

SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with **WESLEY FERREIRA**

NICOLAS BALDEYROU

Dedicated to a trifold career as a soloist, orchestra musician with the Radio-France Philharmonic Orchestra, and clarinet teacher at the CNSMDP of Lyon, Nicolas Baldeyrou is also one of the most recognizable clarinetists in the social media age. He takes time to sit down and answer some questions.

What's the best part about your job?

That there is no routine.

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

My video game addiction.

Is there a meal you fantasize about?

Pan-fried foie gras.

What phone app do you love to use?

Google maps. I'm always lost!

What's the last thing that made you cry?

Cutting onions, yesterday.

What do you typically wear to work?

Jeans, pullover, sneakers.

What is your cocktail of choice?

A mojito!

Do you have an interesting way of looking at the world?

I like Mother Teresa's way of looking at the world... "small things done with great love can change the world."

What advice would you give your younger self?

Stop practicing while watching the Roland Garros grand slam tennis tournament!

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Joseph Bologne de Saint Georges. He was a musician, champion fencer, colonel... one of the most fascinating lives ever!

Are you a morning practicer or an evening practicer?

I'm much more efficient in the morning.

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

I'm a simple guy, no gadgets, no fancy stuff. An old Buffet Festival and a good mouthpiece, that's it.

Is there another musician that you admire? Way too many! Murray Perahia, Daniel Barenboim, Krystian Zimerman, Martha Argerich, Maxim Vengerov...

What is one or some of your favorite pieces of orchestral repertoire?

There are so many, but I would start with the Schubert and Mendelssohn symphonies.

If you were given a million dollars right now, what would you do with it?

I would save some money for my son's studies, create my festival, and build a decent home studio.

What's one thing you wish you had known when you began your career?

A really good high F fingering.

How much do you sleep?

Not enough, 6 hours on average.

What is the last thing you do at night?

Curse myself for going to bed too late!

What is your favorite trait in a conductor?

Trust in the musicians.

What is your favorite quote?

"I'd rather be an optimist and a fool than a pessimist and right."

- Albert Einstein



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If, in your dreams, you could have created any one great work of art, what would it be?

The Sistine Chapel.

If you could have any other job, what would that be?

Architect.

If you could live in any other decade other than one that you have already lived in, which would you choose? **The golden fifties when anything seemed possible!**

If you could cook one meal for a group of friends, what would it be? **Pizza for everyone.**

If you had to describe yourself in three words, which ones would you choose?

Curious, enthusiastic, impatient.

If this were the last day of your life, what would you be doing?

I'd be telling my closest ones how much I love them.