



Forty-first Annual

**Leonard Falcone
International
Euphonium & Tuba
Festival**

Hosted by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

**2026 Guest Artist
Master Sgt. Hiram Diaz
Euphonium**

Leonard Falcone International Euphonium & Tuba Festival

2026 Festival Awards

Euphonium Artist

1st Prize	Leonard Falcone Tribute	\$ 2,800
2nd Prize	Seymour & Faye Okun Tribute	\$ 1,400
3rd Prize	Douglas & Jane Goodrich	\$ 850

Tuba Artist

1st Prize	Leonard Falcone Tribute	\$ 2,800
2nd Prize	Philip & Carolyn Sinder	\$ 1,400
3rd Prize	William & Doris Kooyer	\$ 850

Euphonium Student

1st Prize	Beryl Falcone Tribute underwritten by Emil & Doris Ellis Family Foundation	\$ 1,400
2nd Prize	Cecilia Falcone	\$ 800
3rd Prize	Cecilia Falcone	\$ 600

Tuba Student

1st Prize	Ed Livingston Tribute	\$ 1,400
2nd Prize	Roger & Nadine Weyersberg	\$ 800
3rd Prize	The Topping Family	\$ 600

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FalconeFestival.org

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Photos available at: flickr.com/photos/falcone-festival/albums/

Falcone Festival documents in the MSU Archives: findingaids.lib.msu.edu/repositories/2/resources/3085

Leonard Falcone's papers in the MSU Archives: findingaids.lib.msu.edu/repositories/2/resources/147

Hosted by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp: bluelake.org

Dr. Leonard Falcone 1899-1985

The most consummate performing artists are able to expand the horizons of their instruments and set the standard for their generation. A subset of this group (a small number indeed) possesses pedagogical skills to match their artistic talents. These individuals are the true leaders of the music education world, who maintain extraordinary artistic standards while touching the lives of countless young people.



Leonard Falcone's original single 65-piece Military Band developed into four units: the 175-piece Marching Band, the 115-piece Concert Band, the 100-piece Activity Band, and the Spartan Brass. In recognition of his distinguished career, Michigan State awarded Leonard Falcone the Doctor of Fine Arts degree in 1978, marking 50 years of involvement with MSU. In 2014, the MSU Alumni Band honored Dr. Falcone with a bronze plaque bearing his image and story, placed in the College of Music.

Such was the case with Leonard Falcone, who served as Michigan State University Director of Bands for 40 years and then continued as Professor of Euphonium and Tuba until 1980. Dr. Falcone was one of those rare musicians who combined remarkable artistic talent with natural pedagogical instinct.

Dr. Falcone was born in 1899 in Roseto-Valfortore in southeastern Italy, about 75 miles northeast of Naples. He was a professional musician (playing in the prestigious Roseto-Valfortore Town Band) before immigrating to America in 1915 at the age of fifteen. In 1927, he was appointed Director of Bands at Michigan State University, where he concurrently was Chairman of the Winds and Brass Department and Professor of Baritone Horn.

Dr. Falcone was truly a world-class brass player, and his reputation for excellence touched all aspects of his career. His solo performances, his bands, and his students were all characterized by his singular dedication to the highest standards.

Dr. Falcone retired as Director of Bands at MSU in 1967, although his teaching relationship with MSU continued. During the course of his tenure as Director of Bands,

Dr. Falcone was active in the program of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp since it opened in 1966. As a guest conductor and honorary trustee, Dr. Falcone helped Blue Lake become what former Michigan Governor William Milliken considered to be "one of the state's greatest cultural assets."

It was in honor of his exemplary musical and educational accomplishments that a number of Falcone students, in cooperation with Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, established the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium Festival (now Euphonium and Tuba Festival). The Festival has become a continuing testimony to Dr. Falcone's profound influence upon the lives of his students and the extraordinary artistry he achieved on the instrument he loved.

The Artistry of Leonard Falcone

Dr. Falcone's first three albums of solo works for euphonium are available on digital music streaming services, such as Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, Prime Music, and more. (QR code for details)



Photos from left: concert at Interlochen, 1930; formal portrait, MSU years; half-time marching formations ca. 1947; pregame, 1963; last known photo, fall 1984.

