

# Andrew Michael Simon, clarinet

## Full Biography

***"...he is one of the finest players I've heard ...competitive with the best of the best."***

- Jerry Dubins, Fanfare Magazine

Boasting a distinguished career spanning over three decades, New York-born clarinetist Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents.

As Principal Clarinet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (since 1988), Simon has recorded solo works by Baermann and Stravinsky and has performed concerti over 70 times, including John Corigliano's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra which he studied with the Academy Award-winning composer.

Notable concerto performances include those with the Mainly Mozart Orchestra (US), the Singapore Symphony, as well as giving the Australian and Asian premieres of the original, unpublished version of Copland's Concerto. One of his most memorable stage experiences was playing Mozart's Concerto on the basset clarinet at a few hours' notice when a soloist became suddenly indisposed. He subsequently gave a performance that was hailed as "outstanding" by C for Culture magazine.

Simon has been Guest Principal with the Mainly Mozart Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, to name a few. As a former National Chairperson of the International Clarinet Association and an Artist Laureate of the Clarinet and Saxophone Society of Western Australia, he was profiled in Gianluca Campagnolo's *The Great Clarinetists*. Meanwhile, following the success of his first recital CD, "HOT" ("This is a five-star recording"- *The Clarinet*), he recently released "Ebony and Ivory", for NAXOS ("A Winner"- *Fanfare Magazine*).

Simon's artistry has earned wide acclaim from audiences, peers and critics. Michael Tilson Thomas has noted his "formidable technique, flair, and musicianship", while the New York Times music columnist Allan Kozinn compared him favourably to the late clarinet legend, Benny Goodman, in reviewing his Carnegie Hall debut. In addition, *American Record Guide* applauded Simon's recordings with the HK Phil for his "dark rich sound and

flawless technique [that] do wonders for the clarinet works”.

Apart from his life as a performer, Simon is also a committed music educator, regularly writing articles, lecturing at conventions, and serving on the faculties of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Baptist University. As guest lecturer, he frequents institutions such as Yale University and the New World Symphony in the United States, the Sydney Conservatorium, the Royal College of Music and the Southbank Sinfonia in London, and the Central Conservatory in Beijing.

Having recently given his concerto debuts in Taiwan, New Zealand, and Lithuania (with the Grammy Award-winning Sinfonietta Riga), Simon’s upcoming projects include works for clarinet and orchestra by John Corigliano and Felix Mendelssohn with Jaap Van Zweden as well as solo works by Richard Strauss with The SAR Philharmonic Orchestra.

During Covid-19 he founded “Andy’s Licorice Talk” which includes an interview series, educational videos, commissions of new works and music videos featuring the city of Hong Kong. It has been supported by hundreds of thousands of viewers.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Simon is a Buffet-Crampon artist and endorses Vandoren and Ishimori products. He is also the first-ever American-born musician to perform in North Korea. Outside the world of music, his adventurous streak has taken him from an ashram in India to a bungy jump in New Zealand. As an avid tennis fan, Andrew’s non-musical claim to fame includes playing a match with John McEnroe in which he lost.

For more information, visit [AndrewMichaelSimon.com](http://AndrewMichaelSimon.com).