

# SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with **WESLEY FERREIRA**

## MARIAM ADAM

*Born in California to an Egyptian father and a Mexican mother, and now living between the USA and Paris, this founding and former member of the Grammy-nominated woodwind quintet, Imani Winds, maintains an active international touring schedule. Mariam Adam sits down to answer some questions.*

**What's the best part about being a musician?** Being able to communicate a story, a feeling, a moment with someone that will help them further experience the human condition.

**What's the hardest part about being a musician?** Convincing society to understand the importance of arts and culture .

**What embarrasses you the most?** Wardrobe mishaps!

**Do you have a necessary vice?** Good bread... hence the move to France!

**What worries you about the world?** The lack of empathy. The self-serving being celebrated, and the poisoning that we're doing to our minds and bodies.

**What's the one thing that you think people need to hear right now?** The world is only temporarily ours.

**What's your favorite app?** Insight Timer.

**What's the best piece of advice you received, that changed your life, and who gave it to you?** Be brief and brilliant. Whenever possible. - John Wittman, Yamaha president.

**When did you first become comfortable saying that you were a professional musician?** When I moved to New York City for grad school. Trial by fire!

**What's the most entertaining or interesting part of having kids?** Realizing that they are their own persons that regurgitate things that we say. The love for offspring is overwhelming. Also, they're like tiny crazy people that we hope to "de-craze" one day at a time through parenting.

**What's the first piece of music you remember falling in love with?** Weber Concertino when I was 15.

**What other art form resonates with you the most?** I love visual art that explores bright colors and the effects of natural light.

**Is there another form of art that you practice?** The art of eating! It's a full time hobby.

**At what point do you feel that you made your biggest improvement as a clarinetist/musician?** My colleagues in Imani Winds would push me to learn new styles and levels of expression. It pushed my envelope in a safe space, and gave me the know-how to bring it to the stage each and every time. Having a busy schedule of concerts in many settings helped this.

**What was your most meaningful performance?** Premiere of Simon Shaheen's "Zafeer" with Imani Winds.



**Have you ever been starstruck?**

I had just moved to NYC and was invited to the gala of The Brooklyn Academy of Music. David Bowie was being honored. I told him and his wife I was delighted to meet them, but also blurted out that I was telling everyone I was their illegitimate child... I wasn't but it was the first thing that came out of my mouth!

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

A freezing cold outreach concert, couldn't move my fingers... should have played the "One Note Samba."

**What's your favorite clarinet gadget or piece of equipment?**

A good reed!

# CODA

If you weren't a clarinetist, what instrument would you want to play?  
**Drums. It was my 2nd instrument for a long time (jazz drums).**

If you could have witnessed one historical event, what would it be?  
**I feel like I am witnessing it right now!**

If you could be remembered for one thing, what would that be?  
**Laughter at life.**

If you could meet any one living person in the world tomorrow, who would it be?  
**Michelle Obama**

If you had to choose only one book for your library what would it be?  
**Anything by David Sedaris.**

If you could relive any one day of your life, which would it be? **I would relive the day my father passed. Try to be more present and mature at facing what was ahead of me in life.**