



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES NEW MUSICIANS
FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON**

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will welcome six new musicians to the orchestra’s ranks for the 2024-25 season that begins next week.

With the addition of these new musicians, 15% of the orchestra has now been appointed during Nathalie Stutzmann’s tenure. The musicians joining the ASO for the 80th season this September are:

- Lauren Roth, Assistant Concertmaster
- Cameron Bonner, Principal Bassoon
- Andrew Burhans, Associate Principal Horn
- Ivan Valbuena, Associate Principal Clarinet/E-flat Clarinet
- Paolo Dara, Section Second Violin
- Paul Halberstadt, Section Second Violin

In addition, Finan Jones will join the orchestra as Conducting Fellow.

“We are delighted to welcome these new musicians to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra family,” said Executive Director Jenifer Barlament. “They are among the best and brightest in the world.”

About the New Musicians: [Artists | Atlanta Symphony Orchestra \(aso.org\)](#)

Lauren Roth, violin

Lauren Roth is the newly appointed Assistant Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony. Prior to this, she was Concertmaster of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra and served on the faculty of the University of Arizona as an Assistant Professor of Violin for eleven years. Ms. Roth appears regularly as a soloist, Guest Concertmaster, and Associate Concertmaster with orchestras around the world.

Highlights include performing the Mendelssohn and Sibelius violin concertos in the Czech Republic, solo engagements with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and appearances with the Jacksonville Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, and Baltimore Symphony. She enjoys performing

with the Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, a gathering of concertmasters and principal players from around the country.

A dedicated teacher, Ms. Roth maintained a violin studio at the University of Arizona giving instruction in performance, pedagogy, and orchestral repertoire. She often spends summers as a faculty member of the Prague Summer Nights Festival, the Marrowstone Music Festival, and she has served on the faculties of the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Summer MusicCamp and Carnegie Hall's New York Orchestra Seminar program. Each August, Ms. Roth serves as the Associate Concertmaster of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

A native of Seattle, Ms. Roth received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Outside of music, Ms. Roth enjoys yoga, playing and watching sports, and spending time with her nieces and nephews. www.laurenrothviolin.com

Cameron Bonner, bassoon

Prior to his appointment in Atlanta, Mr. Bonner was a member of the Alabama Symphony where he held the position of Assistant Principal Bassoon. He has performed with the Toronto Symphony, Houston Symphony, Wheeling Symphony, and Akron Symphony.

Originally from McKinney, Texas, Bonner went on to receive a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston. Mr. Bonner pursued graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University, studying with Nancy Goeres of the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has held fellowship positions with the Texas Music Festival, the American Institute of Musical Studies, and the Aspen Music Festival where he was featured as a soloist as the winner of the AMFS Concerto Competition.

Andrew Burhans, horn

Before joining the ASO he studied horn performance at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music with William VerMeulen. While living in Houston, Andrew performed frequently with the Houston Symphony as a substitute musician.

During the summers, Andrew has attended Spoleto Festival USA. Originally from Michigan, Andrew received his high school diploma from Interlochen Arts Academy, where he studied with Mr. Corbin Wagner. Aside from musical interests, Andrew enjoys hiking, swimming, fishing, cooking, and traveling.

Ivan Valbuena, clarinet/e-flat clarinet

Dr. Ivan Valbuena is a versatile artist with an international career as an orchestra performer, soloist and educator. Before joining the Atlanta Symphony, Ivan served as Assistant Principal Clarinet and E-Flat Clarinet with the San Antonio Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also served as Principal Clarinet with the New Mexico Philharmonic Orchestra and Second Clarinet with the Mid-Texas Symphony.

He has performed as a guest clarinetist with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Opera, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, Central Texas Philharmonic, Bogota Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

He has been featured as a soloist with the Symphony Pro Musica Orchestra of Boston in concerts in Hudson and Westborough, MA, starring in the premiere of Montilla's Fantasia Concertante for Two Clarinets and Orchestra, a virtuosic piece dedicated to him and commissioned by the Symphony Pro Música in 2015. He has also performed as guest soloist with the Lab Symphony Orchestra, the Longy Chamber Orchestra, the Collegium Musicum Orchestra in Bogotá's Colón Theater, and the Cundinamarca Symphony Band as guest soloist in the First International Clarinet Festival ClariBogota.

Finan Jones, conductor

Finan Jones is a young conductor praised for his "instinctive musicality and his passion for music of different genres." He has conducted orchestras including the English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, London Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble and the Royal Northern Sinfonia. Finan has a broad and diverse range of experience including concert work, recording sessions and opera.

In 2024, Finan was appointed Conducting Fellow of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, prompting a move to Georgia to take up the position. Having already developed a musical bond with ASO Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann during a week working together with the London Symphony Orchestra, he is looking forward to strengthening this musical understanding and learning from the Nathalie and the Orchestra.

His approach to music making is authentic, collaborative with a strong focus on allowing space for artistic expression from the musicians he works with. This approach has led him to work as assistant to many high-profile conductors, including an apprenticeship with Sir John Eliot Gardiner, working as his assistant with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, English Baroque Soloists, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and the Philharmonia Orchestra. As an assistant conductor, work has taken him to the Wiener Musikverein, Royal Albert Hall, Köln Philharmonie, Barbican Hall, Het Concertgebouw and St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Paolo Dara, violin

Violinist Paolo Dara is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and most recently served as Principal Viola of the Grand Rapids Symphony and Principal Second Violin of the Akron Symphony. He gave his first concerto appearance at age 15 with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and has since been featured as soloist with the Grand Rapids Symphony and other local orchestras in Michigan including the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony, Detroit Civic Symphony, and Kent Philharmonic. In addition to solo performances, Paolo has performed in the sections of the Chicago and Detroit Symphonies.

Paul Halberstadt, violin

Prior to joining the Atlanta Symphony, Paul Halberstadt held the position of Associate Concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra for two years. He has also frequently served as Concertmaster of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, Eastman Philharmonia, Brevard Sinfonia, and the National Festival Orchestra at the National Orchestral Institute (NOI). Paul is in demand as an orchestral performer and has performed with ensembles including the Minnesota Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Glens Falls Symphony, and the Symphoria Orchestra of Syracuse.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two of the hallmark education programs just celebrated anniversaries: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrated 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turned 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series, and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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