

*The University of Arizona Philharmonic Orchestra*

Thomas Cockrell, music director  
J Alexander Bennett, conductor

*Violin*

Abigail Cherkis  
Morgan Fero\*\*  
Ted Gatchell  
Gabriel Gowman  
Victoria Hill  
Emmy Jensen  
Chihiro Kazui  
Jenna Kershner  
Evan Lehner\*  
Jenna Little\*\*  
Zenobia Mares  
Myely Martin  
Nilay Patel  
Leigh-Ann Rossette  
Keaton Starks  
Megan True  
Sarah Weber  
Kayla Wittwer

*Viola*

Nils Anderson  
Kyla Caisip  
Katherine Lee\*  
Keylee Newman

*Violincello*

Carter Henderson-Cole  
Louisa Collins\*  
Isabelle Hartley  
Harry Huang  
Beckett Kohn  
Brennan McGoldrick-Doty\*  
Lan Nguyen  
Noah Pacheco  
Luke Parks  
Alex Schalliol  
Peter Sommitz  
Lindsay Stotler  
Alvaro Testa  
Natalie Webb

*Bass*

Anthony Fernandez  
Ella Paul  
Cade Williams\*

\*\*concertmaster

\*principal

A special thanks to Dawn Douthit, Elena Chernova-Davis, and Thomas Cockrell for their help in our discovery of the distinct sonic worlds on this concert.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

*Philharmonic Orchestra*

presents

**SONIC WORLDS**

an exploration of orchestral sounds and color

J Alexander Bennett, conductor

Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
Crowder Hall  
7:30 p.m.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS  
School of Music

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**Philharmonic Orchestra**

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PROGRAM

**Concerto for Strings in D major, RV 121** ..... Antonio Vivaldi  
*Allegro molto* (1678-1741)  
*Adagio*  
*Allegro*

**Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6 No. 8 "Christmas Concerto"** ..... Arcangelo Corelli  
*Vivace – Grave* (1653-1713)  
*Allegro*  
*Adagio – Allegro – Adagio*  
*Vivace*  
*Allegro*  
*Largo, Pastorale*

Giah Bush & Kelsey Osburn, *concertino violin*  
Joshua Vierra, *concertino cello*  
Salma Gómez, *continuo guitar*

**Simple Symphony** ..... Benjamin Britten  
*Boisterous Bourrée* (1913-1974)  
*Playful Pizzicato*  
*Sentimental Saraband*  
*Frolicsome Finale*

INTERMISSION

**Music for Strings** ..... Quincy Porter  
*Allegro piacevole* (1857-1934)  
*Larghetto*  
*Allegretto*

**Sophisticated Lady** ..... Duke Ellington, tr. Morton Gould  
(1899-1974)

Bellamy Bailey, *harp*  
Sichun Gao, *celeste*

**Lullaby** ..... George Gershwin  
(1898-1937)

**"Hoe Down" from Rodeo** ..... Aaron Copland  
(1900-1990)

Sichun Gao, *piano*

*About the Conductor*



**J ALEXANDER BENNETT** began his DMA in orchestral conducting at the University of Arizona School of Music in August 2023. He is conductor of the UA Philharmonic and is assistant conductor of the Arizona Symphony and UA Opera. Bennett received his MM in Orchestral Conducting, BM in Music Composition, and BA in Spanish Translation and Interpretation from Brigham Young University. He hails from Winchester, Virginia where he developed a love for music and was self-taught until college.

Bennett has studied and is active as a pianist, organist, choral conductor and musical theatre musician. At UA, he has served as music director for two opera productions, Michael Vince's *Hinterkaifeck* and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Bennett was also music director of BYU Opera's workshop of

*Staggerwing*, working closely with Lisa DeSpain, and to which he contributed new orchestrations and rewrites.

As a composer, Bennett, with Amber Dahlberg, won the American Guild of Organists 2019 student commissioning project which resulted in a collaboration creating *Coccinella*, a 10-minute work for solo organ. He composed the underscoring for *Mary Stuart* and *A Wilder Night*, for which he was also music director, both productions of BYU Arts.

A 2024-25 Allentown Symphony Conducting Fellow, Bennett has conducted a variety of professional, community, and educational ensembles, including the BYU Wind Symphony, and the Saratoga Springs Symphony Orchestra. A father and husband, Bennett in the rare moment of free time, sews.