

Long Bio (503 words, updated 9/17/2024)

Percussionist Oliver Xu has been internationally recognized as a solo performer advocating for contemporary music. Based in New York City, he is currently a fellow at Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect and performs with flutist Catherine Boyack as Coriolis Duo. This season, he will appear at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall to Off-Broadway's Theatre 154 to Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum. Highlights from last season include New York performances presented by Lincoln Center's Summer for the City, Chelsea Music Festival, and Talea Ensemble as well as performances abroad at the Lucerne Festival Academy and Shanghai's Shangyin Opera House.

A dedicated educator, Oliver teaches at P.S. 21 in Flushing through Ensemble Connect and regularly gives masterclasses at colleges around the country including Colorado State University, University of Central Florida, and University of North Florida. In recent years, he has taught orchestral percussion and coached percussion ensembles at Fordham University and Hunter College.

Oliver 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 highlights from past seasons include the premiere of a new work by Ayanna Woods at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the New York premiere of Judd Greenstein's percussion concerto, and solo recitals at Ithaca College and The Juilliard School. In May 2022, he joined the Da Capo Chamber Players for a concert at Merkin Hall celebrating their 50th Anniversary. He has also performed with percussionist Christian Benning at the German Consulate General in NYC.

An in-demand freelance percussionist and timpanist, Oliver has performed with groups such as the New York Classical Players, NOVUS NY, and The Dessoff Choirs. He has worked with conductors Susanna Mälkki, Marin Alsop, David Robertson, John Adams, Barbara Hannigan, Tan Dun, and Brad Lubman. While a student at Juilliard, he was featured in performances at Alice Tully Hall on works by Steve Reich and Olivier Messiaen.

Oliver graduated from The Juilliard School with a Master of Music, where he studied with Daniel Druckman and was awarded the Benzaquen Career Advancement Grant upon graduation. 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 (200 words, updated 9/3/2024)

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Oliver's performance highlights also include concerto performances with the GRAMMY-winning Albany Symphony Orchestra, the premiere of a new work by Ayanna Woods at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the New York premiere of Judd Greenstein's percussion concerto, and solo recitals at Ithaca College and The Juilliard School.