

Zhen Wang

Clarinetist

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Education

Boston University

Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Clarinet Performance, May 2025

Dissertation: Bipolarity in Music: Carl Nielsen's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 57.

Boston University

Performance Diploma in Clarinet Performance, 2022

Taipei National University of the Arts

Master of Music (MM) in Clarinet Performance, 2020

Taipei National University of the Arts

Bachelor of Music (BM) in Clarinet Performance, 2017

Teaching

College of Fine Arts, Boston University, USA

Instructor of non-major clarinet student, 2024

Instructed undergraduate non-major clarinet students in tone production, technique, and musical interpretation; prepared students for end-of-semester jury evaluations.

Kang Chiao International School, Taiwan

Clarinet section coach, 2019-2020

Providing instruction on foundational and advanced clarinet techniques for chamber music and clarinet section of wind ensemble

Private Tutor

Instructor of clarinet, 2016-Present

Guides students of all levels with a supportive and personalized approach, helping them build strong fundamentals and confidence. Provides mentorship for graded exams, school auditions, summer music camps, and competitions.

Principal Applied Instructors

Robert Patterson (2020-2025)

Boston University, Assistant Professor

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Acting Principal Clarinet

Ti Huang (2018-2020)

National Taiwan University of Arts, Chair of Music Department

Taipei National University of the Arts, Adjunct Professor

Wei-De Song (2012-2018)

National Taiwan Normal University, Professor

Taipei National University of the Arts, Adjunct Professor

Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Director

Additional Applied Instructors

Barret Ham (2024-2025)

Boston University, Lecturer in Music, Clarinet

New York Philharmonic, Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Chamber Coaches

Nancy Goeres

Boston University, Lecturer in Music, Bassoon

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Principal Bassoon

Andrew Price

Boston University, Lecturer in Music, Oboe

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Principal Oboe

Michael Reynolds

Boston University, Director of the School of Music

Boston University, Professor, Cello

Pavel Nersessian

Boston University, Associate Professor, Piano

New England Conservatory, Professor, Piano

Professional Engagements

ICFTW International Clarinet Festival in Taiwan, Invited Speaker, 2024

Invited to speak at one of Taiwan's most prominent clarinet festivals; shared insights on pursuing advanced music studies in the United States.

National Geographic Live, clarinet, 2024

Chosen by Boston University to perform in a National Geographic Live neuroscience research project, integrating live classical music into a study on brain activity; presented Beethoven's Septet in E-flat major, Op. 20.

On the Road to the National Concert Hall, editorial consultant, 2019-2020

Provided editorial feedback and proofreading for *On the Road to the National Concert Hall!* (2020) by Dr. Chun-Pin Chen (Ph.D., University of Chicago; Professor of Ethnomusicology, TNUA). Assisted with grammar, tone, and accessibility for general readers without a music background.

Selected Performance Experience

Tarrant County College Guest Artist Recital, solo clarinet, 2025

Presented a 45-minute lecture-recital featuring one movement each from Weber, Brahms, Poulenc, Widmann, and Schreiner. The curated program showcased the clarinet's virtuosity and stylistic breadth—from the transitional aesthetics of Classical and Romantic styles to contemporary extended techniques.

Boston University Soloist Competition Winner's Concert, solo clarinet, 2025

Selected as a winner of the Boston University Soloist Competition, performing Carl Nielsen's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 57.

Apollo Ensemble of Boston, principal clarinet, 2024

Invited to perform as principal clarinetist in a program featuring major works by Tchaikovsky and Mozart.

Boston University Symphony Orchestra, principal, section, and E-flat clarinet, 2024, 2023, 2022

An annual flagship concert at Boston Symphony Hall, featuring a symphony orchestra composed of students specially selected by Boston University through a competitive audition process. This is the university's largest orchestral performance of the year.

Spotlight at Carnegie Hall, solo clarinet, 2024

Presenting Jörg Widmann: *Fantasie* at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York. First clarinetist ever to win this prestigious annual competition open to all instrumentalists.

Next Generation Project with Boston Ballet, second clarinet, 2023

Performed at Citizens Bank Opera House in Boston Ballet's annual *Next Generation* production, featuring rising artists from Boston Ballet School and its affiliated pre-professional programs.

Celebrity Series of Boston (Neighborhood Arts Series), clarinet, 2022

A chamber music concert celebrating five commissions created in the 2020-2021 season. Music by Daniel Bernard Roumain, Nathalie Joachim, Paul, Desenne, Valerie Coleman, and Amir Bitran.

Boston Civic Symphony Orchestra, substitute, second clarinet, 2022

Performed in the orchestra's 97th season annual concert at Jordan Hall, featuring works by Dvořák.

Taipei National University of the Arts Elite Woodwind Quintet, clarinet, 2016, 2015

A woodwind quintet of selected students representing the university, performing at the recital hall of National Taiwan Normal University, National Taitung University and Taipei National University of the Arts.

