

LOUIS ARQUES is a clarinetist, saxophonist, singer, conductor, artistic director, and producer based in New York City. He performs Classical and Contemporary music, Brazilian, Afro-Cuban, Jazz, and Early music on period instruments. A strong advocate for new music, he has facilitated and participated in numerous commissioned works by American and European composers.

As an international soloist, Louis performs concerti with orchestras – Winton Marsalis Blues (Cornell Wind Symphony), Mikolaj Gorecki Trio Concerto (Avalanche Orchestra), Mozart Concerto (Empire State Symphony), Debussy Rhapsody (Camerata New York), Zych Bass Clarinet concerto (Paris Ostinato Orchestra).

As Artistic Director and Conductor, Louis founded the Empire State Symphony, NewOrch, and Avalanche Orchestra. He led the Metamorphosis Chamber Orchestra and is currently director of Avalanche and co-director of Brooklyn Orchestra. He also plays principal clarinet with these ensembles and was guest Eb clarinet at Miami New World Symphony.

A sought-after itinerant chamber musician, he has performed with the internationally acclaimed Quintet of the Americas and select soloists from Metropolis Ensemble. He concertizes frequently with pianists Vladimir Rumyantsev, Cyrus Von Hochstetter, Milena Zhivotovskaya, and Nima Sarkechik (Brahms Sonatas album released). Since 2020, Louis tours US universities and festivals and performs for Carnegie Citywide with harpist Bridget Kibbey's Bach to Brazil Trio, featuring grammy-awardee percussionist Samuel Torres.

His natural affinity for Afro-Latin-American rhythms led in 2016 to the co-founding of Diálogos Duo with guitarist-composer Richard Boukas (2 albums released). Louis is also regular member of the Afro-Cuban band Sonido Costeño and appears on the last Palomonte Afro-Cuban Big Band album.

Louis is a Doctoral student at the City University of New York (studying with Charles Neidich). He taught in France for ten years (including Paris Conservatoire), was visiting faculty at Ithaca College and Cornell University, and is on faculty at the Diller-Quaile School of Music. Louis is a Vandoren artist.