



Teaching one of her pupils

Playing the Violin

Name: Olga Faiková
Family: daughter Marta, grandson Ondrášek
Job: Violin teacher and orchestral violinist
From: Ostrava, Czech Republic

What do you do?

I teach children to play the violin, and I play in the first violins* in the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra in Ostrava.

What's your working day like?

I work all day. In the morning, we have rehearsals¹. We usually start at 9 am and finish at 1 pm. At 2 pm I start teaching at the music school. In the evenings, I play at concerts or practise the violin.

What do you like about your job in the orchestra?

I love playing pieces² by famous composers³. The orchestra travels a lot, so I can also see places all around the world.

What don't you like about it?

I don't like it when there's not enough time to rehearse¹ new music. And I don't like recording commercial music.

What do you like about teaching children?

I think I have a good relationship⁴ with my pupils. Music teachers can influence⁵ children's lives very much. When children have personal problems, playing a musical instrument helps them.

Is teaching stressful sometimes?

Yes, it is a bit. I'm always nervous when my pupils play at concerts. And I'm stressed when they don't practise!

What do you do in your free time?

I like reading, working in my garden and going for walks in the forest. It's very relaxing. And I enjoy spending time with my family. I have a little grandson and I sometimes play the violin for him.

▶ ABOUT ME



How did you learn to play the violin?

I started when I was eight. When I was 13, I met Mr. Krůček, a great violin teacher. I decided to go to the Janáček Conservatory in Ostrava and I started practising two and half hours every day, and four hours every Saturday and Sunday. I studied at the conservatory for six years.



A concert in Hamburg

▶ VOCABULARY

¹ rehearsal [rɪ'hɜːsl] – zkouška (orchestru), to rehearse – zkoušet | ² piece [piːs] – hudební dílo
³ composer [kəm'pəʊzə] – skladatel | ⁴ relationship [rɪ'leɪʃnɪp] – vztah
⁵ to influence ['ɪnfluəns] – ovlivnit

▶ LABEL THE PICTURES

TASK 1 jump

Label the pictures with:

1. cello 2. violin 3. guitar
 4. banjo 5. ukulele

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 35

▶ LANGUAGE NOTE

* **first violins** – the violins that play the highest notes, and often the fastest ones, too.
second violins – the violins that play lower notes and harmony