

# focus

CHRIS MOTHERSOLE



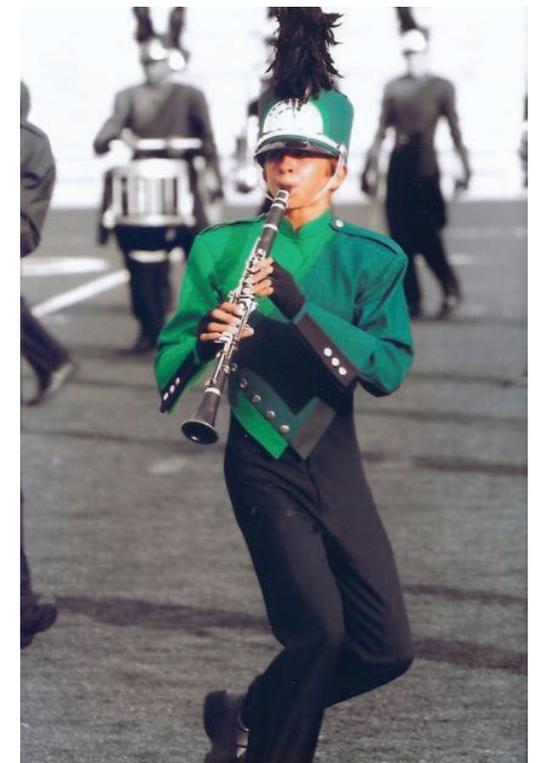
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA



Christopher Mothersole earned a Bachelor of Music at the New England Conservatory of Music and a Master of Performance at the Royal College of Music London. A native of Austin, TX, he was captivated at an early age by the clarinet, the instrument also played by his father, a computer engineer. Today, Mothersole breaks the boundaries of classical music as a soloist, composer, and chamber musician. His most recent work places him at the forefront of clarinet performance, in large part due to his innovative use of electric-guitar effect pedals, which open up new vistas of sound and invite collaborations with composers also devoted to creating new music for the medium. Mothersole serves as Instructor of Music at the University of West Georgia.



Chris, age ten, with his brother and cousin at his great-grandmother's retirement home



Chris, age sixteen, performing in the Cedar Park High School marching band



Chris joins UWG's Wind Ensemble for the Georgia premiere of composer John Mackey's clarinet concerto *Divine Mischief*

Chris is an expert clarinet teacher and artist making big waves in the clarinet community. In his masterclass at Glendale Community College, Chris was able to meet each student at their current level and broke down huge goals into manageable and attainable steps. His work with pedals and amplified clarinet performance has been revolutionary. Chris's artistic and educational contributions are highly valued in our community.

Stefanie Gardner  
clarinetist and Henri Selmer-Paris performing artist

Chris is one of the best collaborators I've had the joy of working with over the years. His enthusiasm for teaching and sharing ideas is truly inspiring. Chris is a remarkable collaborative partner, teacher, and performer, and the world of new music is lucky to have such a creative person making great music and creating positive collaborative projects.

