

KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

TubaChristmas 2024

Friday, December 6 and Monday, December 16 at noon
Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

SCOTT WATSON, CONDUCTOR
JOE LEFEVRE, GUEST CONDUCTOR
DR. DAVID EARLL, GUEST CONDUCTOR

PROGRAM

"Adeste Fideles"
"The First Noel"
"The Holly and the Ivy"
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"The Wassail Song"
"We Three Kings"
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella"
"Away in a Manger"
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
"Silent Night"
"Joy to the World"

KC TUBACHRISTMAS ALL-STAR ENSEMBLE

Cole Ahlander
Jillian Arnold
Alex Bennett
Madison Boozer
Adra Cress
David Grimes

Adrian Gutierrez
Grant Johnson
Josie Jones
Elliot Kastens
EJ Padgett
Jess Payne

Sam Perez
Brody Shulda
Jack Stutler
Josh Westcott
Ellie White

2024 is the 51st year of TUBACHRISTMAS! The first TubaChristmas was presented on December 22, 1974, at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. The first Kansas City TubaChristmas was presented in 1979, when the group performed for the lighting of the Crown Center Christmas tree. The Kansas City Symphony is proud to be presenting TubaChristmas for the 16th consecutive year. TubaChristmas brings together hundreds of tuba and euphonium players from all walks of life as well as multiple generations of the same family who have made the concert an annual tradition. On December 7, 2018, the Kansas City Symphony set a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for Largest Tuba Ensemble with 835 performers, a record that still stands today.

TubaChristmas is made possible, in part, by an anonymous donor.

About the Conductor

SCOTT WATSON CONDUCTOR

Scott Watson is Professor Emeritus and Courtesy Professor, School of Music, University of Kansas, where he was Professor of Tuba-Euphonium from 1979-2024. His solo efforts can be heard on both his solo CD titled "Thoughts of a Cow" as well as his "Stepping Stones, Volumes I-II for Tuba" on Potenza Records and the Kansas Brass Quintet CD titled "Rare Breeds & Dog-Eared Classics." He is the author of "Brassword: A Holophrastic Method for Teaching Young Brass Players," as well as co-author of the one-of-a-kind book "A Practical Guide to Studio Teaching in Higher Education" published by GIA Publications.



Watson is known throughout the country as a master teacher, having legions of former students holding major positions in the top military bands, orchestras, colleg/university positions and public-school positions across the country. He was honored by the International Tuba-Euphonium Association with their Daniel Perantoni Award for Teaching Excellence in 2023, the association's highest teaching award.

At the School of Music at KU, he was the conductor of the influential KU Tuba-Euphonium Consort and co-conductor of the KU Brass Ensemble, as well as serving many years as Director of the Division of Brass & Percussion. Scott was elected and served as President of the International Tuba Euphonium Association from 1999-2001. Currently he also enjoys being a songwriter and a member of his band Brown Shoe Tuxedo, whose music is available on all major music platforms. The band is heard often in the Lawrence/KC area through its public performances.

Scott is an acclaimed soloist, clinician and chamber musician and presently holds the position of E-flat Tuba with the famed

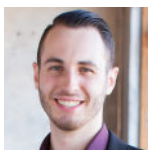
Fountain City Band (America's most successful competitive brass band in history) and is Music Director Emeritus of the Free State Brass Band. In 2018 he served as Principal Tuba with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia as part of a sabbatical from the School of Music. Scott has concertized all over the world with composers such as James Barnes, Walter Hartley, Elliot Schwartz, Igor Rekhin and Charles Hoag all composing works especially for his talents.

Scott is a member and leader of the Kansas City Brassworks, a brass chamber ensemble consisting of some of KC's greatest brass artists. From 2000-2015, he was a member of the Infinity Brass of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Festival. Along with Winston Morris he was Co-Artistic Director of one of music's most unusual ensembles — the acclaimed tuba-euphonium chamber orchestra SYMPHONIA, which released three recordings on Mark Records. His career has seen performances with such groups and individuals as the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Festival Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Symphony Brass Quintet, Crested Butte Music Festival Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie, Jack Daniels Silver Cornet Band, Chestnut Brass Company and New American Tuba Quartet, in addition to countless shows, performances and other freelance work. As a conductor he has conducted such groups as the KU Wind Ensemble, Capital City Brass Band, Brass Band of the North American Summer School, Mansfield University Brass Band, International All Star College Tuba Ensemble, International All Star High School Tuba Ensemble, KU Brass Choir and Thunder All-Star Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, all on prestigious conferences and concert series.

About the Guest Conductors

JOE LEFEVRE GUEST CONDUCTOR

Joe LeFevre joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2018. Prior to this appointment, he was principal tuba of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Joe holds a bachelor's degree in tuba performance with an emphasis in music education from Michigan State University. He has studied with Phil Sinder, Gene Pokorny, Mike Roylance, Dennis Nulty, Deanna Swoboda, Jacob Cameron and Bill Short. He has performed as soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, Michigan State University Wind Symphony and Civic Orchestra of Chicago. In addition, he has subbed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and he was a

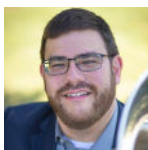


Tanglewood Music Center fellow in 2016. He won and medaled in various international competitions including the Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Festival Competition and the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Soloist Competition. In 2013, Joe was a member of the Michigan State Spartan Marching Band when they performed at the 100th Rose Bowl game.

Joe is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In his spare time, he enjoys triathlon, collecting watches, fantasy football and spending time with family and friends. He is an avid sports fan and lifelong baseball and football enthusiast. Joe has adopted the Chiefs; however, despite Kansas City's best intentions, he remains a devoted Detroit Tigers fan. Joe and his wife call Kansas City home and live with their three dogs, Ash, Luna and Toby.

DR. DAVID EARLL GUEST CONDUCTOR

Dr. David Earll serves as the Tuba/Euphonium Professor at the University of Kansas School of Music in Lawrence, Kansas. David also performs with the Northern Lights Duo, the Kansas City Symphony as substitute tubist, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and CCO Brass Quintet as acting principal tubist and Sam & Dave's Brass Extravaganza, and has performed with the Syracuse Orchestra, Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, Tallgrass Brass Band, Ithaca Brass and the Paris-based Opus 333 – Quatuor de Saxhorns. Before his appointment at KU, David served on the faculty of Ithaca College and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.



David maintains an active schedule as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral musician and clinician. Beyond his work in North America, David makes regular appearances abroad, and has performed recently in Hong Kong, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands and Israel. He has published commercial albums as a tuba soloist and featuring his work in the Northern Lights Duo.

David has received awards for his musical artistry and his research, including the 2016 International Clifford Bevan Award for Excellence in Research and the Northern Trust/Piper Enrichment Award.

He is an International Willson Artist and performs exclusively on the Willson 3200 FAXL Tuba and the Willson 3050 CC Tuba.

Lyrics

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

Lyrics

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE WASSAIL SONG

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wandering
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too,
And God bless you and send you a happy New Year.
And God send you a happy New Year.

WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Lyrics

BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE, ISABELLA

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village,
Christ is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother!
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her Son!

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
Till morning is nigh.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Lyrics

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.



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