Source: 1, 2, 4, 5 from Cecilia Falcone & 3 from MSU Archives/UA 17.133

About the Festival

Festival Objectives

The Leonard Falcone International Euphonium & Tuba Festival has gained recognition as the premier event of its kind. Our objectives include:

- 🎵 promoting the highest level of artistry on the euphonium and tuba;
- 🎵 encouraging young musicians to study the euphonium and tuba;
- 🎵 enhancing the repertoire for the euphonium and tuba by commissioning and encouraging original compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements;
- 🎵 presenting master classes and performances by distinguished euphonium and tuba artists; and
- 🎵 fostering increased awareness and appreciation for euphonium and tuba by the general public.

Student and artist level competitions remain integral to the Festival. The competition has a truly international flavor, with contestants attending from countries around the world. Through the 2026 Festival we will have awarded nearly \$420,000 in prize money. Competition cash prizes are underwritten by foundations, companies, and friends who believe in the values of the Festival.

Competitor Eligibility

Artist Eligibility

Participants must not currently be or have formerly been a full-time paid professional in either a performance position or a college teaching position as of August 1 of the Festival year. There is no age limitation, and participants may be of any sex, race, or nationality.

Student Eligibility

There is an age limit for the student divisions. Participants must not have reached their 20th birthday prior to September 1 of the Festival year. For the 2026 Festival, a participant who will be 20 years old or older on September 1, 2026, was not eligible to apply in either student division. Participants may be of any sex, race, or nationality. Previous first place winners of the Student Level Competition must enter the Artist Level should they compete in ensuing years.

Applicants in Multiple Divisions

While participants may choose to apply in multiple divisions, if they are chosen as a semifinalist in both divisions entered, they must choose one division in which to compete. Application fees are refunded as outlined in the Cancellation and Refund Policy.

Competition Process

Preliminary Round

Applicants submit a video recording of the preliminary round music as specified, with no identifying information. Preliminary round adjudicators listen to and rate the recordings for selection of Festival participants.

Semi-Final Rounds

Participants prepare required music, both accompanied and unaccompanied pieces. Festival adjudicators listen to and rate the performances at the Festival, but competitors are NOT identified by name. Performances are NOT open to the public.

Final Round

Finalist competitors are announced at the Sunday luncheon and have until the following day to polish and rehearse. All Festival adjudicators rate the final round competitors. The public is invited to all final performances.

Dates for the Forty-second Annual Falcone Festival

March 31, 2027.....Entry deadline for application and video recording
Early MayNotification of Semi-Finalists
August 6-9.....Competition & Festival
August 9.....Finals Competition

Hosted by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

Guest Artist 2026



Assistant Principal Euphonium MASTER SGT. HIRAM DIAZ of Miami joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in January 2012 and was appointed assistant principal in December 2023.

Master Sgt. Diaz began his musical instruction at age 12. After graduating in 2003 from the New World School of the Arts in Miami, he attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) where he earned a bachelor’s degree in music performance in 2007. His instructors have included Timothy Northcut of CCM; Jay Bertolet, former principal tuba with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra; and Brian Bowman of the University of North Texas.

Master Sgt. Diaz is part of the Falcone family, having won Gold as a Euphonium Student competitor in 2002. And then, as a Euphonium Artist, he was a semi-finalist in 2005 and won Silver in 2008.

Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Master Sgt. Diaz was a member of the United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Band (283d Army Band) in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Master Sgt. Diaz performs with the Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra at the White House, in the Washington, DC, area, and across the country during the band’s annual concert tour. He performed Tom Davoren’s Ascension as featured soloist on the 2016 national concert tour. Since 2017, Master Sgt. Diaz has also served as co-leader of the band’s Latin Jazz Ensemble.