Jenni Brandon  
composer and conductor

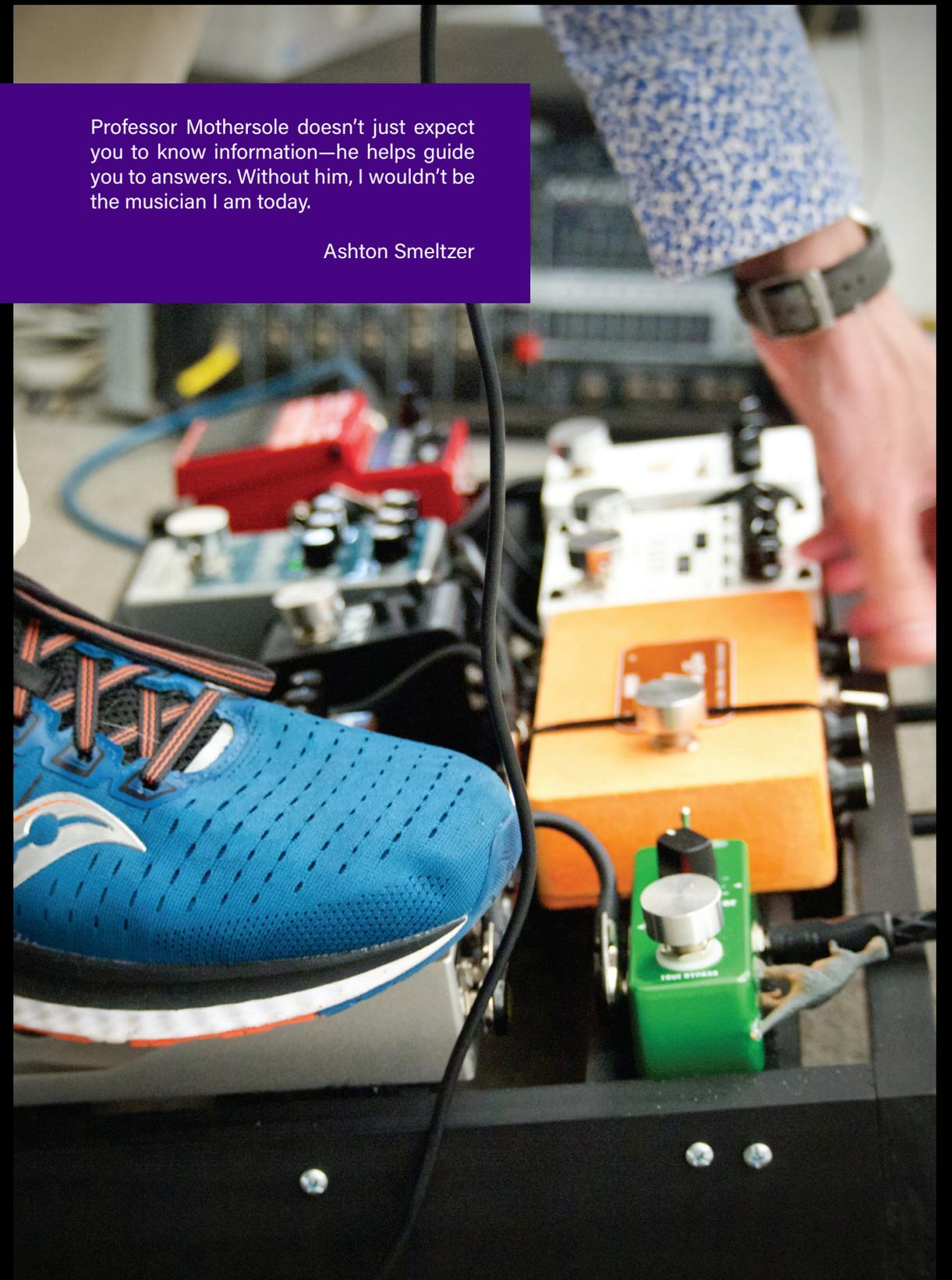




As a clarinetist who loves listening to classic rock, I spent years wondering how my clarinet could emulate the sounds of my favorite electric guitarists. The distorted, wailing tones from those CDs and vinyl records played a large part in developing my love for music, so I set out to find a way to play my instrument with the effect pedals that guitarists have been using for decades.

Electroacoustic clarinet, or “EFX Clarinet,” functions very similarly to an electric guitar. A small device known as a pickup is installed toward the top of the instrument; this converts the sounds of the clarinet into an electrical signal. This signal then runs down a cable and into a pedalboard containing a sequence of foot-controlled effect pedals, each one modifying the clarinet’s sound signal with a different type of effect: delay, distortion, pitch shifting, reverb, and looping

(to name a few). The modified sound signal is then amplified through a PA system, adding this modified electric sound to the clarinet’s natural acoustic tone. The result is a combined sound that immensely amplifies the sonic capabilities of the instrument. It’s a realm of clarinet performance that has provided me with a unique expressive voice in the clarinet community, and it’s my way of bringing classical performance into the twenty-first century.



Professor Mothersole doesn't just expect you to know information—he helps guide you to answers. Without him, I wouldn't be the musician I am today.

Ashton Smeltzer

*Feathers & Fables* features two of Jenni Brandon's works for clarinet and delay born from EFX Clarinet artist Christopher Mothersole's commission of *Cacophony* for Clarinet and Delay and *Chansons de la Nature* for Clarinet and Delay. Mothersole's performance of these works demonstrates a true mastery of both the clarinet and electroacoustic techniques. His performance is vibrant and confident—a true treat for the listener. This album is a must-listen for any clarinetist who is interested in introducing electroacoustic music into their repertoire.

Review by the International Clarinet Association



Listen to Chris on Spotify

## Musical Influences

On Richard Stoltzman  
American clarinetist and international soloist

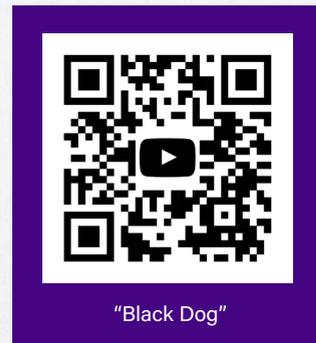
After starting on clarinet in 6th grade, I received one of Stoltzman's CDs as a gift from my family. I remember that it included his recording of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A Major. It's a stellar performance, and I was blown away by the effortlessness of his playing. He would ultimately become one of the figures that inspired me to pursue music as a career.

