

## **ANDREW WATKINS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TIMPANI**



Andrew Watkins joined the San Diego Symphony in February of 2010 as a percussionist and assistant timpanist. Previously, he studied at the University of Illinois, the Chicago College of Performing arts, New England Conservatory, and Lynn University under the tutelage of William Moersch, Ed Harrison, Vadim Karpinos, Will Hudgins, and Ted Atkatz respectively. He has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Chicago Lyric Opera, New World Symphony, Tanglewood Music Center, Pacific Music Festival, and many others.

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### ***Getting to know Andrew Watkins...***

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

A: I actually started on saxophone in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but quit rather quickly. I picked up drumset a couple of years later because my friends and I wanted to start a rock band. Eventually, my teacher convinced me to join my school's band, where I learned all about classical percussion.

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

A: Bartok, Mahler, Shostakovich.

#### **Q: What good book have you read most recently?**

*Malone Dies* by Samuel Beckett

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

A: There is awesome Mexican food everywhere I look.

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

A: La Posta, Pokeyz, Neighborhood

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

A: To me, music conveys emotions better than any other human endeavor. Rather than using words or visuals, music seems to convey how these emotions actually feel instead of just descriptions of them. The great composers of orchestral music used this aspect of music to represent their ideas in ways that popular music can never come close to. The San Diego Symphony keeps this art form alive and well for the citizens of this great city.