

Christopher Clarino D.M.A.

(845) 863-6120 | clarinopercussion@gmail.com
www.christopherclarino.com

Percussionist working at the intersection of contemporary classical music, American Sign Language-integrated performance, and field recording. D.M.A., University of California San Diego (Steven Schick).

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts, conferred June 2019 – Contemporary Music Performance

2014 – 2019 | University of California San Diego

Dissertation: *At the Intersection of American Sign Language and the Performer-Percussionist: A Hybrid Practice*

Master of Music – Applied Music

2012 – 2013 | Stony Brook University

Bachelor of Music – Music Education & Applied Music

2007 – 2011 | Eastman School of Music

Minor, American Sign Language | University of Rochester

SELECTED RECORDINGS

Christopher Clarino: [Parlando](#) – Neuma Records (2025)

Role: Soloist & Producer

- “This is a phenomenal disc that deserves every success. The recording is excellent, the presentation well done, the booklet notes detailed... But it is Clarino’s artistry that defines the significance of this release.” – *Fanfare* magazine, Issue 48:6
- “A welcome addition to the contemporary percussion oeuvre.” – *Percussive Notes*, Vol. 63 No. 4
- Includes Pisaro-Liu’s *The Narrow Path*
- Featured on:
 - 88.1 WMBR, Cambridge
 - 88.9 KXLU Los Angeles
 - 89.9 WKCR-FM, Columbia
 - 90.1 WFEF, Champaign IL
 - 90.1 WRUV-FM, Burlington VT
 - 103.3 WFSM-LP, Asheville NC
 - *The Moderns* podcast, Episode 361
 - *Different Noises* podcast and Substack

Thomas DeLio: [Selected Compositions IV](#) – Neuma Records (2021)

Role: Soloist (Tracks 11, 15, 22, 26)

This album features performances of four solo works from DeLio’s *Transparent Wave* series. Each piece explores the spaces between acoustic sounds, utilizing silence as a sonic element in the composer’s minimalist style.

- “Ambient at its most ambient.” – *Jazz Weekly*
- “...be prepared for an experience that transforms how we perceive music and sound.” – *Take Effect*

ADDITIONAL RECORDINGS

Xavier Beteta: [Lasting Shadows](#) – Sideband Records (2020)

Marimbist, *La Resurrección de la Memoria* for harp, two marimbas, two pianos, and two basses (Track 6)

Larry Polansky: [These Are the Generations](#) – New World Records (2020)

Singing glockenspiel soloist, *Glockentood II* (Track 1)

Lei Liang: [Luminous](#) – New World Records (2016) Percussionist with The Palimpsest Ensemble (Track 5)

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Solo performances:

The Dog Star Orchestra 22nd Annual Festival

June 2026 | Los Angeles, CA

Michael Pisaro-Liu: *everyday* (2-hour performance)

April in Santa Cruz Festival of Creative Music

May 2026 | Santa Cruz, CA

Michael Pisaro-Liu: *When I hear light*

Shanna Sordahl: *Sensory Translations* (premiere)

Marc Perez: *Ready, Play* (premiere)

Nicolee Kuester: *Memoir*

Larry Polansky: *VEDITZ*

Hot Air Music Festival

March 2022 | San Francisco, CA

Aristéa Mellos: *Web of Threads* (premiere)

Percussive Arts Society International Festival (PASIC)

November 2021 | Indianapolis, IN

Larry Polansky: *VEDITZ*

Oh My Ears Music Festival

February 2019 | Phoenix, AZ

solo concert of commissioned ASL works

University of Tennessee Contemporary Music Festival

October 2018 | Knoxville, TN

Yiheng Yvonne Wu: *Your Hat* (premiere)

Chinary Ung at 75 – A Celebration

November 2017 | La Jolla, CA

Ung: *Cinnabar Heart* with Cambodian dancer Charya Burt

Ensemble performances:

Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Noon to Midnight" new music marathon (with red fish blue fish)

June 2019 | Los Angeles, CA

Michael Gordon: *Timber*

"It's About Time" Percussion Festival

Winter 2018 | San Diego, CA

Edgar Varèse: *Ionisation* (with members of the San Diego Symphony)

Malloy Miller: *Prelude for Percussion* (with red fish blue fish and the Paul Taylor Dance Company)

John Luther Adams: *Inuksuit*, performed on the US/MX border

Michael Pisaro: *asleep, forest, melody, path*.

Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Noon to Midnight" new music marathon (with red fish blue fish)

November 2017 | Los Angeles, CA

Gerard Grisey: *Le Noir de l'Etoile*

Reed Family Concert (with Renga, contemporary chamber ensemble)

January 2016 | La Jolla, CA

Olivier Messiaen: *Des Canyons aux Étoiles*

Ojai Music Festival (with red fish blue fish)

June 2015 | Ojai, CA & Berkeley, CA

John Luther Adams: *Sila: The Breath of the World*

Beyond the Score[®] *A Pierre Dream: A Portrait of Pierre Boulez*

Pierre Boulez: *Improvisations sur Mallarme I and II*

Carlos Chavez: *Toccata for Percussion*

Tan Dun: *Elegy: Snow in June* with cellist Maya Beiser

Alberto Ginastera: *Cantata para América Mágica*

Michael Gordon: *Timber*

Edgar Varèse: *Ionisation*

Monday Evening Concerts

March 2015 | Los Angeles, CA

Jean Barraqué: *Chant après Chant*

Bang On A Can Marathon Concert

February 2015 | Seattle, WA

Steve Reich: *Music for 18 Musicians*

La Jolla Symphony Chorus

November 2014 | La Jolla, CA

Nathan Davis: *a Sound uttered, a Silence crossed* (premiere) for percussion quartet and choir

Festival Internacional Cervantino

October 2014 | Guanajuato, MX

Steve Reich: *Drumming*

Gabriela Ortiz: *Liquid Borders* (premiere)

ENSEMBLE AFFILIATIONS

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

2023 – present | San Diego, CA

substitute percussionist/timpanist

red fish blue fish

2014 – 2019 | La Jolla, CA

UC San Diego percussion ensemble-in-residence

Palimpsest

2014 – 2019 | La Jolla, CA

UC San Diego new music ensemble-in-residence

COMMISSIONS

American Sign Language (ASL) Works

Marc Perez – *Ready, Play* (2026)
Aristéa Mellos – *Web of Threads* (2021)
Larry Polansky – *VEDITZ* (2018)
Yiheng Yvonne Wu – *Your Hat* (2018)
Elisabet Curbelo – *The Little Deaf Boy* (2018)
Tiange Zhou – *Me/Monologue* (2018)
Lydia Winsor Brindamour – *early morning (den, spiderweb)* (2016)
Carolyn Chen – *Threads* (2013)

Other Commissions

Shanna Sordahl – *Sensory Translations*, for solo percussion and field recording (2026)
Igor Santos – *Parlando* (2016), for vibraphone, synthesizer, and optional audio playback
Matthew Evans – *Still Life* (2014), for percussion duo
Mark Applebaum – *Composition Machine #1* (2014), for solo performer (consortium)
Christopher Moore – *The Screaming Body* (2013), for solo percussion and audio playback
Baljinder Sekhon – *Sun* (2013), for percussion trio
Michael Burrirt – *Time Tunnel* (2011), for percussion trio

TOURS AND MULTI-VENUE PROJECTS

Performances and Lectures on Karlheinz Stockhausen's *INORI* (1973-74)

2023

University of Nebraska, Kearney - *US Premiere*
Constellation Chicago
Eastman School of Music
The Pennsylvania State University
William Paterson University
SESC Pompéia - *Brazilian Premiere*
The University of California, Berkeley
sfSounds - Mosswood Sound Series
Project [BLANK] - Salty Series

RESIDENCIES AND FESTIVALS

Resident Artist | Dorland Mountain Arts

June 2026 | Temecula, CA

- Will create a collection of immersive field recordings of the Temecula Valley's natural soundscapes.
- Developing my performance practice of works inspired by the environment, including compositions by Michael Pisaro-Liu.

GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS ON ASL + PERCUSSION RESEARCH

Guest Lecturer | UC San Diego LIGN 144 (Discourse Analysis: American Sign Language and Performing Arts)
– 2019, 2021, 2024, 2026

Presenter | New Music Gathering – 2018, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Presenter | Eureka! Musical Minds of California Graduate Conference – 2017, CSU Fullerton

TEACHING

Instructor, Part-time

Fall 2024 – present | Southwestern College

- Percussion lessons (MUS119/193), Introduction to Music (MUS105), Aural Skills I (MUS111)
- Distance Education Faculty Training (DEFT) Certification

Private Lesson Instructor & Business Owner – Clarino Music Lessons

2016 – 2025 | San Diego, CA & online

- Provided personalized lessons in piano, percussion, violin, saxophone, and music theory to students of all ages, while managing all aspects of the business, including scheduling, billing, and client relations.

Director of Instrumental Music

August 2020 – December 2021 | Santa Margarita Catholic High School

- Directed the Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestras, Marching Band, Pep Band, Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, Men's Choir, and chamber ensembles.

Associate Instructor – Fundamentals of Music (MUS1)

2018 – 2019 | University of California San Diego

- Designed and taught a 30-week music theory curriculum for non-majors

Teaching Assistant – nine undergraduate courses

2015 – 2018 | University of California San Diego