

Long Bio (401 words, updated 9/3/2022)

Percussionist Oliver Xu has been internationally recognized as a solo performer advocating for contemporary music. Based in New York City, he was recently awarded a Benzaquen Career Advancement Grant by The Juilliard School after graduating with his master's degree. In the last year, he has won the Percussive Arts Society Solo Artist Competition and the Great Plains International Marimba Competition. He has also received Third Prize at the Sixth IPEA International Percussion Competition and the Youth Jury Prize at the TROMP International Percussion Competition. In November of 2019, he was selected as one of six semi-finalists at the 74th Geneva International Music Competition. Oliver is proud to endorse Marimba One, Zildjian, and Black Swamp Percussion products.

Oliver was recently featured in concerto performances with the GRAMMY-winning Albany Symphony Orchestra of Viet Cuong's work, Re(new)al. Other performances from last season include a showcase concert at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, where he premiered a new work by Ayanna Woods, and his graduation recital at Juilliard, where he gave the New York premiere of Judd Greenstein's percussion concerto. He has also been featured in performances at Alice Tully Hall on works by Steve Reich and Olivier Messiaen with the Juilliard Orchestra and AXIOM, respectively. In May 2022, he joined the Da Capo Chamber Players for a concert celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Oliver has worked with conductors Marin Alsop, David Robertson, John Adams, Barbara Hannigan, Tan Dun, Brad Lubman, and Mark Scatterday at Alice Tully Hall, Severance Hall, and Kodak Hall.

A passionate teacher, Oliver has taught percussion ensemble and music courses including an elective on creative coding for Juilliard's Music Advancement Program as a Teaching Fellow. He has also given masterclasses for the Eastman Online Percussion Festival and the University of Nebraska-Omaha percussion studio.

Oliver graduated from The Juilliard School with a Master of Music, where he studied with Daniel Druckman. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance as a Lois S. Rogers Scholar from the Eastman School for Music, where he studied with Michael Burritt. Oliver has a strong interest in non-western music, having studied mbira with Dr. Jennifer Kyker and mridangam with Dr. Rohan Krishnamurthy.

Oliver also received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Rochester as a Dual Degree student. He was awarded the Robert L. Wells Prize by the Hajim School of Engineering, which recognizes excellence in both engineering and humanities.

Short Bio (183 words, updated 9/3/2022)

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