

*The Arizona Symphony Orchestra*

**Thomas Cockrell, music director & conductor**  
**Andr s Derecskei & Juan Montoya, assistant conductors**

*Violin*

Immanuel Abraham  
Evgeniya Belinskaya  
Laura C sarez\*\*  
Andr s Derecskei  
Gabrielle Dietrich  
Chiara Ferrero  
Stella Kim\*  
Yvette Lanz  
John Lee  
Jessica Muiseke-Wilkison  
Courtney Pinski  
Rafael Reyes-Worman  
Callum Robbins-Gennerich  
Amara Thomas

*Viola*

Adrienne Cannon\*\*  
Xiaochen Dong  
Luna Falk  
Jung Eun Oh  
Tiezheng Shen  
Jenn Tr n Do n  
Anna Urso

*Violoncello*

Caroline Bell  
Jacob Ginn  
Curtis Karwacki  
Juan Mej a  
Maria Savarese  
Carlito Stewart  
Diana Yusupov\*\*

*Bass*

Matthew Carlyon  
Dallas Carpenter  
Bryce Putt  
Connor Richardson\*\*  
Jeffrey Sandberg

*Flute*

Miranda DeBretto  
Alysonn Hoffmann, *piccolo*  
David Ram rez

*Oboe*

Montserrat Garc a Campos  
Michaela Gauthier, *English horn*  
Christopher Zatarain

*Clarinet*

Charles du Preez, *bass*  
Baiyu Li  
Riley Taylor

*Bassoon*

Jacob Fernandez  
Curtis Novak

*Horn*

Camille Cook  
Anne Cotin  
Noah Helvey  
Michael Mesner

*Trumpet*

Theresa Bickler  
Haolan Liu  
Cameron Reeves  
Danny Saufley

*Trombone*

Sean Copeland, *bass*  
Rafael Marques  
Neal Romberg

*Tuba*

Jesse Factor

*Percussion*

Porter Ellerman  
Jacob Ransom  
Eric Sorenson  
Zach White

*Harp*

Audrey Cadogan  
Meranda Christensen  
Xiaodi Xu

*Piano*

Minjun Dong

*Celesta*

Danielle Pfeiffer

\* *Concertmaster*

\*\* *Principal*



45th Annual

*President's Concert*

**The Arizona Symphony Orchestra**

**Thomas Cockrell**

*Music Director & Conductor*

**Andr s Derecskei & Juan Montoya**

*Conductors*

*Featuring*

*Concerto Competition Winners*



**Emily Garcia**  
*soprano*



**Michael Pratt**  
*vibraphone*



**Juan Mej a**  
*cello*



**Tyler Ramos**  
*piano*

*Friday, February 2 & Saturday, February 3, 2018*

*Crowder Hall*

*7:30 p.m.*



Thank you for supporting the Fred Fox School of Music by attending the 45th Annual President's Concert. This showcase of student musicians is a wonderful celebration of the skill and artistry that characterize the UA and College of Fine Arts, and I know I am one among many who are very proud of their achievements as musicians.

I am also proud of this concert as part of the UA's contribution to our community and quality of life here in Southern Arizona. The arts are especially important as we launch the UA's future through a new strategic planning process. Over the next five to ten years, we intend for the

university to become a global leader in the unfolding of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the combination of biological, physical, and digital technologies that will reshape how we see and interact with the world. In this process of immense change, the traditions of human expression and the dynamism of individual creativity fostered by the Fred Fox School of Music and the College of Fine Arts are more important than ever.

Tonight's soloists and the performers in the Arizona Symphony Orchestra are among the best student musicians at the UA, and they highlight the incredible depth of ability throughout the Fred Fox School of Music. I hope you enjoy their performance this evening, and that you join me in thanking them. I also want to thank our world-class faculty for the mentorship and leadership that enable our students' success, and our generous donors for their role in making this evening possible.

We are fortunate to have such amazing talent right here in Tucson, and this concert is an opportunity to pause and appreciate the richness that the arts bring to our lives. They provide us with shared experiences that are the basis for community, and the UA is committed to training the next generation of musicians and artists, teachers and performers who will bring us together in the years and decades to come.

Thank you again for coming this evening, thank you for your support of the University of Arizona, and enjoy the concert!

*Robert C. Robbins  
President  
University of Arizona*

the International Janáček String Quartet Competition (third prize). In 2015 he was a prize winner in the Crossover Competition in Mannheim, Germany. Derecskei has been featured on the Hungarian National Television and Radio several times and has received a Zoltán Kodály Composition Fellowship three times. His compositions have been performed almost all over the world. Derecskei is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral and opera conducting at the University of Arizona with Dr. Thomas Cockrell, where he serves as a conductor of the UA Philharmonic and assistant conductor for the Arizona Symphony Orchestra.



