

## BENJAMIN COELHO - FULL BIO

A dynamic and expressive bassoonist, **Benjamin Coelho**, is a sought-after teacher, clinician, performing, and recording artist. His reach spans over fifteen countries on five continents. Benjamin has performed as an award-winning chamber musician, soloist, and principal bassoonist with several orchestras in Brazil and the USA. Currently, he is the principal bassoon with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the Voxman Reed Trio. He has been a professor of bassoon at the University of Iowa since 1998, and prior to that, he was the professor of bassoon at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil).

Benjamin was born in Tatuí, Brazil, and started the bassoon at the age of ten at the Tatuí Conservatory of Music. He received his B.F.A. from the Purchase Conservatory of Music (N.Y.), M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music (N.Y.), and did additional graduate work at Indiana University. His bassoon teachers include Clóvis Franco, Donald MacCourt, Arthur Weisberg, Noel Devos, and Kim Walker.

An enthusiastic proponent of new and diverse music, Benjamin has commissioned, performed, and recorded many works by Latin American, American, and European composers. As a recording artist, he has released seven critically acclaimed CDs garnering praise from numerous national and international publications. His recordings include *Bassoon Images from the Americas* (2003), released by Albany Records; *Bravura Bassoon* (2005), *Pas de Trois* (2006) released by Crystal Records; *Explorations* (2007), *Dreaming in Colours* (2011), *Agnus Dei* (2012), *Francis Poulenc: Complete Music for Winds and Piano* (2015), and *Portraits in Music: Music for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano* (2018) all released by MSR Classics. As a member of the group Wizards! A Double Reed Consort, Coelho has recorded two CDs released by Crystal and Boston Records in 2000 and 2003 respectively.

The specialized media has continuously praised his recordings "...Ben has such a gorgeous sound, such impeccable technique, and such sensitive musicality, that it is a real pleasure to recommend this album very strongly to all of you!" (Ronald Klimko, IDRS Journal), "Coelho's program is an international affair that shows the range of colors and character that the bassoon can explore in tandem with string colleagues. His playing is unfailingly sonorous, expressive, and alert, and he champions the pieces on this recording as if he believed in them without reservation." (Donald Rosenberg, The Gramophone), "Coelho is fantastic. His sound is brilliant, resonant, and strong, and he has a warm tone that blends superbly with the strings." (Schwartz, American Record Guide).

Benjamin has written articles on bassoon performance and literature. His article "Francisco Mignone and the Sixteen Waltzes for Solo Bassoon" has been published by the International Double Reed Society Journal and republished by the British Double Reed Society Journal. It was also translated into German, and published in the German double-reed magazine *ROHRBLATT*.

Professor Benjamin, his preferred title when teaching, finds great joy and fulfillment as a teacher and pedagogue. He has been an invited clinician to workshops across the United States and abroad. During the height of the Covid pandemic, from the basement of his home, he gave over

thirty master classes and lives for students in the United States and Latin America. His students have been accepted to prestigious graduate programs, summer festivals, and have successfully gained national and international positions as teachers in public schools, colleges, universities, symphony orchestras, and in the music industry.

Professor Benjamin has also served on faculty during the summers at Indiana University, International Music Festivals in Banff, Ameropa Chamber Music Festival in Prague, and Festival Internacional de Musica de Campos do Jordão (Brazil). For the past six years, he has had the privilege to be on faculty at the Festival de Música de Santa Catarina (FEMUSC, Brazil). He also has taught at bassoon festivals in Argentina, Costa Rica, France, and Panama.

Throughout his career, Benjamin has dedicated himself to service. At the University of Iowa, for sixteen years, he has served in four different associate director positions within the School of Music. His greatest honor was being elected by his colleagues to serve as the interim director of the School of Music during the 2018-2019 academic year. He was recently elected and currently serves a three-year term as the vice-president of the International Double Reed Society. Before his position at The University of Iowa, Benjamin was elected by faculty, staff, and students to serve a four-year term as the vice-director at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil).

Ben lives in Iowa City, Iowa with his beloved wife Karen and their wonderful daughters Liliana and Julia.