

KHẢI NIÊN NGUYỄN

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Master of Music, Clarinet Performance.

2025 – Present

OBERLIN CONSERVATORY of MUSIC

Bachelor of Music, Clarinet Performance. Minor in Music Theory

2021 – 2025

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL of the ARTS

High School Diploma, Instrumental Music: Frederick Fennell Wind Studies

2017 – 2021

ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE

LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Substitute Clarinet

Los Angeles, CA

2025 – Present

Perform in a wide range of programs, including major symphonic repertoire, contemporary works, and pops concerts with one of the world's leading orchestras;
Adapt quickly to complex repertoire and diverse conducting styles, demonstrating high-level artistry, ensemble responsiveness, and professional poise.

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN PHILHARMONIC

Principal Clarinet

Westminster, CA

2025 – Present

Help advance VAP's mission to present classical music in forms that are culturally resonant and accessible to Vietnamese American audiences, a community historically underserved and often gatekept from Western art music;
Contribute to performances and outreach initiatives that create welcoming musical spaces for Vietnamese musicians, fostering confidence, representation and cultural connection within classical music;
Support VAP's youth programs in Little Saigon, which champion equitable classical music education for students who often face systemic barriers to high-quality instruction.

TANEYCOMO FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Section Clarinet

Branson, MO

2025 – Present

Champion classical music accessibility by engaging underserved communities in Branson, Missouri through free public concerts and outreach initiatives
Present performances in unconventional venues to bridge gaps between classical music and broader audiences, fostering community connection through music

AKRON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Substitute Clarinet

Akron, OH

2024 – Present

Performed as a substitute clarinetist in diverse orchestral repertoire, ranging from the standard symphonic works to pops;
Maintained professional rehearsal etiquette, demonstrating adaptability and preparedness in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment.

EMMANUEL CHOIR

Vietnamese Folk Pianist

Westminster, CA

2018 – Present

Improvise and arrange traditional Vietnamese folk music for full choir and soloists, blending cultural authenticity with innovative musical expression;
Lead rehearsals and sectionals for a 20-member choir, facilitation strong communication and ensuring cohesive, impactful performances;
Collaborate with choir members to explore the emotional and cultural depth of Vietnamese folk music, fostering a deeper connection to the material and enhancing their musical storytelling;
Integrate elements of improvisation and cross-cultural influence, encouraging members to embrace a diverse range of musical styles and techniques.

CONCERTO APPEARANCES

COPLAND — CLARINET CONCERTO

UCLA Philharmonia

Los Angeles, CA

June 2026

MOZART — CLARINET CONCERTO IN A MAJOR, K. 622

Vietnamese American Philharmonic

Westminster, CA

March 2026

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

QINGDAO INTERNATIONAL CLARINET SEMINAR (届青岛国际单簧管)

(青岛市) Qingdao, CN

Guest Faculty, Reed Clinician

2024 – Present

Lead private lessons, master classes, studio classes, chamber music coaching, as well as performed in faculty recitals, fostering artistic development in students;
Conduct and rehearse clarinet choirs, focusing on essential ensemble skills such as pitch matching, articulation, and phrasing;
Teach specialized courses on reed making and maintenance, covering techniques such as knife sharpening, balancing tests, and warpage removal.

TIANJIN ORCHESTRAL ART FESTIVAL (保利管弦乐艺术节)

(天津) Tianjin, CN

Guest Clarinet Faculty

2024 – Present

Lead private lessons, master classes, studio classes, chamber music coaching sessions, and faculty recitals;
Instruct specialized classes on the Bonade school of clarinet playing, covering topics such as sound concept, articulation, embouchure, and other foundational techniques;
Design dynamic warm-up sessions for large groups of kids (ages 5–17), incorporating air support exercises, embouchure drills, scale patterns, and interactive games to foster focus and engagement.

PRIVATE TEACHING STUDIO

Westminster, CA

Clarinet and Vietnamese Folk Music Instructor

2019 – Present

Design pedagogy that balances foundational performance skills with the development of each student's unique artistic and musical voice;
Instruct students of diverse backgrounds and skill levels, ranging from middle school to college, tailoring lessons to meet individual needs and goals;
Emphasize discipline, goal-setting, and metacognitive reflection, fostering critical thinking and self-awareness in students' musical journeys.

NORTHERN OHIO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Oberlin, OH

Assistant Conductor and Woodwind Coach

2023 – 2025

Led and facilitated rehearsals for advanced high school musicians, ensuring efficient progress and strong ensemble cohesion;
Collaborated closely with principal conductor to design rehearsal plans and implement innovative teaching strategies;
Instructed and mentored woodwind sectionals, focusing on foundational performance skills and aural development.

OBERLIN CONSERVATORY

Oberlin, OH

Secondary Clarinet Instructor

2022 – 2025

Provide collegiate-level instruction to clarinetists, emphasizing holistic musicianship and artistic development beyond technical performance skills;
Develop and curate a comprehensive teaching portfolio, incorporating etudes, repertoire, readings, and insightful commentary across all fundamental aspects of clarinet technique and artistry;
Guide students in preparing for careers in music, including performance, education, and administration, while fostering their individual artistic voices and professional growth.

Music Theory and Aural Skills Tutor

2022 – 2025

Taught fundamental principles of music theory, including form, melody, harmony, rhythm, counterpoint, texture, bass, timbre and analysis, with a focus on practical application through writing.
Simplified complex theoretical concepts into engaging, personalized lessons tailored to each student's needs and learning styles;
Fostered a positive and motivating learning environment, developing strong communication and interpersonal skills to support students in achieving their musical goals.
Earned CRLA Level 1 Peer Tutor Certification, completing extensive training in pedagogy, active listening, and inclusive tutoring practices, exceeding national standards set by the College Reading & Learning Association.

