

Christopher Clarino D.M.A.

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Percussionist, educator, and producer with a specialization in contemporary music performance and the integration of American Sign Language in musical contexts. Doctor of Musical Arts from UC San Diego with a demonstrated record of performance, teaching, and interdisciplinary collaboration across the U.S. and Latin America.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Part-time

Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Fall 2026 | Southwestern College

- Instrumental Lessons – Percussion (MUS119/193): Provides one-on-one instruction in classical percussion, Latin percussion, and drum set, tailoring lessons to meet student needs and interests.
- Introduction to Music (MUS105): Leads a survey course covering music fundamentals and the history of Western Art Music, both on campus and through the college's Restorative Justice Program at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility.
- Aural Skills I (MUS111): Taught an introductory ear-training course that develops students' musical listening and analytical abilities.

Key achievements:

- Increased enrollment in percussion lessons by 350% in one semester, attracting a diverse group of students, including predominantly Mexican and Mexican American learners.
- Created the department's first comprehensive percussion instrument inventory, collaborating with the department chair and band director to identify necessary instrument repairs and make strategic instrument purchases.
- Distance Education Faculty Training (DEFT) Certification, demonstrating expertise in delivering high-quality, engaging online learning experiences.
- Founded *The Listening Room*, a student music club to showcase and discuss important musical works not typically covered in the standard curriculum.
- Organized a series of on-campus outdoor pop-up concerts, promoting student engagement and increasing public awareness of the music department.

Director of Instrumental Music

August 2020 – December 2021 | Santa Margarita Catholic High School

- Directed the Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestras, Eagle Regiment Marching Band, Pep Band, Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, Men's Choir, and chamber groups.
- Recruited, hired, and mentored staff, fostering a collaborative, high-performance culture.

- Led Eagle Regiment to a Division 1A California State Championship win (2021), marking the band's most successful season in 30 years.
- Secured and managed a grant to revitalize the guitar program, emphasizing student-led projects and performance-based learning.
- Collaborated with administration to enhance the music department's visibility and student engagement at school events.
- Organized off-site performances, ensuring smooth execution and positive audience experiences.
- Worked with the CFO to manage budgets, prepare grant proposals, and oversee equipment purchases and rentals.

Associate Instructor – Fundamentals of Music (MUS1)

2018 – 2019 | University of California San Diego

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive 30-week music theory curriculum, including lesson plans and syllabi, tailored for non-majors with no prior music background.
- Delivered engaging, semi-weekly lectures that simplified complex music theory concepts, incorporating culturally relevant examples to enhance student understanding and engagement.

Teaching Assistant

2015 – 2018 | University of California San Diego

- Aided instructors for nine undergraduate courses
- Curated weekly/semiweekly discussion sessions and solo/group activities
- Proctored and graded midterms and final exams

ADDITIONAL RELATED EXPERIENCE

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.

Visiting Teacher

2012–14, 2019, 2021–24 | Various Locations (Rochester, Long Island, San Diego)

- K-12 substitute work across all subjects

Intern, JG Percussion

Fall 2018, Winter 2020 | San Diego, CA

- Facilitated in the production of handmade timpani mallets

Visiting Music Teacher

Fall 2018 | San Diego Unified School District

- Provided elementary general music classes through *Arts Education Project*, a pilot program offering arts classes to Title I schools

Percussion Studio Manager

2014-2015 | University of California San Diego

- Coordinated instrument purchase orders & rentals
- Organized instruments and maintained equipment inventory
- Liaised for guest artists

PUBLICATIONS

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

Role: Soloist & Producer

Parlando presents a curated selection of contemporary percussion works. The album includes a commissioned piece by composer Igor Santos and highlights an interpretive approach to new music.

- “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
- Featured on:
 - 88.1 WMBR, Cambridge
 - 88.9 KXLU Los Angeles
 - 89.9 WKCR-FM, Columbia
 - 90.1 WEFT, Champaign IL
 - 90.1 WRUV-FM, Burlington VT
 - 103.3 WSFM-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*

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

Role: Marimbist (Track 6)

This album features a performance of *La Resurrección de la Memoria* for harp, two marimbas, two pianos, and two basses.

- “Beteta’s masterful and expansive use of sonorities captivates the listener... compelling performances hammer out intricate rhythms with effortless fluidity and swagger.” – *Jenny Ob Brown*
- “The album transports the listener to another domain... it’s as though you’ve been led back to the present.” – *I Care If You Listen*

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

Role: Soloist (Track 1)

This album features a collection of Polansky’s works, where I performed as singing glockenspiel soloist on the opening track, *Glockentood II*. The piece is part of Polansky’s exploration of experimental and algorithmic composition techniques, creating a distinct and engaging sound.

- “... a fine listening experience indeed. I recommend this by all means.” – *GappleGate*
- “A stimulating collection of works...” – *Fanfare*

Lei Liang: [Luminous](#) – New World Records (2016)

Role: Percussionist with The Palimpsest Ensemble (Track 5)

Performance with The Palimpsest Ensemble on the title track, featuring renowned bassist Mark Dresser. *Luminous* forms part of Liang’s ongoing research into traditional Asian arts, bringing a vivid, tactile quality to the performance.

