



## A SIAM SOCIETY LECTURE

## Songs of Memory: Traditional Music of the Golden Triangle

A talk by Victoria Vorreiter



High in the mountains of the Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar once knew no boundaries, lives a rich multiplicity of traditional peoples. Prominent among them are the Karen, Hmong, Mien, Lahu, Akha, and Lisu, six distinct groups who have maintained their independence and identity to a high degree. Each represents an extraordinary world, unique in history, language, customs, arts, religion, dress, and features. No less astounding is the diversity of their musical traditions. Living in nature and rooted in animism, these mountain peoples have developed a vast repertory of songs, sacred chants, and instrumental music that is ever-present and vital to their lives.

The keepers of the bardic tradition—the master musicians, shamans, headmen, matriarchs and patriarchs—use their rich trove of songs, legends and rites to connect people with something greater than themselves. Music, supported by ritual and formality, anchors members of a community to their life-source. It reunites them with their ancestors and aligns them with their deities. Ceremonies and songs

remind them of their origins and preserve collective memory. Music promotes a sense of communal harmony by instilling identity and belonging. Songs are the chronicles and oracles of tribal ways of life.

**Ms. Victoria Vorreiter** will highlight the musical traditions of these six groups using film, recordings, and images, in a presentation that compliments her current exhibition at the Jim Thompson Museum. Ms. Vorreiter's life in music has taken on several forms, all in search of the heart response to melody and rhythm. Victoria is a violinist and specialist in the Suzuki Method, which has led to positions at music schools and universities in England, France, and the United States. As an active clinician and lecturer, she has been invited to give presentations at international conferences and workshops at venues in Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Canada, and throughout the United States. Her most recent appointment was on the faculty of the School of Music at DePaul University, in Chicago, Illinois.

**DATE:** 16 June 2009 (Tuesday)

**TIME:** 7.30 p.m.

**PLACE:** The Siam Society, 131 Asoke Rd, Sukhumvit 21

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**Office Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

*Non-Members  
Donation: 200 baht*

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