



**State Chair Presentations
Saturday March 15, 2025**

**The Thrifty Clarinetist:
How to make your own clarinet swab and neck strap, and other useful advice**

*Dr. Shannon Thompson,
North Carolina State Chair*

In this presentation:

- I will demonstrate how you can make a useful and reliable clarinet swab with little or no sewing skills.
- I will show you how to make an easy-to-adjust clarinet neckstrap that works on multiple instruments.
- I will introduce other useful hacks and favorite products for clarinetists and bass clarinetists.
- I will include information and advice on how to procure all the materials mentioned and used in the presentation.

Dr. Shannon Thompson is the clarinet professor in the School of Music at Western Carolina University where she has led the clarinet studio since 1997. She is principal clarinetist of the Hendersonville Symphony and bass clarinetist of the Asheville Symphony. Her ClarinetFest 2012 presentation "The Signature Sound of Daniel Bonade and His Students" available on YouTube is utilized in clarinet courses throughout the United States. The review of her 2016 ClarinetFest performance described her "powerful sound" as "well-suited to the compelling dramatic weight of the (Gouvy) sonata." As a recitalist and chamber musician, she is an avid forager and transcriber of music. Her upcoming album features new transcriptions of the music of Rebecca Clarke, Mel Bonis, and other women composers of the past. In addition, she makes and sells luxury silk clarinet swabs as the owner and operator of Lannigan Limited LLC.

**Passion and Burnout:
I love clarinet! Why am I getting burned out?**

*Lynne Snyder,
California State Chair*

You love the clarinet – so how is it possible to be burned out? Discover how to keep your healthy passion for the clarinet alive while avoiding the negative spiral that leads to burnout. This presentation offers research-based insights and practical strategies to help clarinetists of all experience levels recognize and prevent the cycle that leads to fatigue, stress, and diminished joy, even in the face of demanding audition preparations, intense practice sessions, and performance pressures. Whether you're currently feeling overwhelmed or want to stay ahead of burnout, this talk will empower you with clear strategies you can put into place right now to nurture a fulfilling, balanced, and sustainable lifelong relationship with your clarinet playing!

Lynne Snyder is the Clarinet & Woodwinds Coach at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA as well as the Director of the Los Angeles Youth Clarinet Ensemble and Caltech Clarinet Choir. Completing her DMA at USC Thornton School of Music, she has researched and become fascinated by the role of passion and resilience in musicians' lives, and wishes to share this valuable information with others. Lynne is a frequent performer/educator throughout Southern California, speaking on clarinet-playing, reeds, musicianship, creativity, and well-being for musicians. She has published with CMS and MTAC, presented at ICA, CMEA, BTAA, and CASMEC conferences, and worked with many Southern California school districts and youth symphonies. Lynne has studied with Yehuda Gilad, David Howard, and David Breen, and has been honored to be a performer/featured artist with many orchestras, wind ensembles, chamber groups, and ballet and opera companies in Colorado and California.