Congratulations to the
Leonard Falcone International
Euphonium & Tuba Festival

**Forty-one years honoring tradition and
shaping the future for Euphonium and Tuba!**

Emil & Doris Ellis Family Foundation

2026 Falcone Festival Semi-Finalists & Alternates

= Unable to compete ✓ = Will compete * May be semifinalist in one division only

Euphonium Artist Division

Semi-Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Armando Jose Alicandu	Miami, FL, USA Erik Lundquist, Calvin Jenkins
Alexander Aull	Monroe, GA, USA Carnegie Mellon University Hiram Diaz, Dr. Matthew Shipes, David Zerkel
Jack Bird	Fairfax, VA, USA University of Michigan David Zerkel, Greg Freeman
Kathryn Carley	Springfield, VA, USA George Mason University Mark Jenkins, Justin Benavidez, Mark Kellogg, Sharon Huff
Jose Castillo	Edinburg, TX, USA University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Dr. Scott Roeder
Parker Dye	Louisville, KY, USA University of Arizona Dr. Matthew Tropman
Louis Lagueux	Montreal, Quebec, Canada Université de Montréal Charles Benaroya, Vincent Brossard
Reece Hinton	Platte City, MO, USA University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Timothy Northcut, Angelo Manzo, Nate Gay
# Jackson Holliday	Fairfax, VA, USA George Mason University Dr. Mark Jenkins, Dr. Art Haecker
Jethro E Thorne	Stevensville, MT, USA University of Montana Dr. Benedict Kirby

Alternates (in this order)

✓ Grant Johnson	Lenexa, KS, USA University of Kentucky Brandon Smith, Scott Watson, David Earll, Grant Morgan
Marco Alzaitoun	Fort Worth, TX, USA University of North Texas David Childs, Justin Weis
Henry Otts	Fairhope, AL, USA University of Texas at Austin Charles Villarubia, Will Petersen

Tuba Artist Division

Semi-Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Joey Barnhouse	Norwich, OH, USA Baldwin Wallace University Dr. Ken Heinlein, Richard Stout, Dr. Andrew Mitchell, Jon Kelsey
James Caldwell	Pearland, TX, USA Oklahoma State University Dr. Ryan Robinson, Matt Good, Don Little, Steve Curtis
Micah Crouse	Murray, KY, USA Illinois State University Dr. Andy Rummel, Dr. Todd French
Victor Cruz	Edinburg, TX, USA University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Dr. Scott Roeder
Seth Dossa	Crescent Springs, KY, USA University of Kentucky Dr. Brandon Smith
Ian Graves	Jacksonville, NC, USA University of Kentucky Dr. Brandon Smith
Adam Hutcherson	Norman, OK, USA University of Oklahoma Brian Dobbins
Jonathan Miller	St. Petersburg, FL, USA Eastman School of Music Justin Benavidez, Thomas Riccobono, Harold Van Schaik
Nick Tesmer	Austin, TX, USA Baylor University Dr. Kent Eshelman
Gabriel Welch	Winona, MN, USA University of Miami Dr. Aaron Tindall, Steven Campbell

Alternates (in this order)

Casey Stringer	Fort Worth, TX, USA Texas Christian University Dr. Clay Garrett, Scott Mendoker, Dr. J.D. Salas
Jack Craven	Leander, TX, USA Oklahoma State University Ryan Robinson, Gabe Cowles, Glenn Dewey, Ryan Matajcek
June Eickholdt	Colleyville, TX, USA University of Miami Aaron Tindall

2026 Falcone Festival Semi-Finalists & Alternates

= Unable to compete ✓ = Will compete * May be semifinalist in one division only

Euphonium Student Division

Semi-Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Andrew Dahlstrom Washingtonville, NY, USA
SUNY Potsdam
Dr. Charles Guy, Nathaniel Rensink
Ari Contzius, Nicole Redeker

Manami Ishii Bihoro Town Hokkaido, Japan
Hokkaido Kitami Hokuto High School
Tatsuya Sano

Mira Shelgikar Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Ann Arbor Huron High School
Ellen Le, Amanda Blackson-Pakela, Jonathan M. Holtfreter

Sayaka Toyomura Fukuoka, Fukuoka, Japan
Heisei College of Music
Yudai Hironaka

Sullivan Tucker Crestwood, KY, USA
University of Kentucky
Brandon Smith, Chris Schmidt

