

A native of Costa Rica, Luis Víquez currently serves in the faculty at the University of South Dakota where he is the Director of Orchestras and Music Director of the University of South Dakota Symphony Orchestra since 2016. Equally at home as an orchestral, opera, and wind band conductor, his conducting career features performances throughout the United States, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and England. At USD, he is also the conductor and co-music director of the annual production of the University of South Dakota Opera Theater and oversees the graduate program in orchestral conducting.

Luis maintains an active guest conducting schedule both at the regional and international levels. Recent engagements include the recording of the album "*Costa Rica Desde Afuera*" with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Heredia in Costa Rica (Musitica Records, 2018), and performances with the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Guatemala, the South Dakota Honors Orchestra, the Midwest Chamber Ensemble, the Emporia Symphony Orchestra, the San Jose National Concert Band and the Cartago Municipal Symphony Orchestra. Recently, he was selected as a conducting fellow of the Saratoga Orchestra as part of the Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute and realized advanced conducting training at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England.

As an avid advocate for music education, Luis is a highly demanded clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States and South America, having conducted for multiple honor orchestras and All-State festivals in the Upper Midwest area. He regularly publishes academic articles regarding his research in instrumental ensembles pedagogy and Latin American symphonic music.

Parallel to his career as a conductor, Luis is an accomplished clarinetist. He has appeared as a soloist with the South Dakota Symphony, the Sioux City Municipal Band and the Heredia Symphony. In the early years of his career, he served as a member of the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica and toured with the World Youth Wind Orchestra in Taiwan. His chamber music performances have been broadcasted by the South Dakota Public Broadcasting and the University of Costa Rica Broadcasting System.

Dr. Viquez holds degrees from the University of Costa Rica (BM – Clarinet Performance), Truman State University (MA – Clarinet Performance & Wind Band Conducting) and UMKC Conservatory (DMA – Orchestral Conducting). He is a clarinet artist for the brand D’Addario Woodwinds.