- “... [a] challenging and ambitious composition... among his [Liang’s] most imaginative releases yet.” – *Sequenza 21*

MUSIC PRODUCTION, CONFERENCES, RESIDENCIES

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.

Performer and Lecturer | Karlheinz Stockhausen's *INORI* | 10-stop Tour

2023 | United States and Brazil

- Organized and performed a 10-stop tour of Karlheinz Stockhausen's *INORI* (1974) for soloist with audio playback, including the U.S. and Brazilian premieres of the piece.
- Led lectures and discussions on the work, providing context and insight into Stockhausen's compositional techniques, influences, and the unique aspects of performing *INORI*.

Presenter | LIGN 144 – Discourse Analysis: American Sign Language and Performing Arts

November 2021 | UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Delivered presentations chronicling my doctoral research on the intersection of American Sign Language and percussion, hosted by Dr. Peggy Swartzel Lott.

Presenter | New Music Gathering

May 2018 | Boston, MA

- Delivered a presentation chronicling my doctoral research on American Sign Language and percussion, including a performance of Franz Schubert's *Erlkönig* for ASL signer and piano

Producer | Michael Pisaro-Liu's *asleep, forest, melody, path.* | It's About Time Percussion Festival

February 2018 | UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Supported Professor Steven Schick in organizing and coordinating logistics, managed rehearsal schedules, facilitated communication between performers, and ensured smooth execution of production elements.

Producer | Robert Morris's *Oracle* | Geisel Library Courtyard

April 2017 | UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Organized and led rehearsals and the performance of Robert Morris's *Oracle* with twenty-seven musicians.
- Coordinated logistics, facilitated communication between performers, and ensured the successful execution of this large-scale, spatialized outdoor performance.

Presenter | Eureka! Musical Minds of California Graduate Conference

February 2017 | Fullerton, CA

- Delivered a presentation chronicling my doctoral research on American Sign Language and percussion, including performances of a poem by Clayton Valli and a commissioned work by Lydia Winsor Brindamour.

Board Member | OSSIA New Music Ensemble

2010 – 2011 | Rochester, NY

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

With red fish blue fish, UCSD percussion ensemble-in-residence:

Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Noon to Midnight" new music marathon

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 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

November 2017 | Los Angeles, CA

Gerard Grisey: *Le Noir de l’Etoile*

Reed Family Concert

January 2016 | La Jolla, CA

Olivier Messiaen: *Des Canyons aux Étoiles*

Ojai Music Festival

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*

Festival Internacional Cervantino

October 2014 | Guanajuato, MX

Steve Reich: *Drumming*
Gabriela Ortiz: *Liquid Borders* (premiere)

Solo:

The Dog Star Orchestra 22nd Annual Festival

June 2026 | Los Angeles, CA

Michael Pisaro-Liu: *thistle, dust, seed, tree, weed, spur* (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*

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

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

Concerti:

with the La Jolla Symphony Chorus

November 2014 | La Jolla, CA
Nathan Davis: *a Sound uttered, a Silence crossed* (premiere)

with the Eastman Wind Ensemble

February 2011 | Rochester, NY
Russell Peck: *The Glory and the Grandeur*

with the Fredonia Wind Ensemble

October 2009 | Fredonia, NY
Russell Peck: *The Glory and the Grandeur*

with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra

January 2008 | Newburgh, NY
John Mackey: *Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra*

with the USMA Concert Band at West Point

April 2007 | West Point, NY

Fritz Kreisler: *Tambourin Chinois*

Ney Rosauero: "Despedida," from *Concerto for Marimba and Wind Ensemble*

Other performances:

Re:Sound New & Experimental Music Festival

June 2021 | Cleveland, OH

Tom Johnson: selections from *Counting Pieces*

Nicolee Kuester: *Conversation Piece No. 2*

SlowSD – Festival of Slow Music

February 2017 | La Jolla, CA

John Cage: *Four*³

The San Diego Museum of Art

October 2015 | San Diego, CA

John Cage: *Four*⁴

Guest Artist Series, SUNY New Paltz

October 2015 | New Paltz, NY

Béla Bartók: *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion*

Steve Reich: *Marimba Phase*

Mark Applebaum: *Aphasia*

Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC)

November 2013 | Indianapolis, IN

Mark Applebaum: *Fernyebough ReMix*

Ensemble:

San Diego Symphony Orchestra

2023 – present | San Diego, CA

substitute timpanist/percussionist

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

Eastman Wind Ensemble

2009 – 2011 | Rochester, NY

section percussionist/timpanist

Volta Trio

2007 – 2011 | Rochester, NY

co-founder of percussion group; notable performances at Carnegie Hall, Harvard University, Georgetown University and New York University

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 (dew, 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 Burritt – *Time Tunnel* (2011), for percussion trio
Edo Frenkel – *Sphinx I* (2010), for percussion trio
Andrew S. Allen – *9 Idiotic Plays on Plantation Idioms* (2010), for percussion trio
– *Running the Tree* (2008), for flute and timpani
Alan Danahy – *Colored Illusions* (2008), for solo amplified timpani