

SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with **WESLEY FERREIRA**

DAVID GOULD

David Gould has been guest clarinetist with the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, L'Orchestre National de France, and many more. A graduate of Juilliard, he is artist relations manager and product specialist for Vandoren in the USA.

What's the best part about being a musician? Sharing music with an audience. Making music with people is right up there too.

What's the hardest part about being a musician? There are many challenges. One is the solitary nature of the work itself, all the time alone practicing. Another is all of the questions that may never be answered. Lastly, knowing you are never finished learning and trying to improve. These aren't necessarily all bad things, but they can be difficult.

What's the best part about your job? At Vandoren? That would have to be working with musicians.

What's the hardest part? At Vandoren? That would have to be working with musicians.

How do you make difficult decisions? Pragmatically. If it is a difficult decision then it is probably an important decision.

How do you handle email? Deliberately. I try to be clear and concise in email, never too verbose...most people don't read everything in an email carefully.

What in your workspace keeps you motivated? The work and the coffee. I really like helping people. The chance to do that keeps me going.

What's the meaning of life? If I knew, I'd be rich. I would say that sharing music with people and giving them a respite from real life is a pretty good start. The meaning of life to me is sharing, helping, and laughing.

What worries you most about the classical music sector? Dwindling audiences...we are finally addressing so many important problems like equity and equality, but I am not sure we're doing enough to make sure we have people coming to concerts for years to come.

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, right now? My dad, I miss him very much.

Have you ever been starstruck?

Yes, I literally bumped into Paul McCartney leaving the Vandoren studio some years back. He was blocking the doorway and I tried to squeeze past him. He said excuse me, I said excuse me, then I realized who it was. We looked at each other and both started laughing. Another time was when I sent a DM to Alec Baldwin and he responded. A year later and after a few messages he ended up interviewing me for his podcast. We talked for 45 minutes, it was unbelievable.



How would you describe working in New York City in only a few words? Traffic, Parking, and Tolls.

When you're busy, what is your go-to food? A slice of pizza, a bagel, (hey, I live in New York City) a sandwich...essentially all the things I shouldn't eat.

How do you maintain creativity in your life? I get creative with how I work and live. Every day is different for me, which keeps me on my toes. Whether it's my work at Vandoren or as a performing musician or teacher, I try to learn something new every day.

What is your cocktail or adult beverage of choice?
A glass of wine.

If you were given a million dollars right now, what would you do with it? I would stop answering these questions, pay off my bills, buy a big house, and maybe a D clarinet.

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If you weren't a clarinetist, what instrument would you want to play?
I would have loved to play the piano, cello, or trombone.

If you had a superpower, what would it be? I wish that I could teleport so that I could see friends and places easily and often.

If you had a time machine, where would you visit?
I would go back in time to see family and dear friends that I have lost. Then, I'd go and meet some famous artists that I admire from days past. The list would be endless: Mozart, Brahms, Mahler, Monet, Rodin, Rembrandt....

If you could create a perfect day...
I would spend it with friends, have a great lunch, help someone with their equipment, dinner with my family, and then make some music in front of a live audience.

If you had a hammer...
Oh I have a few hammers!
Did I nail this question?