

*Dr. Jun Qian's  
Cyber Single Reed Academy*

## NEWSLETTER

# Spring Edition: High Standard Professional Training during the “Tripledemic”

March 2023



*( A Christmas Gift, Thank you!!)*

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## Introduction

Students at the Cyber Single Reed Academy (CSRA) continue to receive high-standard professional training, reach their full potential, and take leadership roles in their school bands and other elite music organizations despite the surge of the “triple-demic.” CSRA is launching two new services for its students. Besides a super busy schedule, Dr. Qian is now the founder and first conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Clarinet Choir. His recording project and research on the relationships between western music and Asian cultures have been recognized by the International Clarinet Association’s *Clarinet* magazine”!

## Letter from Dr. Jun Qian



*Setting high standards at the first-ever Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Clarinet Choir rehearsal. Oh no--where are the students after their rehearsals!?*

Dear parents, students, and directors:

I hope this studio newsletter finds you, your family, and your friends healthy, well, and happy during this eventful spring.

Strangely enough, having been a successful college professor for 13 years, I have discovered that one of my passions is teaching pre-college students. I believe that high-standard professional-level musical training is important for **all** students, even sixth graders, because it

helps them to develop a strong foundation in music, understand the fundamentals of music theory, and develop their performance skills. Additionally, it can help them build confidence in their musical abilities, increase their appreciation for music, and discover new ways to express themselves musically.

So many college students were still playing with bad habits and wrong concepts when they came to me as a freshman. I always wondered how that would be different if I could start all the students from scratch. Now, it has become a reality through the CSRA and my being a full-time pre-collegiate teacher. I want to help each student reach their full potential, even in the sixth grade as a beginner musician. So far, I am very pleased to see that my students can use their musical ability to open doors outside their own comfort zones .

Many of my middle school students are first chairs (even in the beginner bands), strong backbones of their clarinet sections, or members of the first clarinet sections at All-Region bands. All my freshman players (including an awesome bass clarinetist) are part of the All-Region Freshmen Band this year!

All my high school students have taken leadership positions in their marching bands and won auditions to perform with various music programs off-campus. One of those is the Lone Star Symphonic Band, where my students perform side by side with many music educators. Many others, after winning auditions before a panel of judges with scales, solos, and orchestral excerpts, are in the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Program (GDYO). They perform as first-chair bass clarinet of the top orchestra, first chair of the top band, and in the clarinet choir.

Many students were selected for Texas All-State ensembles, confirming them as some of the best in the state. They include the No. 2 clarinet in the 6A division and No. 6 Bb in the 5A division. They performed in February in San Antonio as part of the Texas Music Educator's Association Conference. This event gives my students a chance to be part of a unique ensemble, collaborate with some of the best young musicians in the state and nation, and perform challenging repertoire from all genres of music. Students have the opportunity to work with renowned conductors, meet new friends, and gain invaluable experience in the music world. Two senior sax students have made it to the prestigious saxophone studios at University of Texas, Austin and University of North Texas as music majors.

[Read more news about individual students](#) (provided with the parents' permission).

Many students have asked me what I have done besides teaching as a committed full-time private teacher. I believe in supporting all music programs in the DFW area. Besides my online teaching, I have been invited to teach weekly masterclasses (with my double-layered facial masks) in Denton and Lewisville ISD. Also, I am the conductor and founder of the [Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra](#) Clarinet Choir. GDYO is the best youth music education program in DFW and one of the best in the country. I am very honored to work there with some of the finest high school students every week.

Recently, my research and recording project called "East meets West" has been noticed by and received great reviews from the International Clarinet Association (ICA). I was interviewed by the ICA's official magazine, *Clarinet*, about my recording project and my thoughts about the new

music combining Western and Asian cultures. The resulting article was just published on March 1, 2023. [Excerpts from the interview](#)

I have been pleased to see the high schoolers continue to achieve their musical goals, and younger students motivated and excited by my unique private teaching methods for their age group. Of course, none of that would be possible without the strong support of awesome parents and school music directors who understand the value of my elite professional training.

I know many of my hard-working students' parents work for their own businesses. I am launching a new website page as part of my popular website that will provide links to their own websites for FREE to say "Thank you" for their support. For more details, please contact me regarding this matter.

Finally, please encourage your students to continue the lessons through the summer. It's the best time for students to accelerate their playing techniques due to the greater time and energy they can put into practice.

## CSRA News

### **Dr. Qian is launching two brand new programs for students.**

#### **1) Emergency repair service starting in March**

Fixing instruments has been one of my hobbies for a long time. In the past, many local students have had to drive out of town and wait for a couple of days to get the minor repair done right before concerts and auditions. But now I will provide key adjustments, pad and cork replacements, and similar minor repairs for my students for a reasonable fee. Please contact Dr. Qian for more information.

