

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
Erich Karkoschka
Evan Lehner**
Jenna Little
Zenobia Mares
Myely Martin
Nilay Patel
Leigh-Ann Rossette
Keaton Starks
Megan True
Sarah Weber

Viola

Nils Anderson
Kyla Caisip
Katherine Lee*
Keylee Newman

Violincello

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

Bass

Anthony Fernandez*
Ella Paul

**concertmaster

*principal

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Philharmonic Orchestra

J Alexander Bennett, conductor

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Crowder Hall
7:30 p.m.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Philharmonic Orchestra

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PROGRAM

St. Paul's Suite, Op. 29, No. 2 Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

Jig
Ostinato
Intermezzo

Giah Bush, violin

Finale (The Dargason)

Crisantemi Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

The Winter's Passed Wayne Barlow
(1912-1996)

Giah Bush, violin
Sara Hammelef, oboe

Sinfonia No. 7, String Symphony in D minor Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Allegro
Andante
Menuetto - Trio
Allegro molto

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.