

Henri Selmer Paris International Summer Academy

The Academy was 5 full days (Tuesday evening 5/24 to Sunday evening 5/29), and consisted of workshops, masterclasses, recitals, open discussions, international chats and factory tours of the Selmer Factory (via zoom), and private lessons with the faculty.



On Wednesday, 5/25, I was able to perform in a masterclass in the morning for Selmer Artist Mariam Adam, who is an internationally renowned chamber musician and lately orchestral musician in London, as well as a professor at Vanderbilt. The class was so beneficial, and taught me so much about sound concepts and stylistic traits of traditional French playing, which I'm excited to share with others back at PFW. Her way of teaching and playing is so different from the American standards, however, it is very authentic to the history of the clarinet and gave me so many new tools for teaching and practicing.



This was the set up for most of our open discussions and workshops - being able to hear from the faculty about their knowledge and experiences, especially in an ever-changing world regarding the arts, was so refreshing and optimistic, and I have pages upon pages of notes with things that could help all of my colleagues at PFW navigate the intense need for entrepreneurship in music required to survive currently. These discussions were also probably the most beneficial part of the academy, since the faculty could give real time advice and stories on different worldly perspectives of music and playing, which largely broadens my scope of knowledge and is something that many students don't have access to in traditional schools settings.



Lastly, the academy consisted of a lot of playing, which came with a lot of feedback and instruction in the private lessons that followed performance days. In these lessons, some of the French faculty were able to give me note changes and other discrepancies that get lost in American publications, which gives me an upper hand for French playing - auditions and competitions would be immediately lost without knowledge of these changes, and I'm excited to share with my colleagues at PFW.