From Renaissance polyphony to 21st-century compositions, oboist Fiona Last is always seeking out new instruments to play and new musical idioms through which to express herself. Her interest in early instruments stems from the belief that we all seek to mine the most potential possible from the music that we play, and that understanding a musical style through the instrument for which it was written and vice-versa can bring a special kind of life to music-making.

This coming season brings productions of Handel's "Giulio Cesare", Donizetti's "Lucrezia Borgia", and Rossini's "Il Viaggio a Reims" with the English Touring Opera, the modern premiere of Riccardo Broschi's "Idaspe" directed by Clare van Kampen with Chatham Baroque and Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh, and Handel's "Acis and Galatea" with Opera UCLA. Other highlights include a UK tour with the Gabrieli Consort & Players, and concerts with the Academy of Ancient Music, Piffaro: The Renaissance Band, and Choral Arts Philadelphia. Fiona has also performed with The Handel + Haydn Society, Opera Philadelphia, Tempesta di Mare, The City Musick, Washington National Cathedral, Staunton Music Festival, the Carmel Bach Festival, Connecticut Early Music Festival, New York Baroque Inc., Musica Angelica, and at Les Jardins du William Christie in Thiré, France.

Fiona has a Master’s degree in Historical Performance from The Juilliard School. She also received MM and BM degrees in Oboe Performance from the Yale School of Music and Temple University, and a BA in Arabic & Ethnomusicology from SOAS in London.