### **Professional Selmer Bb Clarinet Rent-to-Own Service**

From my 35 years of teaching experience, I know many students start to develop bad performance habits and learning techniques due to the poor quality of student-line instruments of any brand. They are cheaply made and sound out of tune. All my top high school students, such as All-Staters and first chairs, play top-of-the-line professional instruments. It is because these instruments provide a premium tone and excellent tuning. It is even more essential for young seventh- and eighth-grade students who are committed to the band program to have a professional-line instrument that also helps them to develop good learning habits such as correct tongue position and good hand position. The difference between professional and student instruments is like driving in the snow with four-wheel drive vs. two-wheel drive—a lot more capable and responsive. The downside is that they are very expensive (\$4500-\$9500 brand new) and need good care at all times. However, considering what students can get out of them, they are worth it. In the past, I have helped top students locate used professional clarinets in great condition to purchase, so they could achieve their music goals, such as successfully being a first chair or all-stater.

When should clarinet students start to use professional instruments? Ideally, before they enter the high school program.

So where are these professional rental instruments coming from? I formally upgrade my clarinets once a year as a professional musician and teacher. The newly-retired clarinets still have many years of life in them and are ready to serve talented students. They are normally hand-picked, either from Paris, France, or from dealers in the U.S. If a student's parents eventually wish to purchase one, all of the rental fees will go toward a reasonable purchase price. Quantities are very limited. For more details, please contact me ASAP.

## **Conversations with CSRA parents and students**

### **Why are more and more of your top students using synthetic reeds?**

Woodwind instruments traditionally use cane reeds, which are made from a type of grass called *Arundo donax*. However, in recent years, synthetic reeds have become increasingly popular among woodwind players.

Cane reeds have been used for centuries and are known for their rich, warm sound and flexibility. They are made by harvesting, drying, and cutting the cane into the shape of a reed. Cane reeds can vary in quality and consistency, and they require a break-in period before they sound their best.

On the other hand, synthetic reeds are made from materials such as plastic, carbon fiber, or resin. They are designed to mimic the sound and feel of cane reeds but offer some advantages, such as greater consistency and longer lifespan. Synthetic reeds can be more durable than cane reeds and may last several times longer, especially if well cared for. They also do not require a break-in period, and they are less sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity.

There are pros and cons to both types of reeds, and which one is better for you will depend on your personal preference and playing style. Some players prefer the natural sound and feel of cane reeds, while others find that synthetic reeds offer greater consistency and ease of use. Ultimately, the choice between synthetic and cane reeds is a matter of personal preference and depends on the specific needs of each player. For me, switching to synthetic reeds after using cane ones for 25 years was one of the best musical decisions in my career. Using the synthetic reeds, along with professional-line instruments, helps my students and me to win auditions because of the beautiful sound, consistency of the playing experience, and positive educational experience.



## **Do you teach summer lessons?**

Yes, I do! There are several reasons why taking music lessons in the summer can be beneficial:

1. **More time for practice:** During the school year, students often have a lot of other commitments, such as homework and extracurricular activities. In the summer, there is usually more free time available, which can be used for practicing and making progress in music lessons.
2. **Preparation for the upcoming school year:** Summer lessons can help students prepare for the music programs they will be involved in during the upcoming school year. For example, if a student plans to audition for a particular music ensemble, taking lessons during the summer can help them improve their skills and increase their chances of being accepted.
3. **Learning new skills:** Students may have more time to focus on learning new techniques and music during the summer, which can help them improve more quickly and achieve their goals.

Overall, taking music lessons during the summer can be a great way to make progress in music education and enjoy the benefits of learning an instrument.

## **When will you start to have live lessons again?**

One of the most effective things for me to do during the lessons is to do demonstrations and play as much as I can in front of my students. COVID-19 has changed many of our learning and work habits, including an increase in virtual learning. The so-called “triple-demic” was getting worse in both before and after the holidays. Last semester alone, 80% percent of the middle school students and 60% of the high school students in my studio got infected by COVID, flu, or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Keeping every one of my students healthy during their lessons is the top priority of the CSRA. Therefore, I have been teaching all individual lessons online. For classroom teaching, such as masterclasses in the schools and GDYO conducting, I was wearing double-layer facial masks without demonstrating in front of the classes to avoid transmitting the viruses.

I am very proud of myself and my students, and I give all the glory to the Lord. I thank Him daily for his grace and guidance in teaching me how to protect my students' health, support their learning progress, and help them to achieve their goals. The fact is, my online teaching is extremely high quality and effective, while it protects the health of everyone. I can do unlimited demonstrations and interactions with my students in front of the camera without worrying about their health or mine. Many students also take advantage of online lessons from their own

homes, which can help them feel more relaxed and focused. At the same time, their parents are saving time on the road, avoiding bad weather, and saving money on gas. Students benefit from a flexible rescheduling system and save their energy for music-making. All of this makes it easier to fit lessons into everyone's busy schedule. I also offer additional resources such as music theory, practice exercises, and support forums via the Internet. This can help students learn faster and get the most out of their lessons.

Currently, based on the need to keep everyone healthy, and on the advantages outlined above, I think giving online lessons is the best way to serve my students.

Through reading this newsletter, I hope you will feel the positive energy of the CSRA and get to know some of our students through their amazing achievements. Please do share this newsletter with your friends, relatives, family members, and teachers.

## **New YouTube Videos! Hit LIKES!!!!**

[Flight of Bumble-Bee](#)

[Jazzy clarinets](#)

[Student Solo](#)

## **About**

[Website](#)

## **Contact Dr. Qian**

Special Thanks to:

Clayton, chief editor

All of the awesome parents

All of the great music directors

