



## from the founder of hold on to your music:

Nearly thirty-five years ago, I awoke to the day that changed my life. That was the day that my dream to share my mother's story was born.

I had been engaged to make my debut playing the Piano Concerto in A minor by Edvard Grieg—the same piece that my mother, Lisa, had dreamed of performing in her debut so many years earlier.

When I was a little girl, my mother taught me to play the piano. During those lessons, she told me stories about her life—her childhood in the enchanting city of Vienna, her magical piano lessons, and ultimately her parents' decision to save her life by sending her on the Kindertransport to London.

I remembered her telling me about the precious words her mother, my grandmother Malka, said to her at the train station: "Lisa, hold on to your music, It will be your best friend and I will be with you always through the music."

I didn't know how I would go about sharing their story, but I knew I would find a way. I had a fire in my heart.

I tell my mother's story because I believe one story, one dream, can change our lives and inspire us to do better, to inspire us to achieve the highest values within ourselves.

I tell my mother's story because my grandmother's words are engraved on my heart and it is my greatest privilege to pass them on to you.

I hope that everyone who has a dream will never forget that their passion and courage can overcome all obstacles. We have it within ourselves to inspire others and to make this a better world.

From my heart to yours,

Valabel

