

Please join us for  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**TubaChristmas**  
in the Illinois Valley  
**Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:30pm**

**Hall High School Auditorium**

800 W Erie St, Spring Valley, IL 61362



**Kevin Jensen, conductor**

Retired Conductor of Rockford Wind Ensemble; Outstanding Alumni Illinois State 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!)

**Hosted by North Central Illinois ARTworks  
Sponsored by Music Suite 408**

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 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.

**Kevin Jensen** has enjoyed an eclectic career in music – one that has included a diverse mix of instrumental and vocal music: jazz, musical theater, computer and MIDI technology, arranging and writing. Mr. Jensen was the conductor and musical director for the Rockford Wind Ensemble for over twenty years. His thirty-five year career as a band director included Eureka, Batavia, and Loves Park/Machesney Park (Harlem) high schools. In 2014 he was given the Rockford Mayor’s Arts Award, and in 2015 was recognized as the “Outstanding Alumni” for the School of Music at Illinois State University, where he earned a degree in both instrumental and choral music education. While at ISU, he studied euphonium with Ed Livingston, music composition with Roque Cordero, served as staff arranger for the School of Music, and was drum major of the “Big Red Marching Machine.” Mr. Jensen is an acclaimed composer with nearly forty commercially published works and over two hundred freelance commissioned works to his credit. He has composed or arranged music for virtually every genre: orchestra, chamber music, concert band, jazz combo, choirs, marching band, commercial music, a full length musical – the list goes on, and even includes a solo for musical saw and juggler with band accompaniment. Locally, he has been involved with Starlight Theater, the Rockford Symphony Orchestra, the Nielsen Chorale, TubaChristmas Rockford, and the Rockford Concert Band. He is an active guest conductor; in 2021 he led the ILMEA District 8 senior band, and In December 2022 he conducted the Rockford Symphony Orchestra’s Holiday Pops concert at the Coronado Theater. His wife, Amy, taught choir and piano classes at Hononegah High School for thirty. Their three grown children also continue to teach and perform music.

**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 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 2024 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 2024 TUBACHRISTMAS event, you may enter for free with your 2024 button.)

OR

\_\_\_ \$25 preregistration discount. This includes registration, the 2024 TUBACHRISTMAS button, and *Carols for a Merry TUBACHRISTMAS*. It must be paid by November 30.

OR

\_\_\_ \$35 registration/music. This includes registration, the 2024 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 others have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument you will play: \_\_\_ baritone - treble clef  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ baritone - bass clef  
Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ tuba  
Phone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your primary instrument? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, what is your primary instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you representing a school either as a

\_\_\_ teacher?

\_\_\_ student?

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_ \$10 registration; or  
\_\_\_ \$25 preregistration discount (includes music) – before November 30; or  
\_\_\_ \$35 registration (includes music) – after November 30 and at the door

**FOR ALL electronic payment:**

**Registration: \$12**

**Early registration w/music \$27**

**Registration after 11/30 w/music \$37**

**Venmo: @musicsuite408**

**Credit Card via phone**

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 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)!**

**There won't be any available on site.**

**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, Süsster 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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