



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

**AN OCTUBAFEST GUEST ARTIST
RECITAL**

BRASS MAMMOTH

Matthew Murchison, euphonium
Ben Pierce, euphonium
Zach Collins, tuba
Kent Eshelman, tuba

OctUBA 9, 2023 | 7:30 PM

HARRIS CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Kevin Sanders, Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Ryan Fisher, Interim Dean

PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

Bulgarian Three	Traditional arr. Matthew Murchison
Cantus Firmest	Anthony O'Toole (b.1988)
Festival Fanfare	Frank Lynn Payne (1936-2022)
Fortitude	Kent Eshelman (b.1980)
Happiness Theme	Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) arr. Matthew Murchison
From Grandmother's Garden, Op. 97 Heartsease	Amy Beach (1867-1944) trans. George Alberti
Hipster Squirrel, Vol. 2	Matthew Murchison (b.1980)
Honeysuckle Rose	Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) arr. Kent Eshelman
Lux aurumque	Eric Whitacre (b.1970) arr. Benjamin Pierce
Psalm	Zach Collins (b.1981)

PROGRAM

Quartet for Tubas

Frank Lynn Payne

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Vivo

String Quartet No. 3 in F Major, Op. 73

Dmitri Shostakovich

III. Allegro non troppo

(1906-1975)

arr. Andrew van Devender

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Jack Norworth (1879-1959)

and Albert von Tilzer (1878-1956)

arr. Matthew Murchison

Urban Suite III. Lily, My Love

Shawn Kelley (b.1986)

Whatever Is

Kent Eshelman (b.1980)

BIOGRAPHIES

Brass Mammoth was founded in 2022 to pursue a high level of musicianship in a fun, flexible, and inventive way. The group seeks to perform and expand the standard euphonium-tuba quartet repertoire while branching out into world music, jazz, folk, and other styles. The members of Brass Mammoth bring a wealth of experience to the group as performers and educators. Collectively they have released 15 solo and chamber albums, won first place in dozens of solo competitions, appeared as soloists around the world, and have performed with many leading ensembles. Their diverse backgrounds include composing and arranging, jazz performing, conducting, studio work, and adjudicating. They each hold a doctorate in music performance and are active as university professors.

Zach Collins is professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. At IUP, Zach teaches applied lessons to all tuba and euphonium majors, leads the IUP Tubaphonium Ensemble, and teaches classes in music technology. In 2019, he released his first solo album, *Chronicle*. *Chronicle* was recognized with the 2021 International Tuba and Euphonium Association Roger Bobo Award for Excellence in Recording for the best Solo Tuba Album. Recent solo and chamber engagements have taken him to Ohio, West Virginia, Washington, DC, New York, Texas, and Moscow, Russia. His interpretation of William Kraft's *Encounters II for Solo Tuba* was released on Cambria Master Recordings in August 2009.

Zach performs with Eastern Standard, a horn, tuba, piano trio he formed with Heidi Lucas and Jacob Ertl. Eastern Standard aims to commission and record new works for this unique instrumentation. To date, the ensemble has released two commercial albums, *Eastern Standard* and *Wanderlust*. In addition to Eastern Standard, he regularly performs with the Keystone Chamber Winds, Altoona Symphony Orchestra, and West Virginia Symphony Orchestras.

Zach has written a number of works for brass instruments. His compositions and arrangements for tuba and euphonium can be purchased from Cimarron Music and Eighth Note Publications.

Zach earned degrees from Texas Christian University (2003) and the University of Southern California (2005 and 2007). His primary teachers have been Richard Murrow, Jim Self, Tommy Johnson, and Norm Pearson.

Zach Collins is a Miraphone artist.