Colombian conductor **JUAN MONTOYA** is the 2018 recipient of the Music Advisory Board Distinguished Graduate Student Award. He has won several international prizes and guest conducts around the world. His symphonic engagements have included performances with the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Bentley Repertoire Orchestra, UiTM Symphony Orchestra (Malaysia), EAFIT Symphony Orchestra (Colombia), Surabaya Symphony Orchestra (Indonesia), the National Symphony Orchestra of Paraguay and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.

Montoya earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance from the EAFIT University, in Medellín, Colombia and a double master's degree in piano performance and orchestral conducting from the University of Toledo, Ohio. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral and opera conducting at the University of Arizona as a student of Dr. Thomas Cockrell. He also works under the tutelage of Vance George of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

Montoya's awards include a first prize (Golden Baton) at the International Orchestral Conducting Competition with the National Symphony Orchestra of Paraguay in 2016, a special mention from the jury at the Second Black Sea Opera Conducting Competition in Constanța, Romania in 2016, and third place at the Blue Danube International Opera Conducting Competition in Rouse, Bulgaria in 2017.

Montoya's most recent opera engagements have included productions of *La bohème* (2016), *La Fille du régiment* (2017), and *The Marriage of Figaro* (2017) with the Kuala Lumpur City Opera (Malaysia), which he has served as resident conductor since 2014. Future engagements include Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in Malaysia and guest conducting concerts and operas in Cairo, Paraguay, Hungary, Romania, Colombia and the United States.

*About the Conductors*



Dr. THOMAS COCKRELL has served as the Nelson Riddle Endowed Chair in Music, director of orchestral activities and music director of the UA Opera Theater at the University of Arizona since 2000. He is also the artistic director of Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point, a summer festival in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Cockrell has conducted the professional symphony orchestras of Dallas, Cincinnati, Phoenix, Tucson, Louisville and Boulder, as well as several in Romania, Italy, Mexico and South Korea. Operatic credits include productions

for Dayton Opera, Opera Colorado, Opera Theatre of the Rockies and Washington D.C.'s Summer Opera Theatre. He served as the associate conductor of Cincinnati Opera, Opera Colorado, The Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the Spoleto Festivals, music director of Denver Young Artists Orchestra, and interim conductor of the Phoenix Youth Symphony. He was a member of the conducting faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp from 2006 to 2008.

Cockrell earned his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University. He studied conducting with Franco Ferrara in Rome and at L'Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Additionally, he was an Aspen Conducting Fellow and completed advanced training at the Conservatoire Americain in Fontainebleau, France and the Tanglewood Music Center, where he worked with Gustav Meier, Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa.



ANDRÁS DERECSKEI was born in Budapest into a family of musicians. He subsequently earned three master's degrees from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in violin (*cum laude*), composition and conducting. He has guest conducted the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, Szeged Symphony Orchestra, Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra, Vespro Chamber Orchestra and Choir, Lavotta Orchestra, Ciuc Chamber Orchestra among others. He served as the assistant conductor of the Szolnok Symphony Orchestra from 2012 to 2014.

As a composer and as a chamber musician Derecskei has been a prize winner of numerous competitions including the Hungarian National Chamber Music Competition (grand and first prize), Liszt Academy Composition Competition (first prize and Attila Bozay Special Award), Leó Weiner Chamber Music Competition (second prize), Budapest Spring Festival Fugato Foundation Competition (second and public's prizes) and

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*Friday, February 2 & Saturday, February 3, 2018*

*Crowder Hall, 7:30 p.m.*

**PROGRAM**

**Prelude to *Les Vêpres Siciliennes*.....Giuseppe Verdi**  
(1813-1901)  
Thomas Cockrell, conductor

**"Mi chiamano Mimì" from *La bohème*..... Giacomo Puccini**  
(1858-1924)  
Emily Garcia, soprano  
András Derecskei, conductor

**Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 11..... Frédéric Chopin**  
(1810-1849)  
*I. Allegro maestoso*  
Tyler Ramos, piano  
Juan Montoya, conductor

**INTERMISSION**

**Concerto for Violoncello in C Major.....Joseph Haydn**  
(1732-1809)  
*I. Moderato*  
Juan Mejía, violoncello  
András Derecskei, leader

