

# Bethany Lawrence, English Horn



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Oboe and English horn

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: I've been singing for as long as I can remember! My dad is a violinist and classic rock enthusiast, so I grew up on a combo of high German romantic symphonies and The Beatles. I started learning piano at age 8, and the oboe at age 11. The oboe was always more fun for me because I could play with my friends, and I've been playing with friends ever since!

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: My first concert with the SOST will be in February of 2015.

Q: Educational background?

A: I got my bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, where I studied with Anne Leek, and my master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where I studied with Rebecca Henderson. I'm currently working on my doctorate at UT, where I am still working with Ms. Henderson.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: I have had the pleasure of working with so many wonderful conductors, teachers, and colleagues that there is absolutely no way I could name just one person, so I'll name a few who have been particularly influential. My two major teachers, Rebecca Henderson and Anne Leek, have both been incredibly inspirational, motivational, and helpful influences on my musical life, and I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to work with them both. The others are Sue Lawrence, Brian Briones, Anne Anderson, and Richard Pickar, who all gave me opportunities to put myself out there when I was first entering the music scene. Without their support early on, I don't know where I'd be.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: In addition to working on my doctorate, I have a medium-sized private oboe studio in Austin, and do freelance and substitute performances in the Houston, Austin, and San Antonio areas.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I love rehearsing, performing, and hanging out with my chamber group at UT, the Aero Sextet. I also enjoy hanging with friends, doing occasional yoga, crochet, and playing with my cat, Delilah!

Q: Favorite music?

A: There is very little music that I don't love, and if I had to list off my favorite classical composers, we could be here all day. Indie rock has a special place in my heart, and I'm a big fan of The Killers.