Kent Eshelman is Professor of Music at Baylor University, where he has taught since 2009. As a soloist, he is a first-place winner of the Jeju (South Korea) and Leonard Falcone (USA) international solo competitions, the Midland-Odessa Symphony national young artist competition, the Rich Matteson international jazz competition, and others. He was a finalist in the Philip Jones International Competition (France) and a Level One award recipient in the national YoungArts competition. He has premiered solo works by Bruce Broughton, John Cheetham, Frank Lynn Payne, and Anthony Plog, and his two solo albums, *Message in a Tuba* and *Flavors*, have received enthusiastic praise. The American Record Guide stated, "Tuba players are making fine recordings these days, but [Flavors] really stands out." He has also released a brass quintet album, *Four American Stories* (with Baylor Brass); a jazz album, *Life is Good*; and a boogie-woogie and stride piano album, *In the Pocket*. He is Principal Tuba of the Waco Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the orchestras of Grand Rapids, San Antonio, and Toledo. A recipient of the ITEA Roger Bobo Award for Excellence in Recording and the Baylor University Outstanding Professor Award, he was recently honored to be the guest artist at the 2022 Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. He earned degrees at Michigan State (DMA), Wisconsin (MM), and Michigan (BM, BFA) studying with Phil Sinder, John Stevens, Fritz Kaenzig, and Ellen Rowe (jazz piano).

Matthew Murchison is a musician. Keep reading for more details. Matthew enjoys a varied career as a performer, composer, arranger, educator, conductor, and producer. Matthew has been called “one of the finest players of his (or any) generation.” He has also been called other things which should not be repeated here.

Matthew was a member of River City Brass in Pittsburgh, PA from 2002-2015 where he was a featured soloist hundreds of times. Matthew has served as producer for album recordings and can be heard on solo, chamber, large ensemble, and rock band albums. He has also been engaged to write jokes and perform as the emcee for concerts.

In addition to his time in River City Brass, Matthew has been pleased to be able to perform with such groups as the: US Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” Brass Band of Battle Creek, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (both as a tuba player and as the euphonium-playing Santa Claus), Delaware Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and many others.

Matthew self-publishes most of his compositions though his website while others may be obtained only after completing a series of magical quests. Recent performances of his compositions have taken place across the US as well as in Japan, South America, and Europe. His output includes unaccompanied and solo works, pieces incorporating electronics, chamber music, large ensemble pieces, groove-based squirrel-themed happy tunes, and ukulele songs about...well, nonsense.

His solo albums are “Everyone But Me” (2003), “Reminiscence” (2018), and “Songs for One and More” (made up mostly of his own works) (2021). He can also be heard on “In Too Deep” (2011) as a member of River Bottom Quartet and “Polished Brass” (2002) with River City Brass.

Matthew is currently the adjunct instructor of low brass at Cornell University.

Benjamin Pierce is highly decorated as a champion of international solo competitions, winning more than a dozen in total between 1998 and 2008. He was notably the first euphonium or tuba player to advance to the final round of New York City's prestigious Concert Artists Guild annual competition. Other competition wins include both the tuba and euphonium artist divisions of the Leonard Falcone Festival, the Markneukirchen Wettbeverb, and the Japan Wind and Percussion Competition, where he took the grand prize in 2001.

An accomplished teacher, Pierce has been called on to lead master classes in Japan, Hong Kong, Spain, Finland, and across the U.S. He has been on the faculty of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville since 2003. His U of A students have gone on to attain prestigious positions in the premiere military bands as well as teaching positions in many secondary and post-secondary institutions.

Pierce is perhaps regarded as a pioneer in performing on both the tuba and euphonium, taking advantage of their artistic possibilities in both solo and ensemble situations. He has toured extensively as a recitalist. In the orchestral realm he has been a member of the Ann Arbor Symphony and has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Tulsa Symphony, among others. He is a member of the acclaimed Brass Band of Battle Creek, with whom he has performed on three instruments--the euphonium, bass tuba, and baritone.

Pierce served as Editor of the ITEA Journal from 2011 to 2021 and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of ITEA during that tenure. A proud Miraphone representative, Pierce performs on the 5050 Ambassador euphonium and the 481C Elektra F tuba.