Avanith Vijay Suwanee, GA, USA
Lambert High School
Bernard Flythe

Alternates (in this order)

✓Eric Maxey Louisville, KY, USA
University of Michigan
David Zerkel, Chris Schmidt

Cooper White Owensboro, KY, USA
Western Kentucky University
Chris Schmidt, Pat Stuckemeyer, Nate Clark

Matthew Van Dam Edmond, OK, USA
Oklahoma State University
Dr. Ryan Robinson, Tanner Morgan, Jeff Jahnke, Paul Nesper

Tuba Student Division

Semi-Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Gino Calipo Union, KY, USA
University of Kentucky
Brandon Smith

Samuel Lorentz Crystal Lake, IL, USA
Illinois State University
Andy Rummel

Rufino Medado Aransas Pass, TX, USA
Texas Christian University
Dr. Clay Garrett, Dr. Donald Pinson, Dr. Jesse Orth

Tate Newman Midlothian, TX, USA
Texas Christian University
Dr. Clay Garrett, Gary Oncken

Bryce Rhoades Claremore, OK, USA
Baylor University
Dr. Kent Eshelman, David Mudd, Courtney Acord, TJ Smith

Chase Russell Murfreesboro, TN, USA
Stewart Creek High School
Micheal Chester

Alternates (in this order)

Theodore Marvel Hopkinsville, KY, USA
Florida State University
Matt Hightower

Michael Madera Dothan, AL, USA
University of South Alabama
Dr. Clayton Maddox

Yun-Chen Li Taoyuan, Taoyuan, Taiwan
Arizona State University
Deanna Swoboda



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tuba and euphonium instruments

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We've got brass!

Justin Emerich, trumpet
Heather Zweifel, trumpet
Johanna Yarbrough, horn
Kenneth Thompkins, trombone
Chance Huiet, tuba/euphonium

...marching along in
Falcone's footsteps

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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2026 Festival Adjudicators



DR. CHRIS COMBEST is President of the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium Tuba Festival and Associate Professor of Tuba at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where he also serves as Associate Director of the School of Music. Before joining MTSU, Combest served as Principal Tubist with the Louisville Orchestra, Victoria

Symphony, Ash Lawn Opera, and Wintergreen Festival, and has performed with the Nashville Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Dallas Wind Symphony, and artists including film composer John Williams and the Canadian Brass. Dr. Combest is a Performing Artist and Clinician for Melton Meinl Weston Tubas.



DR. MARK COX, Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Central Michigan University, holds BM and DMA degrees in performance from the Eastman School of Music, and a MM degree in performance from Northwestern University. Dr. Cox has performed at major concert halls in the United States, Germany, and Japan and has performed with numerous international performers. He gives seminars on teaching and performing throughout the United States. His students include public school teachers and professional performers, and former students have won the Yamaha Young Artists Competition, placed in the artist division of the Leonard Falcone Competition, are members of the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," and have performed as soloists around the United States. Dr. Cox is a Yamaha Artist.



MASTER SGT. HIRAM DIAZ, our guest artist, will also be adjudicating at the semi-finalist and finalist competitions. For his full biography, please see page 5.



DR. JAMIE LIPTON (she/they) is Professor of Low Brass and Director of the Brass Band and Symphony Band at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Dr. Lipton has performed throughout the United States and all over the world, most recently in Brazil. A past winner of both the Falcone Euphonium Artist and the ITEC Euphonium Artist competitions, she now serves on the Falcone Festival

board and as Competition Coordinator for ITEC. Dr. Lipton has been a clinician at many leading American brass workshops and has taught Euphonium at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp since 2007. She is the Euphoniumist for the touring ensemble Trio di Velluto, and she is a board member and Solo Euphonium of the Natural State Brass Band in Little Rock, Arkansas.



