

SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with WESLEY FERREIRA

JEFF ANDERLE

Among his many projects, he is a founding member of Splinter Reeds and one half of the bass clarinet duo Sqwonk. He also serves as clarinet faculty and chair of woodwinds at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Jeff Anderle takes time to sit down and answer some questions.

What's the best part about being a musician? Learning new repertoire and feeling the excitement of a great performance.

What's the hardest part about being a musician? Time/project management - there are so many different parts of my career that constantly need attention.

What's the one thing that people would be surprised to find out about you? I have been running a Dungeons and Dragons campaign for some friends for the past 6 years.

What's always in your bag? Snacks! I eat all day long.

What time do you wake up? 6:00 am, or when my kids wake up, which is often much earlier than that. And I don't like coffee.

What's the most entertaining or interesting part of having kids? They laugh so easily! Little things that you wouldn't expect are hilarious to them.

What's the one thing you would be interested in exploring if you were starting your career right now? Patreon - both as a way to gather and retain supporters, but also as accountability to put out new content on a regular basis.

What's the best piece of advice you received, that changed your life... and who gave it to you? Clarinetist Evan Ziporyn told me about the moment when he realized that he didn't need to emulate his teachers in either their sound or their career and how liberating it was for him. At the time I had just graduated and was struggling to find my own artistic voice and it was inspiring to hear him talk about how he created his own unique path.

In what ways do you ensure creativity in your life? Finding hobbies. I am inspired by learning new things and seeing how they change my worldview.

What worries you most about the classical music sector?

I think the lack of investment in early childhood music education is a huge problem - we won't have audiences for classical music unless we train kids to appreciate it when they're young. If we can get more elementary schools to have robust band/orchestra programs that would make a big difference.

What's the worst performance experience you've ever had?

I was playing Hans Abrahamsen's "Schnee" (an hour-long minimalist process piece) and someone in the front row had a stroke halfway though. The paramedics came and he was fine, and we eventually decided to continue the performance, but it was really weird getting back into the proper headspace after that.

Do you have any new projects going on?

I'm working on a project called "Weird Sounds" where I compile and demonstrate all of the non-traditional sounds you can make on clarinet/bass clarinet.

What's the first piece of music you remember falling in love with?

Respighi - The Pines of Rome.

What's the last good TV show that you binged?

I only watch *The Great British Baking Show*.



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If you were an animal, what kind would you be? **Maybe a dolphin? Seems like they have a good time.**

If you were to check into your retired self, what would you be doing right now?
Taking a nap in the sun.

If you could be any fictional character, who would you be and why?

Fictional characters always seem to get into so much trouble... maybe I'd be a secondary character so that I could have fun adventures. Let's say Legolas (*The Lord of the Rings*).

If you had a time machine, where would you visit?

Dinosaurs, or 2009 to buy some Bitcoin.

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

A contrabass clarinet.