

Please join us for  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**TubaChristmas**  
in the Illinois Valley  
**Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:30pm**

**Hall High School Auditorium**

800 W Erie St. Spring Valley, IL 61362



**Ed Risinger, conductor**

Illinois Wesleyan University, Professor of Tuba/Euphonium

**Rex Benson, concertmaster**

Director Emeritus, Mendota High School Band

**Tuba, sousaphone, baritone, and euphonium players  
are all cordially invited for an afternoon of  
caroling and seasonal festivities!**

For performers

12:30 p.m. - check-in/registration

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. rehearsal

4:30 p.m. – free, family-friendly concert

(Audience members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or two for the Hall Township and Illinois Valley Food Pantries, as well as jingle bells to join in the fun!)

**Hosted by North Central Illinois ARTworks**

Sponsored by

**Music Suite 408 & Starved Rock Country Community Foundation**

For more information or to register, please contact

Music Suite 408 (815) 223-4408

[www.nciartworks.com](http://www.nciartworks.com)    [www.408fineartsfactory](http://www.408fineartsfactory)    [TubaChristmas.com](http://TubaChristmas.com)

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# What is TUBACHRISTMAS?

MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Created by renowned tubist Harvey Phillips of Indiana University, concerts this year will be presented in over 300 cities throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

Performances feature Christmas carols especially arranged for tubas, sousaphone, baritones, and euphoniums. Participants of all ages are encouraged to wear festive attire and decorate their instruments in honor of the season and these noble instruments. The warm, rich, organ-like sound of the tuba-euphonium choir has won the ears and hearts of every audience, making TUBACHRISTMAS an established Christmas tradition in many cities throughout the world.

While participants must provide music and pay a nominal fee to participate, all concerts are free to the public in celebration of the season.

This year's conductor will be **Mr. Ed Risinger** who joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University in 1997 as instructor of Tuba and Euphonium. He is also the Director of the Titan Band and Technical Coordinator for the School of Music. Risinger performed for four years with the United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C. As a member of the Ceremonial Brass, he played with the Concert Band, Air Force Quintet, and performed numerous times in the Chamber Players Concert Series. In addition, Risinger toured with the Air Force Band in Russia, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands. He has performed with the Peoria Ballet, Peoria Symphony and the Illinois Symphony and has played extensively throughout the Midwest and East Coast performing in area symphonies, brass quintets, and as a soloist. He has served as clinician and adjudicator at several music camps and festivals, including ITEA and the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. Risinger received his bachelor and master degrees from Illinois State University where he studied with Ed Livingston. Other teachers include David Fedderly and Rex Martin.

**Mr. Rex Benson** will serve as concertmaster and emcee for this year's TubaChristmas in the Illinois Valley. He received both his bachelor and master degrees in music education from Illinois State University, also serving as an undergraduate and graduate teaching assistant. He continued his education through course work at Aurora College and Vandercook School of Music. Mr. Benson retired after 25 years at Mendota High School. He has been an active member of the IHSA, IMEA, MENC, ASBDA, Phi Beta Mu, and IEA-NEA. His performance experience has included performing in the IVCC Wind Ensemble, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Valley Brass Ensemble, Peoria Municipal Band, Prairie Wind Ensemble, King Bros. Circus Band and Mendota Brass Ensemble. He is an active adjudicator at all levels, festival conductor, and has given clinics at ISU and Illinois Wesleyan University. Currently, Mr. Benson helps supervise student teachers for ISU and works part-time for The Music Shoppe of Normal. In 2005, Rex was the recipient of the National Federation of State High School Associations Outstanding Music Educator Award for Section 4 representing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. In 1998 he was the recipient of the Phi Beta Mu-Illinois Outstanding Bandmaster Award and in 1993 and 2009, he was awarded the Excellence in Education Award in LaSalle County. Most recently he was awarded IMEA's Distinguished Service Award. He currently resides with his wife, Dr. Christine Benson, in Ottawa.

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## Registration Instructions

Preregistration is not required; however, it is appreciated. Cost of participating in the event is as follows:

\_\_\_ \$10 registration contribution. This includes the 2023 TUBACHRISTMAS commemorative button and is for participants who already own the music book: *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS*. It may be paid in advance or paid at the door the day of the event. (If you participated at another 2023 TUBACHRISTMAS event, you may enter for free with your 2023 button.)

**OR**

\_\_\_ \$25 preregistration discount. This includes registration, the 2023 TUBACHRISTMAS button, and *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS*. It must be paid by November 30.

**OR**

\_\_\_ \$35 registration/music. This includes registration, the 2023 TUBACHRISTMAS button, and *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS*. It is the amount which must be paid after November 30 and at the door.

Please note: The purchase of the music, *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS*, is a one-time expense which makes TUBACHRISTMAS events worldwide accessible for a lifetime! No photocopies are permitted. Also, concerts are free which means participants' families and friends attend at no additional cost.

There will be special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TubaChristmas merchandise (Scarves, hats, etc.) in white and gold. Green/Red/Blue merchandise is only available to what is on hand as it was not offered this year.

\*4% Transaction fee will apply to all credit card transactions.

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12:30 p.m. check in/registration

1-3 rehearsal

4:30 p.m. free, family friendly concert

**Additional information.** Please like the 408 Fine Arts Factory Facebook page to receive additional information. Photos of the event will be posted there afterwards.

**Attire.** Please wear festive attire! Christmas accessories including ties, hats, and antlers are welcome (and optional!).

**Decorate your instrument.** There will be a contest for the best decorated instrument. Decorations will be judged during the rehearsal, so be prepared! (Please be certain decorations will not interfere with your ability to play!)

**Music.** Please label your music clearly with your name. There will be many identical copies of music in the room!

**Please bring a music stand (with your name clearly marked on it)!**

**Hall High School has approximately 60 stands but we anticipate that there will be more players than sixty.**

**Instrument Cases.** There will be space to store cases; however, gig bags are preferable!

**Snacks.** Holiday snacks will be available for all players between the rehearsal and concert.

**Repertoire.** Please be prepared to play the following tunes from the *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS* book:

No. 1 - Adeste Fideles

No. 3 - Deck the Halls

No. 4 - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

No. 5 - The First Noel

No. 6 - Good King Wenceslas

No. 8 – The Holly and the Ivy

No. 10 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 11 - Silent Night

No. 14 - Joy to the World

No. 20 - Komm, Süsßer Tod

No. 23 - We Wish You a Merry Christmas

No. 26 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 28 - Carol of the Bells

No. 33 - Jingle Bells

Additional music may be performed.

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