**Concerto for Vibraphone and String Orchestra..... Emmanuel Séjourné**  
(b. 1961)  
*Movement 1*  
Michael Pratt, vibraphone  
András Derecskei, conductor

**Fontane di Roma..... Ottorino Respighi**  
(1879-1936)  
Thomas Cockrell, conductor

*There will be a reception immediately following the Saturday evening performance  
hosted by the Fred Fox School of Music Advisory Board*





## About the Soloists

### *Emily Garcia, soprano*

Emily Garcia is a junior at the University of Arizona where she studies voice with Dr. Andrew Stuckey. She began her classical training in voice at the age of twelve after playing the violin for eight years. She has performed in the UA Opera Theater's productions of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. She has also participated in several competitions, such as the Amelia Rieman Opera Competition and Quest for the Best. She hopes to make a career singing on stages throughout the world.

### *Tyler Ramos, piano*

Pianist Tyler Ramos is pursuing a Master of Music degree at the Fred Fox School of Music studying with Dr. John Milbauer and serving as a teaching assistant in class piano for Dr. Lisa Zdechlik. He recently completed a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Tyler's earliest music teachers were Ellen Masaki (piano) and Nancy Masaki (cello), and from 2009 until moving to Arizona in 2017 he studied with Dr. Thomas Yee.

Tyler's numerous accolades include winning the Hawai'i State Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition on five occasions, and the MTNA Southwest Division competition in three different categories: piano solo, piano duet, and chamber music. Tyler placed third in the National MTNA competition in San Antonio, Texas in April 2016, and third in the American Prize Piano Competition in the college division. Most recently, Tyler won the Arizona MTNA Young Artist Competition and, subsequently, the Southwest Division competition again this January; in March he will be one of seven National Finalists from across the United States competing in Orlando. As a winner of the Aloha International Piano Competition, Tyler performed Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Hawai'i Youth Symphony. He also performed Liszt's *Totentanz* with the University of Hawai'i Wind Ensemble, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with the Windward Festival Orchestra, and the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Moanalua High School Symphony Orchestra.

### *Juan Mejía, cello*

Cellist Juan Mejía hails from the city of Medellín, Colombia. His early musical studies were completed at Universidad Javeriana under the tutelage of Mintcho Badev. At the age of seventeen he was accepted to the preparatory program at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan before attending the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees under the guidance of Jean Michel Fonteneau. From 2014 to 2016 Juan was the cello teacher for the Young

Musician Choral Orchestra. This non-profit organization offers high-quality, intensive musical training, academic support, and personal guidance to improve the lives of talented, low-income students aged nine to eighteen, from throughout the Bay Area. At this time he was also part of the San Francisco Symphony's educational outreach program, Adventures In Music. The four members of his string quartet gave approximately 150 performances in many of San Francisco's elementary schools. In 2016, he was a recipient of a graduate fellowship award at the University of Arizona. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in cello performance at the Fred Fox School of Music, studying with Dr. Theodore Buchholz.

### *Michael Pratt, percussion*

Michael Pratt currently serves as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Arizona while pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree, studying with Dr. Morris Palter. In 2017, he was the recipient of the College of Fine Arts Creative Achievement Award in recognition for his outstanding academic success, continued research and creative activities, and performance excellence. Michael's research and professional development have been supported with numerous awards, scholarships, and fellowships, including recent grants from the Graduate and Professional Student Council, the Daveen Fox Fellowship, and a Carpenter Endowment Fellowship. Michael teaches percussion through the UpBeat music program sponsored by UA Presents, and serves as an advisor to the Interactive Drumming Committee of the Percussive Arts Society, the world's largest percussion organization. Michael also freelances, teaching and performing in Southern Arizona.

Michael keeps an active and diverse schedule as a performer. As a commercial drum set player, he has toured with Yenisly, Augusta Vain, Madison Hardy, Lacey Black, Todd Ganovski, and many other commercial music artists. He currently performs with the jazz/R&B group Hello Doll Face. As an orchestral and chamber musician he has performed with the Belmont University Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra, Pulse [new music ensemble], Southwest Civic Winds, San Juan Symphony, Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra and Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra. He has appeared as soloist with the Fort Lewis Percussion Ensemble, Woodwork Mallet Ensemble, and the Fort Lewis Wind Ensemble. With over 30 recordings to date, he has performed in 20 states nationally, been a feature performer at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and has performed on PBS's production of "Christmas at Belmont." Michael holds performance degrees from Fort Lewis College and Belmont University, where in 2005 he was awarded the Sophomore Musicianship of the Year and Outstanding Graduate in Music in 2007.