

Please join us for
The 11th Annual
TubaChristmas
in the Illinois Valley

Sunday, December 20, 2026 4:30pm

Hall High School Auditorium

800 W Erie St, Spring Valley, IL 61362



George Alberti, conductor
Eastern Illinois University

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 several local food pantries, as well as jingle bells to join in the fun!)

Sponsored by Music Suite 408
With support from North Central Illinois Artworks 501c3

For more information or to register, please contact
Music Suite 408 (815) 223-4408

www.408fineartsfactory www.nciartworks.com TubaChristmas.com

TUBACHRISTMAS concerts are presented with permission of the Harvey Phillips Foundation, Inc.

What is TUBACHRISTMAS?

MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS originated in 1974. 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.

George Alberti is an active performer and educator working in Central Illinois. He serves as the Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at Eastern Illinois University where he has worked since 2022. George performs with the Keystone Quartet, a tuba euphonium quartet that strives to push the limits of the tuba euphonium quartet repertoire. George also performs regularly with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Heartland Festival Orchestra, and Sinfonia da Camera. Other ensembles he has performed with include the West Virginia Symphony, the Johnstown Symphony, the Keystone Wind Ensemble, and the Gaudete Brass. He has performed on several Keystone Wind Ensemble albums including Tempo Di Bourgeois (2012), Fisher Tull (2013), and Grace & Glory (2014). George also performed on the solo album of Zach Collins titled Chronicle. With the Keystone Quartet, he has released two albums: Sweet Appalachia (2022), and Keystone Kitchen (2024). Along with his work as a performer, George has a diverse background in education. Prior to his appointment at EIU, George served as the Visiting Assistant Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania for the 2021-2022 school year. From 2014-2017, George worked with B Sharp Youth Music, an El Sistema program in Fort Worth, Texas. While with B Sharp, George taught private lessons to all the brass instruments, conducted the wind ensemble, and taught music theory and many other classes for the program. Starting in 2020, George began teaching Public Speaking at the University of Illinois, where he still maintains his position as a Lecturer. George holds degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2011), Texas Christian University (2014), Southern Methodist University (2020), and University of Illinois (2025). His primary studies have been with Zach Collins, Matt Good, and Scott Tegge.

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 is on the board of the Ottawa Center for the ARTS. 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 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:

___ \$15 registration contribution. This includes the 2025 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 2025 TUBACHRISTMAS event, you may enter for free with your 2025 button.)

OR

___ \$30 preregistration discount. This includes registration, the 2025 TUBACHRISTMAS button, and Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS. It must be paid by November 30.

OR

___ \$35 registration/music. This includes registration, the 2025 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.

Please add \$2 transaction fee per participant for all electronic payments:

Credit Card/Venmo/Paypal Venmo @musicsuite408

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Registration Form

(Preregistration is not required; however, it is very much appreciated.)

Name: _____ Is this your first TubaChristmas? _____

Address: _____ If not, how many have you attended? _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Instrument you will play:

_____ Tuba

Email: _____ _____ Bariton/Treble Clef

Phone: (_____) _____ _____ Euphonium/Bass Clef

Are you representing a school either as a

_____ teacher?

_____ student?

Name of School: _____

Fee: _____ \$15 Registration: or

_____ \$30 Preregistration discount (includes music) before November 30; or

_____ \$35 Registration includes music after November 30 or at the door.

For all Electronic Payments:

Registration \$17

Early registration w/music \$32

Registration after 11/30

w/music \$35

Venmo: @musicsuite408 or

credit card via phone

ONLINE Registration at

www.408fineartsfactory.com

under TubaChristmas tab

Please make checks payable to Music Suite 408. Forms should be mailed or delivered to:

Music Suite 408, 408 Fifth Street, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 223-4408

Music will then be available for pick up. (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.)

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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 Music Suite 408 & 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!

Music Stands will be provided!

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.

Parking on the and in school lots on the south side of school. Street parking also available.

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, Süßer 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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