

2022 Feb 24

Interview presentation:

Gabriella's story

A MUSICAL DREAM
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From the beautiful medieval town of BOSA to the top of the world

Matteo Pietro Federico



Introduction.

Her name is Gabriella, resident in Boston but Sardinian to the core! In this interview she'll be answering our questions about her incredible story.

Born in Montresta she's the youngest among her brothers. Times were hard for her family but like it usually happens the last son was the gifted one. Everybody had an eye of regard towards her cause she was special that could flip the future of the family: her musical talent. She had the optimal hands frame, being way taller than her peers, the perfect pitch, she was able to replicate chords just by listening to them but more importantly her burning passion for the piano.

She's currently the Conservatory Executive Director in Rivers School Conservatory, Boston and in Longy School of Music, Cambridge MA.

Her accomplishments are:

Spearheaded formation of Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music (BEAM) consortium, securing a multimillion (\$2.8M) dollar grant from the Mellon foundation.

Advanced musical excellence resulting in students earning admissions into prestigious programs such as Tanglewood, Verbier, and the National Youth Orchestra.

Represented Project STEP at the White House when students were invited to perform for the Obamas and Singapore's Prime Minister (PM) at the 2016 State Dinner.

before going to the us..

- How did you start your musical career?
Before going to the US I was a teaching middle school music education and I just graduated from the conservatory in Sassari
- Going from Bosa to Boston it's a pretty huge jump, what made you do that hard decision?
As I graduated from the conservatory, I was hoping to have a musical career to be a performer. And I knew that I wasn't going to be able to pay my bills just performing and playing the piano. So I was teaching, but I was also looking at maybe starting a nonprofit organization and organize concerts and organize festivals and so on. That didn't plan out because the politics in Italy are too hard. And so I decided to leave my country and I applied for a scholarship because it was the only way to get a student to get a visa. If I went to the US as a student, I got a scholarship from the Sardinian government to get my master's in piano performance. And I pursued that at the London School of Music.
- Who were your biggest supporters?
My biggest supporters, my friends, my teachers, my parents supported me, meaning that they helped me out a lot financially because even though I had a scholarship, it was all on reimbursement after I would present receipts for the expenses. And so my father was always there and he's the one that really handled all the bureaucracy with the Sardinian government, with the Regione Sardegna, and he was certainly one of my biggest supporters, even if he was not a musical person.

- What was your knowledge regarding the English language before going to the US?
My English before I went to the US was not great, I travelled a lot and I had learned enough English in school but was only English to travel.
Before going to the US, as I said earlier, I traveled a lot. I went to Ireland, then I went to Spain multiple times. I went to England multiple times.
It was always English-speaking countries. And then I went to Australia on a really long trip. Those were all trips. Some of them to learn English, like the one in Ireland, I took an English course during the summer. All the other ones were really more for tourism than anything else, or visiting friends and having a lot of fun.

Interview Presentation

**Thank you
for listening!**

Matteo pisanu pietro