

SCHERZO

Interviews with the notable musicians & fascinating personalities of our day

with WESLEY FERREIRA

ANNELIEN VAN WAUWE

Belgian clarinetist Annelien Van Wauwe is forging a reputation as one of the most exciting and original clarinetists of her generation. She is a multifaceted musician with a career which has her collaborating and performing worldwide. Annelien sits down and answers some questions.

What's the best part of being a musician? The freedom.

What advice are you glad you ignored? That being an orchestra musician is the only way to make a successful and secure living.

What motivates you? New projects that I truly believe in.

What's the craziest or most adventurous thing you've ever done? Recording at the very end of my first pregnancy. And guess what? I will do it again.

What worries you about the world? Selfishness.

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

I hate doing the dishes.

What really makes you laugh? A good joke surrounded by friends.

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

I like to see the positive side of things.

What's something that made you smile recently?

A special butterfly in a bouquet after a concert.

What phone app do you love to use?

Asana, a scheduling/organisation app.

What is your favorite form of exercise? Yoga.

What do you listen to while exercising? My breath.

What's your favorite city in the world? Bruges.

What is your favorite vegetable? Pak choi.

What is your cocktail or adult beverage of choice?

A Hugo spritz cocktail.

In what ways do you ensure creativity in your life? Making physical and mental space for it to appear.

What do you do when you're creatively stuck? I do yoga to feel more free and think less.

Are you a morning practicer or an evening practicer? How early do you start/end?

I'm both. I practice between 9:00am and 10:00pm.

How do you know when you're finished with a practice session?

I see the long run and don't even ask myself when I'm finished. It's a process.

What type of music (other than "classical") are you a fan of?

Fado and bossa nova.

What other art form resonates with you?

Dance.

What's the one thing you would recommend doing or seeing if you're in Belgium?

Visit Art Nouveau houses.

What was your most meaningful performance?

Performing the Mozart Concerto at the BBC Proms in 2018.

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

A recording of a Mozart Concerto, cut into pieces by a contemporary artist for an art installation in Sydney.



CODA

If you weren't a clarinet player, what would be your profession?

Yoga teacher, music manager, decorator, designer.

If you could cast someone to play you in a movie, who would it be?

I would leave that up to a casting agent.

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

Energetic, loving, fun.

If you could sing a duet with any artist, living or dead, who would it be and what song?

A song with and from Björk.

If you could take back one sentence you've uttered in your past, what would it be?

I cannot do that.

If you joined the circus, what would you be doing?

Presenting.