

Suburb Style



Suburb Style editor, Deborah Warland talks to local residents



Andrijana & Rajko Radovic

SUBURB NEWCOMERS featuring Andrijana & Rajko Radovic

Do you believe in fate? Have you ever heard a story that you found so incredible that it might almost have been a film script? Well what this charming couple related to me sounded exactly like that, but you have to believe their story – because it is true. Fact can be stranger than fiction!

One can't help but be intrigued by the thread of fate that runs through their chance meeting. They first met on a London train where a simple enquiry for directions became a conversation which lasted the entire journey and revealed that their grandparents were in fact from the same small village in Montenegro. It then transpired that they would both be in a similar part of Montenegro just a few weeks later, where of course they agreed they must meet for coffee. Romance subsequently flourished and looking back they both feel

that perhaps destiny meant them to be with one another. After that meeting in July 2010, Rajko then proposed in December and they were married the following July.

Andrijana was born in Montenegro and came to the UK to perform and teach the piano almost five years ago. She has won international competitions, including one for the whole of the Balkans. She came from a musical background but was soon talent spotted by one of the top pianists in her home country and was given private tuition. I have to say that I wouldn't have got this information if I had been interviewing Andrijana on her own as she is the most modest of individuals – fortunately her husband has no such compunction in singing his wife's praises. It was after she performed at the Free Church that parents with children of all ages asked if she would give tuition on the Suburb which she now schedules around her work at the music school. Though mostly performing as a soloist, Andrijana also enjoys accompanying her husband Rajko.

Rajko, although with ancestry from Montenegro, was born and raised in Hillingdon where he spent much of his younger life dedicated to sport. Later he forged a career as a guitarist and music teacher.

After graduating from university, Rajko initially used his sporting talents to begin work in the field of health and fitness before becoming a guitar teacher at the American Community School in Hillingdon. Outside of work Rajko spent the majority of his time composing and performing music, gaining considerable experience as a live performer releasing his own album in 2009. After touring this album Rajko returned to West London to continue his music teaching whilst also assisting with the family business. It was around this time that Rajko was selected to appear in a BBC documentary called Last Man Standing which took him and five others around the globe taking part in the most extreme tribal sports and traditions. "We went to visit some of the most remote tribes in the world and learned their sports but often what had the most impact on me was the tribal music. Amazing, but impossible to replicate though." Rajko now writes and performs music with Andrijana and for both of them the prospect of a recording collaboration is the goal they are most excited about trying to make a reality.

In January 2012 Anrijana and Rajko decided to find their first home together in the North of London to be nearer to their respective places of work. Despite having no previous knowledge of the Suburb, another chance recommendation by an estate agent in Muswell Hill, lead them to Meadway Court where as they say, "We discovered a hidden paradise. Within just a few minutes we knew something felt very special about the Suburb and we've felt that way

ever since. We would love to stay here for a very long time and hopefully raise a family here. We have a great view from our balcony at Meadway Court and we hear such lovely birdsong. We both run through Bigwood and if you go off the main paths you can run for 20 minutes and feel that it is enormous. When we turn off the A1 into Northway we feel we have escaped from madness into utter tranquillity."

Andrijana and Rajko are now working together musically, remarking, "Although we come from different musical backgrounds we share the Balkan influence and love working together and plan to do some joint recordings soon. Apart from individual tuition we are also starting group sessions for younger children in piano and guitar at the Free Church from this September. We want the experience to be enjoyable – not intimidating." Andrijana and Rajko will both be continuing their one-to-one lessons whilst Rajko maintains his part-time role as a wellbeing advisor to schools, using music and exercise to give young people the tools they need to develop mind and body. "There are lots of simple tools children can learn which will help maintain an overall state of physical and mental wellbeing whilst still striving hard towards their chosen goals. Life is, after all, what you make of it but don't ignore the possibility that parts of your future may be preordained and that fact can be stranger than fiction."

If you would like to know more about individual music lessons or group classes at the Free Church you can contact Andrijana or Rajko on 0203 524 2424. **S**



Special function accommodation rates • Kosher dinner and breakfast available
Shabbat facilities, including Shabbat lifts and Shabbat lamps • Packages from £69.50



Avenue

CONFERENCE, BANQUETING & EVENTS

020 8371 6050/52

58 Regents Park Road, London N3 3JN
sales@avenue.uk.com • www.avenue.uk.com

Golders Green



BROWNHILL
corporate

**Are you a business owner in
Hampstead Garden Suburb?**

Then we've got you covered!

Brownhill Corporate provides specialist commercial insurance for companies and businesses of all types and sizes. Their wealth of knowledge and expertise combined with market presence enables them to offer individually tailored solutions including risk management and health and safety advice from a wide range of providers.

For your no obligation quotation contact the corporate team on **020 8353 8979** or email to corporate@brownhillgroup.co.uk.

2nd Floor | Kent House | 41 East Street | Bromley | Kent BR1 1QQ
T 020 8658 4334 F 020 8650 5065 E info@brownhillgroup.co.uk