Taipei National University of the Arts Symphony Orchestra, clarinet/E-flat clarinet, 2015

A symphony orchestra of selected students representing the university, performing at the National Concert Hall, Taiwan.

Hey Seed Clarinet Ensemble, performing member, 2014

Performance with Professor Wei-De Song at the National Recital Hall, Taiwan.

Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing: Performance and Academic Exchange, performing member, 2013

Academic exchange with the Central Conservatory of Music, featuring performances at Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Selected Recitals

DMA Self-Prepared Recital, 2025

Presenting clarinet solo works by Mieczysław Weinberg, Jean Françaix, Mario Davidovsky and Yuensuo Yang.

DMA Lecture Recital, 2025

The lecture topic: Bipolarity in Music: Carl Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto, Op. 57.

DMA Solo Recital, 2024

Presenting clarinet solo works by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Leonard Bernstein, Amanda Harberg and Jörg Widmann.

DMA Concerto Recital, 2023

Presenting clarinet concertos by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Jean Françaix.

DMA Chamber Recital, 2023

Presenting clarinet trio with cello and piano. Works by Johannes Brahms, Ludwig van Beethoven and Robert Muczynski.

Clarinet Recital, 2022

Performance diploma graduation recital at the Marshall room of Boston University.

Clarinet Recitals, 2020, 2017

Graduation recital at the recital hall and the concert hall of Taipei National University of the Arts.

Selected Scholarly and Pedagogical Projects

Clarinet Studio Curriculum Development (Undergraduate & Graduate Levels), 2025

Designed a 14-session studio course as part of doctoral oral examination, covering technical training, repertoire analysis, peer teaching, and mock auditions. Developed a holistic assessment combining performance, participation, peer feedback, and research-based tasks. Learning goals included technical fluency, interpretive depth, teaching skills, and audition readiness.

Lecture Project: Compositional Analysis of William O. Smith's *Five Pieces for Clarinet Alone*, 2025

Presented as part of doctoral oral examination. Focused on Smith's compositional techniques, including pitch-class set theory, twelve-tone organization, and implied polyphony through registral spacing. Also examined the work's historical context and the composer's innovations in multiphonics and extended clarinet writing.

DMA Dissertation (Recital Track): *Bipolarity in Music – Carl Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto, Op. 57*, 2025

Completed as part of the Doctor of Musical Arts Recital Track at Boston University. This project explores Nielsen's compositional structure and expressive contrast in relation to bipolar disorder, shaped through his collaboration with clarinetist Aage Oxenvad. In addition to historical and analytical insights, the dissertation offers detailed performance strategies and

alternate fingerings to navigate the concerto's technical and emotional challenges from the performer's perspective.

Graduation Thesis: *Formal and Motivic Analysis of Brahms' Clarinet Sonata, Op. 120 No. 2, 2020*

Completed at Taipei National University of the Arts. Analyzed Brahms' motivic development, harmonic ambiguity, and structural design across all three movements. Explored the relationship between clarinet and piano textures and the composer's late-Romantic expressive language.

Competitions and Awards

Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, Inductee, 2025

Elected to this national honor society recognizing top doctoral students for excellence in both music performance and academic achievement. Membership reflects a high standard of artistic and scholarly distinction.

Boston University Soloists' Competition, Winner, 2024

Selected as winner of BU's annual concerto competition open to all instruments, featured performance of Carl Nielsen's Clarinet Concerto.

Brass, Winds, and Percussion Department Award, Recipient, 2024

Selected as one of one to two annual recipients in recognition of exceptional musical artistry and academic excellence. Awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the department's musical and scholarly community.

Boston University at Carnegie Hall Competition, Winner, 2024

First clarinetist to win this prestigious annual competition open to all instrumentalists; won with a solo performance of Jörg Widmann's Fantasie.

Magic Clarinet Music Festival Clarinet Quartet Competition, Third Prize, 2019

A biennial clarinet music camp held in Taiwan, featuring masterclasses and adjudication by distinguished clarinetists from Taiwan and abroad. Awarded third place in the collegiate/professional division of the clarinet quartet competition.

Buffet Crampon Asia Pacific Clarinet Competition, Finalist, 2018

Selected as one of the finalists in this prestigious international competition featuring top clarinetists across the Asia-Pacific region.

Elite Training Program - Woodwind Quintet, Recipient, 2016

Selected for a year-long elite development program at Taipei National University of the Arts; included monthly scholarship, professional performance opportunities, and mentorship from renowned artists.

National Taipei Competition of Music in Clarinet Solo, Second Prize, 2014

Awarded second prize in Taipei's largest student music competition; college-level division for advanced clarinetists.

National Taiwan Competitions of Wind Chamber Music, First Prize, 2012

First prize winner in the leading national chamber music competition for student wind ensembles in Taiwan.