

# SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with **WESLEY FERREIRA**

## MARK DOVER

*As clarinetist with the GRAMMY-nominated Imani Winds since 2016, Mark Dover is currently in residence at the Curtis Institute and the Mannes School of Music. While maintaining firm roots in classical music, he has an extensive background in jazz and improvised music. He sits down to answer some of my questions.*

**What's the best part about being a musician?**

Creating.

**What's the hardest part about being a musician?**

Being away from family.

**How do you unplug?**

Time with my daughter.

**Do you have a necessary vice?**

Netflix.

**What's the one thing that people would be surprised to find out about you?**

I used to seriously want to be a detective.

**What really makes you laugh?**

Great stand-up.

**What's the craziest (or most adventurous or unique) thing you've ever done?**

Last night was pretty crazy... I drove the wrong way on the Jersey Turnpike to avoid mass flooding! It took 9 hours to drive 70 miles.

**What's one thing you wish you had known when you began your career? You'll never have more free time than you will in college.**

**When did you first become comfortable saying that you were a professional musician?**

Maybe 25.

**What's the best piece of advice you received that changed your life... and who gave it to you?**

Find out what makes you truly fulfilled and never stop working to get there, forget the rest.

**What advice are you glad you ignored?**

Always have a plan B.

**What's the one thing you learned in college that you wish you had listened to?**

Keep your fingers curved!

**Is there a musician/artist that you admire?**

Donny Hathaway.

**What worries you most about the classical music sector?**

Lack of opportunities and funding for low in-come communities.

**Do you have a favorite book?**

*Light in August* by William Faulkner.

**What's your favorite podcast?**

*Your Mom's House*.



**What's your favorite city in the world?** Tokyo. It's just so overwhelming and such a feast for all the senses. I haven't spent much time there, but it was a city that just kinda blew me away instantly.

**What is your cocktail or adult beverage of choice?**

Old Fashioned.

**Do you prefer coffee or tea (how do you take it)?**

Coffee, black.

**How do you know when you're finished with a practice session?**

When you're not being efficient.

**What do you think is the biggest accomplishment in your career so far?** First concert with Imani Winds and Madison Square Garden with Vulfpeck.

**What was your most meaningful performance?**

Playing at Rikers Island at the solitary confinement unit. A man in one of the cells asked us to play the 2nd movement of Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata, and we played it together and you can tell it really impacted him. Will never forget it.

# CODA

If you were born 100 years ago, what would you be doing?

Playing in New Orleans.

If you could be any fictional character, who would you be and why? Sherlock Holmes. I've always wanted to be a detective.

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

Crazy crazy perfect pitch.

If you were to receive a surprise package in the mail today, what would be in it?

Cold, hard cash.

If you could rid yourself of one personal fear, what would that be?

Self doubt.

If you had to choose a first name other than your own, what would that be?

Marc with a c not a k... just to be fancy.