

Elizabeth C. Bley
Clarinetist & Private Instructor



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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Performing Clarinetist:

The Loudoun Symphony: Principal Clarinetist and Chamber Musician 2000 – Present
Washington Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra: Principal Clarinetist 2018 – Present
Guest Soloist in 2025 (Mozart's Clarinet Concerto K 622 on Bass Clarinet)
Guest Soloist in 2023 (Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 1)
The Virginia Grand Military Band 1991 – 2025
B-flat Clarinetist, E-flat Soprano Clarinetist, and Bass Clarinetist
Principal Clarinetist for world premiere of Sousa's "The Library of Congress March"
Recorded educational CDs for Walking Frog Records
The Pro Arté Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington 2015 – 2024

Clarinet Teacher:

Private Instructor, Elizabeth Bley's Clarinet Studio, LLC 2001 – Present
Teach weekly 45- and 60-minute private lessons for 30 Elementary, Middle School, High School, College and Adult Clarinet Students on all types of clarinets. Students are routinely selected as first chairs in All-District and All-State Bands, Senior Regional Orchestras, and in local youth orchestras and youth wind ensembles on Bb Clarinet, Eb Soprano Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Contra-Alto and Contra-Bass Clarinet.
Master Class Instructor and Sectional Coach 2005 – Present
Conduct Master Classes and Sectional Rehearsals for Elementary, Middle and High School students in Fairfax and Loudoun County schools
Clarinet Technique Instructor, Vienna Band Camp 2011 – 2024
Taught clarinet fundamentals to brand new beginners through rising high school freshmen for four weeks of summer band camp. Increased clarinet student enrollment from 98 to 140 students by developing an incentive program utilizing donations from clarinet professors, performing artists and clarinet-related product manufacturers. Added weekly guest artists and clinicians.

Vandoren Artist-Clinician:

2015 – Present

Performing Artist, Clinician and Master Class Instructor for Vandoren USA/DANSR Inc.
Demonstrate proper technique, teach classes on requested topics, and assist students and teachers in determining the best combination of mouthpiece, reed and ligature

Freelance Recording Artist:

Solo Bass Clarinetist for the world premiere of *Moonlight*, composed by Daniel Gawthrop for SATB chorus and solo bass clarinet in 2011
Solo Clarinetist for Paul Leavitt's musical score to *The Last Refuge*, a documentary film that premiered at the Library of Congress in 2003

Adjudicator:

Clarinet Adjudicator for Fairfax County Districts XII and XI and Loudoun County District XVI Solo and Ensemble Festivals

Clarinet Adjudicator for Fairfax County District XII and Loudoun County District XVI All District High School Band Auditions

Instrumental Adjudicator for Loudoun County Excellence in the Arts Competitions

Adjudicator for Lions Club James Bland Music Scholarship Competitions

VBODA Designated Clarinet Special Editor

2009 – Present

Responsible for grading and maintaining the Virginia Band & Orchestra Directors Association's published list of clarinet solos and ensembles for the state of Virginia
(This is an unpaid volunteer position.)

EDUCATION AND AWARDS:

Shenandoah Conservatory, Winchester, VA 2014 -- 2016
M.M.A. in Clarinet Performance

The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 1983 -- 1987
B.A. in Music and B.S. in Psychology with High Honors
Principal Clarinetist, William and Mary Orchestra and Concert Band
Winner of the William and Mary Orchestra Concerto Competition
Winner of the William and Mary Concert Band Concerto Competition
Winner of the Aurelia B. Walford Scholarship in Classical Music
Winner of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Scholarship

The University of Michigan School of Music, Interlochen, MI Summer, 1986
Featured Soloist and Chamber Music Performer
Principal Clarinetist, Pit Orchestra for a professional production of "Peter Pan"

South Lakes High School, Reston, VA 1979 -- 1983
Received the U.S. Marine Corps "Semper Fidelis" award for musical excellence
Awarded "Outstanding Student in Music" and "Best Musician"
Principal Clarinetist, All-Region Band
B-Flat and E-Flat Soprano Clarinetist, All-Virginia Band

Private Clarinet Teachers:

Paul Cigan, The National Symphony Orchestra
Lawrence Bocaner, The National Symphony Orchestra
Patti Carlson, The College of William and Mary and The Virginia Symphony
Barbara Duman, Reston, Virginia
Sidney Forrest, The Peabody Conservatory of Music
William Wright, The National Symphony Orchestra
Garrick Zoeter, Shenandoah Conservatory

Clarinet Conferences:

Clarinetissimo Festival at the Bruges Conservatory in Belgium 2015 - 2019
Winner of the "Clarinetissimo Talent Award" for "outstanding performances and high artistic level." Performed on Eb soprano, Bb, A and Bass Clarinets
The American Single Reed Summit, Truman State, Kirksville, MO 2018
Performed a recital including the world premiere of Simon Proctor's "Reeddevelopment" for clarinet and piano
The Ohio State University Clarinet Spectacular, Columbus, OH 2012 and 2013
Performed with the Midwest Trio 2013

The University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium, Norman, OK	2008 and 2013
Clarinetopia at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	2012
Clarinetopia at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY	2009
International ClarinetFests:	2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2025
Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington, IN	2004
Clarinet Teaching Workshop taught by Howard Klug and Paula Corley	

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity
Music Teachers of Fairfax-Loudoun (Association of independent music teachers)
International Clarinet Association
Loudoun Symphony Association (Member of the Artistic Committee)
Music Teachers National Association
National Association for Music Education
Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association
Association for Body Mapping Education