

Xiaodi Liu, Oboe



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Oboe, Piano

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: I started playing piano when I was five years old in China. My father is a musician (bassoonist and oboist) and was my piano and oboe teacher.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: 2014-15 season

Q: Educational background?

A: Early studies at the Beijing Conservatory; BM and AD from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England; AD from Oberlin Conservatory (Oberlin, OH); and MM from Rice University (Houston, TX).

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: My greatest influence in music has been my father. He introduced music to me, and has always been very encouraging and supportive of me. I grew up listening to him play music, and we always listened to recordings of world-class orchestras together since I was an infant.

Q: What is your “day job?”

A: When I am not performing with the SOST, I am a freelance oboist and private lesson instructor in the Houston area. Much of my time is devoted to small “woodworking projects,” such as handcrafting reeds for my instrument.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I enjoy spending my free time taking my dog to the dog park, and I also really enjoy cooking and kickboxing.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Besides classical music, my favorite music would have to be 1970’s-era popular music, such as the Bee Gees, Chicago, and Michael Jackson.