



Ben Carlee, a San Antonio, Texas native, is a flutist, educator, and arts advocate whose passion for music was first sparked by the beeps and boops of his Super Nintendo. Ben would often pause his games and get lost in the music, it became an escape and a world all its own. With limited access to traditional classical concerts in his early years, he found inspiration in video game soundtracks, later transformed by the story and music of *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*. This early connection fueled a lifelong journey, including performing with the Video Games Live tour and founding the Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra.

As founder and executive artistic director of the Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra, Ben's leadership earned him recognition as a prizewinner in the 2024 UW–Madison Arts Business Competition. He is a sought-after performer, clinician, and adjudicator, having appeared at major national events including the Wisconsin Flute Festival, Chicago Flute Festival, Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention, National Flute Association Convention, and the

North American Conference on Video Game Music.

At the 2024 National Flute Association Convention, Ben commissioned and premiered *Sones para Flauta y Mariachi* by Dr. Jorge Sosa—the first concerto ever written for flute and mariachi—performing alongside the University of Texas at San Antonio's Mariachi Los Paisanos. His forthcoming album, *Ni de aquí, ni de allá: Flute Music by Mexican and Chican@ Composers*, is set for release later this year on Centaur Records. Additionally, at the North American Conference on Video Game Music in 2024 and 2025, Ben debuted two world premieres by Dr. Thomas Yee: *Rhapsody on Eight Themes from Octopath Traveler* for flute and piano and *Fantasy for Flute and Gameboy*.

A passionate advocate for equity and inclusion in the arts, Ben coordinates the National Flute Association's Lesson Scholarship Program, supporting underserved students nationwide, including those at the Harlem School of the Arts, the Levine School of Music, The Merit School and the Harmony Project. His past leadership includes serving as managing director of UW–Madison's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Festival and mentoring for the Overture Center's ACES program, which supports students of color pursuing arts careers. Ben also served as Adjunct Instructor of Flute at East Texas A&M University.

Ben holds degrees from the University of Texas at San Antonio, East Texas A&M University, and is an A.B.D Doctoral Candidate at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he studied under Dr. Conor Nelson as an Advanced Opportunity Fellow in the Mead Witter School of Music.