DRAGON KIM FOUNDATION

Santa Ana, CA

Clarinet Instructor; Core Mentor

2018 – 2021

Crafted a comprehensive curriculum on clarinet fundamentals tailored to large classroom settings, ensuring accessibility and engagement for diverse student groups;
Supported a smooth transition to online music education, addressing critical challenges faced by low-income students during distance learning;

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

OBERLIN CONSERVATORY

Oberlin, OH

Clarinet Studio Liaison

2023 – 2025

Managed scheduling and maintained the studio Google calendar for lessons, masterclasses, events, recitals, and concerts;
Coordinated logistics for guest artists and teachers, ensuring smooth and comfortable stays at Oberlin;
Acted as the primary point of contact between studio members, Richard Hawkins, and guest teachers;
Ensured seamless operation of studio activities and events, addressing any issues promptly to prevent interruptions.

Head Ensemble Manager

2021 – 2025

Appointed by the Operations and Ensemble Personnel Manager to oversee scheduling and coordination of the Oberlin Large Ensembles program;
Responsible for organizing weekly shifts, ensuring optimal coverage for rehearsals and performances;
Acted as the primary liaison between musicians, student workers, conductors and the Operations and Ensemble Personnel Manager, addressing inquiries and facilitating smooth communication;
Managed shift substitutions and updates in Google spreadsheets to maintain accurate scheduling records.

CLARINET MAESTRO FESTIVAL

Los Angeles, CA

Social Media and Marketing Intern

2020 – 2022

Managed the @clarinetmaestrofestival social media platforms, developing interactive and captivating graphics and posts;
Doubled the following on Instagram and greatly increased enrollment for the 2021 Summer Clarinet Maestro Festival.

MUSIC MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

OUR LADY of LA VANG CATHOLIC CHURCH

Santa Ana, CA

Pianist, Choral Assistant

2018 – Present

Teach community volunteers to read and sing full SATB textured music;
Choir members often have no prior experience in singing or reading music, so rehearsals focus on aural memory;
Repertoire includes Vietnamese music predominantly, with American hymns for bilingual masses;
Select weekly hymns aligned with the Catholic liturgical year.

OBERLIN NEWMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Oberlin, OH

President, Music Minister

2021 – 2025

Organized and executed events for Oberlin students and community members, connecting the community through faith;
Proposed successful and efficient grants to subsidize all programming costs and organization activities;
Celebrated weekly mass for the Oberlin community in addition to selecting and performing hymns based on the Liturgy.

SAMPLE RECORDINGS

CONCERTI

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Clarinet Concerto: [Exposition](#)

October 2024

Aaron Copland, Clarinet Concerto: [Cadenza](#)

October 2024

CHAMBER REPERTOIRE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Clarinet Quintet: [IV. Theme and Variations](#)

May 2025

Claude Debussy, [Premiere Rhapsodie](#)

October 2024

HONORS & AWARDS

LOS ANGELES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Los Angeles, CA

Finalist, Clarinet Fellowship

May 2026

PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Irvine, CA

Finalist, Principal Clarinet Audition

January 2026

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, CA

Mimi Alpert Feldman Scholarship

April 2026

Winner, Atwater Kent Concerto Competition

March 2026

Herb Alpert School of Music Department Award

March 2025

OBERLIN COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORY

Oberlin, OH

Oberlin College Leadership and Involvement Award

May 2025

Ernest Hatch Wilkins Memorial Prize

May 2024

Conservatory Dean's Scholarship

August 2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

SOCIETY OF PI KAPPA LAMBDA

Member

St. Simons Island, GA

2025 – Present

INTERNATIONAL CLARINET ASSOCIATION

Member

Columbus, OH

2024 – Present

DALCROZE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Member

Pittsburgh, PA

2024 – Present

CALIFORNIA BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (CBDA)

Member

Sacramento, CA

2019 – Present

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BAND & ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION (SCSBOA)

Member

San Diego, CA

2018 – Present

RELATED COURSEWORK

OVERLIN COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORY

Oberlin, OH

Clarinet Pedagogy, Chamber Music Seminar, Introduction to Schenkerian Analysis, Introduction to Post Tonal Theory, French Music from the Belle Epoque, Analysis of 20th and 21st Century Music, Music of the Romantic Era, 20th Century Art Music Tradition, Conducting, Piano Private Study, Woodwind Orchestral Repertoire, Musical Acoustics, Arts Management, Peer Tutoring Skills

PRIMARY TEACHERS

BORIS ALLAKHVERDYAN

Principal Clarinet of the Los Angeles Philharmonic

Los Angeles, CA

RICHARD HAWKINS

Professor of Clarinet at Oberlin Conservatory

Oberlin, OH

MATHIEU GIRARDET

Director of Instrumental Music Area at Irvine Valley College

Irvine, CA

UYEN TRAN

Vietnamese Folk Musician

Westminster, CA

JAN MIYAKE

Professor of Music Theory at Oberlin Conservatory, President of SMT

Oberlin, OH

REFERENCES

BORIS ALLAKHVERDYAN

Principal Clarinet of the Los Angeles Philharmonic

Los Angeles, CA

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RICHARD HAWKINS

Professor of Clarinet at Oberlin Conservatory

Oberlin, OH

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FAN LEI

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MATHIEU GIRARDET

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JAN MIYAKE

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BROOK ESCOBEDO

Associate Dean of Academic Support at Oberlin Conservatory

Oberlin, OH

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LANGUAGES

VIETNAMESE, ENGLISH
SPANISH

Fluent
Intermediate