

Meet Alice: From Professional Violinist to Kohl's Software Engineer | Kohl's

Video (2:40)

[Music]

When I tell other musicians that I also do this software engineer thing, they are first like, "Really?" (laughs)

I am a musician. I have three degrees, including a doctorate in that. I've spent my entire life playing violin.

In March of 2020 when everything shut down because of Covid, it was a very hard time for artists everywhere.

I cried a lot. I wasn't sure what to do, trying to soul-search a little bit and I decided to take a trip.

To do that during Covid I built out my car into a camper. Along the way, I met a really inspiring software developer and I decided to apply for a boot camp.

I applied for the boot camp and I got in. I started doing it and I got an offer for the Apprenti program.

The apprenticeship is 2000 hours of work basically, which is a year. I think it's the perfect training program.

I literally was trained for my job that I now do and it was just really smooth. I was offered the job at Kohl's, which was extremely exciting.

It allowed me to continue in this learning environment having come from no background whatsoever in this field.

[Music]

I think that there are a lot of parallels between our training in music and what is required of a software development job.

So we are really good at being alone in a practice room practicing a passage very, very slow and then very fast, getting faster and faster.

So we have this experience both being very individual and doing super minute things and then collaborating.

When you collaborate with somebody else, I can relate music to software engineering. I can have benefits from both of those things benefit each other.

My performance work takes place all over the country. I am able to get to wherever I'm going, work that day remotely from my computer just like I do at home, and then go to my rehearsals and performances.

[Music]

Every experience that you have makes you unique because your particular combination and potion of experiences gives you a certain insight to things that nobody else has.

Bringing that to software development and to Kohl's is what I feel is very valuable.

I will always be a violinist, but I also love that I am able to do this new thing too and to have added this thing to my life that still allows me to be the musician that I am, but that is also really fulfilling in its own way.