend a general high school for the general subjects such as Serbian, English, History, Physics etc, while others offer a combination of general subjects and music subjects. This is how things work:

- ❖ Students **play an instrument or sing**, but they also have **theoretical music subjects** such as harmony, theory of music, history of music etc. and **general subjects**
- ❖ They have **one-to-one lessons** of their main subject – the instrument or solo singing
- ❖ They have **group lessons**: chamber music lessons, with students of other instruments, choir or orchestra
- ❖ They have classes like in any other school, for general and theoretical subjects
- ❖

Different music schools have different departments which may include: **piano, violin, viola, cello, contrabass, flute, guitar, harp, oboe, clarinet, horn, trumpet, trombone, solo singing, jazz, percussion** and **theoretical**.

There are music schools in many towns in Serbia, so which school the student will attend depends on where the host family live.



*Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures*

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*Javiera from Chile*, 2010-11, was the first exchange student on this programme in Serbia. She shared her experience with you to help you decide if this is the right thing for you:



My personal experience in Serbia is very good. I am a musician, I play the cello and I am going to a music school in Serbia that is very good because it helps me a lot.

The name of my music school is Vučković. The general subjects I have are: two languages (English and another that can be Russian, German, Italian and French), Serbian, Psychology, History, Religion or Civic Education, Physical Education and Information Technologies. My music subjects are solfeggio, theory, orchestra, chamber music, piano, sight reading, history of music and instruments.

In general, music schools are more relaxed than the regular schools in Serbia because they are made for musicians who need a lot of time to practice and study music. Vučković is a small school. The atmosphere is great because everything is about music, and all the people know each other and it's very good in my opinion. In the school, all the people are very friendly and they are very open and interested in the foreign people. They all talked to me from the first day and I felt welcome.

**I hope more people will be interested in coming here because it's really a good experience ☺**

*Marie from Germany*, 2011-12, this is how she feels about her experience in the music school:



Since I came to Serbia I have learned to see the life from another side. In music school you can be who you are. The people in music school are all so different, everyone has his one style, they don't want to be like anybody else, they want to be themselves. They don't think about what will happen if they say something. They say what they think and everyone accepts what they say. I never found in my life people who are so interested in me and my life in Germany. For them you are something special and they are not

shy to say something. At first, it was hard for me to find quickly the friends who I can trust. I think that's normal and I'm happy that I found good friends after two months. The everyday life in music school is not easy because I have to practice a lot. In Germany I just did music for fun. In Serbia, people who go to music school want to do it as a profession. But it's nice to be in a small school where everyone knows everyone.

*Esther from Belgium*, 2014-15 says:



Being an exchange student means living with a family with whom you don't share the same memories, language, values, habits, going to school in which you probably don't know anybody, in which people speak a language (in my case two languages) you don't know. But it's fun because everyone wants to get to know you and to help you if you need help, it's fun that it takes them five months to learn to pronounce your name. It's even better when you feel you are becoming one of them by learning the language, adapting to the culture and the Serbian way of life and hanging out with your Serbian friends. I remember how happy I was the first time I understood a joke someone made in class!

I got the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Music Programme and attend the Music High School in my host town, Subotica, in the very north of Serbia. I play the violin and intend to study it at the Conservatoire in Belgium next year and this is what I am preparing for here in Serbia. My music school pays special attention to the Serbian tradition, so there is the ethno singing group, tamburitza orchestra and several subjects in which we learn about the traditional ways of making music. Of course, I couldn't wait to try all of that. In this school, I can try new genres and improve my technique.