RYAN MCGEORGE is a versatile Euphonium artist and former member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. During his military career, Ryan showcased diverse musical skills in multiple configurations, exhibiting a wide variety of musical genres including the introduction of Jazz Euphonium to the White House. Most recently, Ryan released his debut solo album

Kuranes, a jazz fusion recording of his own original compositions and arrangements, pushing the boundaries of traditional Euphonium performance by incorporating improvisation and electronic effects pedals. Celebrating the release of the album, he headlined a performance at historic Blues Alley in Washington, DC. McGeorge earned a Bachelor's Degree studying with Dr. Brian L. Bowman at the University of North Texas. While still in school, he was recognized by placing first in the Falcone Euphonium Artist Competition. He has recently returned to Denton, Texas, where he is serving as Adjunct Professor of Euphonium at UNT for the 2026/2027 academic school year.



DR. JASON ROLAND SMITH is Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Ohio University and an internationally active performer, educator, arts leader, and technology innovator. His career integrates performance, teaching, professional service, and the development of digital solutions that support music education, competition management, and arts organizations. As a versatile performer, he has appeared throughout the United States and internationally, including recently at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference in Valencia, Spain, and performs regularly as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral artist, and commercial musician. Dr. Smith serves on the Board of Directors of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium & Tuba Festival. Through his teaching, leadership, scholarship, and innovation, he advocates for artistic excellence, professional versatility, and the advancement of the global low brass community.

2026 Festival Adjudicators



DR. WILLIAM SUTTON, is Assistant Professor of Music at North Dakota State University, where he teaches trombone, conducts ensembles, and contributes to the music theory curriculum. He previously served on the faculty of Northwest Missouri State University. During the summer, he teaches music theory and low brass at New

England Music Camp. As a performer, he has appeared with numerous orchestras, including the Kansas City Symphony and Grand Rapids Symphony. Dr. Sutton has presented and performed at regional and international low brass conferences, served as a guest artist, clinician, conductor, and adjudicator throughout the United States, and has released solo recordings on the Kendor Music label. He is an Eastman, Willson, and Shires Artist.



DR. BETHANY WIESE, Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Vanderbilt University and Principal Tuba of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, is a laureate of numerous soloist competitions. She has been invited to present recitals in a variety of venues, including multiple International Tuba and Euphonium conferences, the United States

Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Conference, Amiata Piano

Festival (Italy), Chicago Cultural Center, and at numerous universities throughout the country. Enjoying a diverse career performing in orchestras and other large ensembles, Dr. Wiese spent two years as a fellow of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. She is also a past fellow of several other prestigious summer programs and has performed with orchestras throughout the country and abroad. At Vanderbilt, Dr. Wiese teaches courses in Brass Pedagogy, Orchestral Repertoire, and Chamber Music in addition to teaching applied lessons in both tuba and euphonium.



DAVID ZERKEL is Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the University of Michigan, leading an active career as both a performer and educator. Before his arrival at Michigan, he taught in a similar position at the University of Georgia. His students have distinguished themselves by winning international and national competitions and attaining positions with professional performing organizations. David began his performing career as a member of the United States Army Field Band and The United States Army Band, both located in Washington, DC. He has had the good fortune to perform with many orchestras and brass ensembles through the course of his career.

Preliminary Round Adjudicators

EUPHONIUM ARTIST DIVISION

SFC Toby Furr • Euphonium, U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own"
Mai Kokubo • Euphonium soloist, educator
Dr. Benjamin Pierce • Professor, Euphonium & Tuba, University of Arkansas
Dr. Gail Robertson • Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, University of Central Arkansas

TUBA ARTIST DIVISION

Chance Huiet • Assistant Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, Michigan State University
Eduardo Nogueroles • Tuba performer, composer, arranger, conductor, educator, member of Spanish Tuba Quartet
Phil Sinder • Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, retired, Michigan State University
Micky Wroblewski • Principal Tuba, Suzhou Symphony Orchestra

EUPHONIUM STUDENT DIVISION

Staff Sgt. Roel Arazo • Euphonium, U.S. Army Field Band
Ross Cohen • Baritone, River City Brass, arranger, educator
Natalie Colegrove • Euphonium soloist, online "Miss Euphonium," marketing professional
Dr. Gail Robertson • Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, University of Central Arkansas

TUBA STUDENT DIVISION

Dr. David McLemore • Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, Central Washington University
Dr. Stephanie Ycaza • Assistant Professor, Tuba & Euphonium, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Scott Tegge • Assistant Professor, Music, University of Illinois

