

SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with **WESLEY FERREIRA**

ANDY HUDSON

Andy Hudson is the Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and clarinetist in the successful contemporary mixed sextet Latitude 49. A noted interpreter of contemporary music, he takes time away from practicing to sit down and answer some questions.

What's the best part about being a musician? I love the way music brings people together. Whether I am performing for an audience, teaching my students, collaborating with colleagues, or attending a concert, I love the relationships and community that we find through music as we express our hopes, dreams, fears, desires, and identities together.

Do you have a work wardrobe staple? Although it isn't very formal, I am probably most often seen in my denim jacket. And comfy socks! Comfy socks got me through the year 2020.

In what ways do you ensure creativity in your life? It might seem counterintuitive, but I think we do great creative work when we have clear boundaries or constraints, even if we have to establish artificial ones. A parameter or a deadline helps the creative process along, and so I might give myself a set amount of time to learn a piece, or set a fake deadline for a personal writing project. I become more creative as I push up against that boundary and tend to do new and more exciting work, the same way that a tomato plant grows up a trellis toward the sun.

What do you do when you're creatively stuck? I get away. Creativity strikes when we get away from the hustle. I believe generally that we must rest from our work if we want to see growth and progress. Activities like taking a walk, having a nap, getting in the shower, seeing a friend, or reading a book have always helped me push through those creative obstacles.

What's the buzzword you never want to hear again? "No Pain No Gain" is the stupidest thing I have ever heard.

How do you handle email?

I never touch my emails more than twice. When I receive one, I sort it into a folder. If it needs a response from me, it goes into a folder called "Action." I go to that folder when I have time to write back in a thoughtful way. I have also turned off the email notifications on my phone so that I don't feel the constant need to be "on call" for everyone else's emergencies.

Do you have a mantra?

"The Process is the Outcome."

What is your favorite vegetable?

I love okra. Fry it up, serve it with tomatoes, put it in Brunswick stew or gumbo.

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Nachos.

Do you prefer coffee or tea?

Coffee is life. For me, there are two types of coffee: there is *function* coffee to get me through the morning (I take that with almond milk and sweetener/pumpkin spice syrup) and *form* coffee to celebrate the character of the bean itself (I take that coffee black).

Which piece of solo clarinet repertoire do you think is underrated?

I don't know that it's underrated, but the Joan Tower *Fantasy* is the best piece written for clarinet and piano since the Debussy, and maybe it is the GOAT. Everyone should know and study this wonderful piece.



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If you could have any other job, what would that be? **I would be a full-time writer, either in journalism or as a poet/essayist.**

If you could have personally witnessed one historical event, what would it be? **I wish I could've seen Teddy Roosevelt give his "Man in the Arena" speech.**

If you could cast someone to play you in a movie, who would it be? **Tough call, but I'm sure that between Brad Pitt and Chris Pratt they can handle it.**

If you could take back one sentence you've uttered in your past, what would it be? **"You don't have Coke products? Yes, Pepsi is fine."**

If you could be remembered for one thing, what would that be? **Hopefully, my kindness.**

If a picture paints a thousand words, how would you describe your promo picture? **"Tired father of two plays the clarinet and daydreams about nachos."**