Mark Dix
Viola
The Phoenix Symphony

Violist Mark Dix joined The Phoenix Symphony in 1995. Born in Colorado Springs, he began studying the violin at age six. His parents were not musicians, but they attended all the local orchestra concerts and placed a high value on the arts. In middle school Mark was drawn to the deeper toned viola, and by college it was his chosen instrument, obtaining a Bachelor's degree from the University of Puget Sound in Washington. His first professional orchestra job was with the Tacoma Symphony. A career in orchestral performance became Mark's goal, earning his Master's at the Manhattan School of Music in NYC, where his primary teacher was Cynthia Phelps. He performed in festivals in Germany, the US, and Spoleto, Italy.

When Mark arrived in Arizona, The Phoenix Symphony's community engagement programs became his immediate focus. He taught weekly lessons in targeted after school programs, created a decade of science based string orchestra programs for middle school gymnasium concerts, and is a leader in the Mind Over Music and Alzheimer's programs.

Outside the Symphony, the vibrant Phoenix visual arts scene inspired Mark to develop The Downtown Chamber Series in 2000, which features concerts in urban art spaces.