On Joe Perry  
lead guitarist for Aerosmith

Even though I'm a classically trained clarinetist, I listen to an awful lot of classic rock—The Eagles, Queen, Bon Jovi, and especially Aerosmith. There's something about the riffs and guitar solos in Aerosmith's early albums that has always scratched my brain in just the right way. The

energy and tone that their lead guitarist, Joe Perry, brings to the group is something that I've always been crazy for. His playing in the 1974 track "Train Kept a Rollin'" would turn out to be one of the inspirations for my first published composition: *Diptych* for EFX Clarinet Duo.

The Listening Booth





Chris is an incredible talent. The way he combines his abilities with his passion for music is a joy to watch.

Dr. Joshua Byrd  
UWG Director of Bands

Professor Mothersole genuinely wants to see everyone he instructs succeed, so he pushes them to be their best selves from start to finish. He is wonderfully positive and kind.

Glennisha Clayton-Ellis



Professor Mothersole's hard work and dedication to his teaching is something I strive to provide for my students. I have grown as a performer, student, educator, and person because of his guidance.

Kathryn Barnett



Mothersole's EFX Clarinet performance captivated my students. They were mesmerized from the beginning to end because of the intrigue created by blending the traditional clarinet sound with the electronic effects. Chris's clarinet playing is already out of this world, demonstrating a pure yet colorful tone and amazing technical facility. But when he adds the effects, an entirely new level of creativity is achieved, creating an experience my students will never forget!

Dr. Christopher Carr  
Carrollton High School Director of Bands

# Résumé: Chris Mothersole

# UWG Music Program

## Recent Solo Performances

Guitar Pedal Effects in Clarinet Performance: Past, Present, Future  
ClarinetFest, Denver, CO (2023)

*Divine Mischief: Concerto for Clarinet*, by John Mackey  
Consortium Premiere, University of West Georgia Wind Ensemble (2023)

*Twitch for Clarinet with Delay & Wind Ensemble*, by Nathan Daughtrey  
Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, Athens, GA (2023)

EFX Clarinet: A Guest Solo Recital  
Columbus State University, Columbus, GA (2022)

*Black Dog for EFX Clarinet & Wind Ensemble*, by Scott McAllister  
Electroacoustic Premiere, University of West Georgia Wind Ensemble (2022)

## Recordings & Publications

*Finger Fitness Études, Book 3*, by Kristen Denny-Chambers  
Performing Artist, Supplemental MP3 Recordings (2023)

*EFX Notation - Composer's Guide: Suggestions for Standardizing the Use of Live Effects*  
Author, Independent Digital Release (2023)

*Feathers & Fables: The Music of Jenni Brandon*  
Solo EP Album (2023)

*Diptych* for EFX Clarinet Duo  
Composer, Published by Potenza Music (2023)

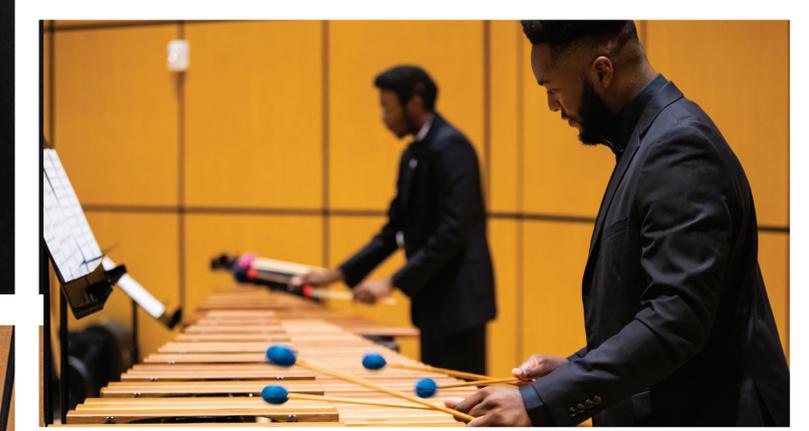
*Autokinesis* for Solo EFX Clarinet  
Composer, Published by Potenza Music (2022)

## On the Web

For more music and information, visit: [mothersoleclarinet.com/](http://mothersoleclarinet.com/)

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**Credits:** Cover photo by Julia Mothersole, designed by Kayla Marston, printed by University of West Georgia Print Services. Additional photos and text curtesy of Chris Mothersole and the UWG Music Program.



The UWG Music Program provides a wide variety of opportunities for aspiring musicians. Our dedicated faculty members help students develop their skills and maximize their musical potential. Students perform in our many instrumental and vocal ensembles both on campus and in the wider community. UWG Music graduates are employed as teachers, private instructors, church musicians, and music-industry professionals. In a field of numerous career paths, the Music Program helps students find their voice and their future.

The *Focus* series highlights UWG faculty and staff across the university and celebrates the wealth of contributions they make in serving the mission of our institution.



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