

## **BENJAMIN JABER, PRINCIPAL HORN**



Benjamin Jaber has been Principal Horn of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra since May 2009, serving in the same capacity since 2008 on an acting basis. He has also performed with the IRIS Orchestra, the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Houston, Richmond and New World Symphonies, and the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra. As a soloist, Mr. Jaber received first prize in the university division of the 2003 American Horn Competition and was the winner of the Aspen Music Festival's 2004 brass concerto competition. He was also a featured artist at the first-ever Conservatory Project series held at the Kennedy Center in Washington. He has spent his summers at the Aspen Festival, the National Orchestral Institute, the Pacific Music Festival, and the Marlboro Music Festival. He has also been active as a freelancer in the recording studios of Los Angeles, adding many different projects to his credit.

Mr. Jaber received his training at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and the Colburn Conservatory where he was the first hornist ever to be graduated from the school. He studied with William Ver Meulen, John Zirbel, David Jolley, and Bruce Henniss. He performs on a horn by Daniel Rauch of Norway, and mouthpieces by Scott Laskey of Chicago.

During his undergraduate years at Rice, Ben Jaber developed an infatuation with traditional Irish music that has since become a full-blown obsession. He is completely self-taught on the Irish wooden flute, tin whistle and uilleann pipes, and has been active as a session player in Houston, Philadelphia, New York, New Orleans and Los Angeles. Mr. Jaber has also been fortunate to get to play music with some of traditional Irish music's biggest names, including Paddy Keenan, Kevin Crawford, Mick Moloney, Isaac Alderson, Eileen Ivers, Darren Maloney, Máire Ní Ghráda, David Power, and Eliot Grasso. Other major influences include Matt Molloy, Michael McGoldrick, John McSherry and older players such as Seamus Ennis and Liam O'Flynn. He plays whistles by Colin Goldie, a wooden flute by Michael Grinter, and uilleann pipes by Kirk Lynch.

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### ***Getting to know Benjamin Jaber...***

#### **Q: How did you choose your instrument?**

A: I first met my horn teacher when I was 10, and hearing him play made me want to start.

**Q: What are some favorite composers and musical periods?**

A: In my other life, I play traditional Irish music, so that's on my mind a lot.

**Q: What do you love most about San Diego (besides the weather)?**

A: I love just how physically beautiful it is here everywhere you go.

**Q: What is your choice for dining in San Diego?**

A: Saguaro's La Fachada, or any other quality cheap Mexican!

**Q: What is your favorite San Diego Symphony memory?**

A: Winning the audition and playing my first season here.

**Q: The San Diego Symphony is essential to San Diego because...?**

A: This city more than any other in this country deserves to have one of the great orchestras of the world!