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Collaborative Pianists



MARIE BLAIR holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University, a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and a Professional Performance Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in England, where in 2002 she won the Bach Prize and the Piano Duo Prize. As a soloist, she has performed in New York, the Midwest, and internationally. She is a highly sought-after collaborative pianist residing in East Lansing, Michigan. (Tuba Students & Adjudicators Recital)



DR. MARY JO COX received her Bachelor of Music from Houghton College and her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Dr. Cox maintains an active schedule as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States. She serves on the faculty of Central Michigan University, currently holds the position of principal keyboardist with the Midland (MI) Symphony Orchestra, and is a frequent collaborative pianist for festivals and competitions throughout the United States. (Euphonium Artists & Guest Artist Recital)



DR. LING LO holds degrees from Michigan State University (DMA Piano Performance, DMA & MM Collaborative Piano), Boston University (MM Piano Performance), and Soochow University (BM Music Performance). Dr. Lo currently serves as Teaching Assistant Professor in Collaborative Piano at the University of North Dakota. Prior to that, she served as staff pianist at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Saginaw Valley State University. Dr. Lo has been an invited guest artist to present duo recitals and has served as a festival pianist for many conferences and festivals throughout the United States. (Euphonium Students)



DR. HYEKYUNG SIA LEE received her master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and her doctorate from Michigan State University in piano performance. As a solo pianist, she has performed many recitals and played with several orchestras, including the Fort Worth (TX) Symphony Orchestra. As a collaborative pianist, she has worked with many professional musicians and played at MWRTEC, among other competitions. Currently, she works at Flint Institute of Music and Church of the Holy Family in Grand Blanc, Michigan. (Tuba Artists)

Commissioned & Adjudicated Compositions

2025 Blue Lake Concert Piece, Op. 173

for Tuba and Piano by Salvador Brotons

2025 Earth Rhythms

for Euphonium, Tuba & wind band by Fernando Deddos

2024 Improvisations*

for unaccompanied solo Euphonium by Clément Couty

2024 Tastebuds*

for unaccompanied solo Tuba by Kayla Holsopple

2020 In Modo Humano*

for unaccompanied solo Euphonium by Thomas Rüedi

2020 Climate Strike*

for unaccompanied solo Tuba by Evan Ziegel

2015 Crossroads

for solo Euphonium and wind ensemble by Brian Balmages

*Falcone Festival Solo Works Competition Winner

2010 URSA

for solo Tuba with piano or concert band accompaniment by Libby Larsen

2007 Double F Fanfare

for concert band by David Gillingham

2005 Fantasia di Falcone

for solo Euphonium with piano or concert band accompaniment by James Curnow

1999 Hieronymus

for unaccompanied Tuba by Daryl Burghardt

1997 Three Pieces for Tuba

for unaccompanied Tuba by Ron Newman

1995 Blue Lake Fantasies

for unaccompanied Euphonium by David Gillingham

1988 Concertino

for Euphonium with piano or concert band accompaniment by James Niblock

Use QR Code to find
all program notes



Previous Festival Gold Medalists

EA: Euphonium Artist TA: Tuba Artist
ES: Euphonium Student TS: Tuba Student

1986	EA	Angie Hunter	2004	EA	Mitsuro Saito	2017	EA	Natsumi Minobe
	ES	Lance LaDuke		TA	Carolyn Jantsch		TA	Evan Zegiel
1987	EA	David Lang		ES	Mike Veale		ES	Gabriel Hart
	ES	John Cox		TS	Beth McDonald		TS	Seth Carter
1988	EA	Luis Maldonado	2005	EA	Jeremy McBride	2018	EA	Blake Birmingham
	ES	Takeshi Hatano		TA	Ben Miles		TA	Jake Fewx
1989	EA	Ken-Ichi Watanabe		ES	Dan Geldert		ES	Greg Stevens
	ES	Ikuko Miura		TS	Thomas Crail		TS	Robert Black
1990	EA	Marc Dickman	2006	EA	Jamie Lipton	2019	EA	Rie Kaizuka
	ES	Matthew Tropman		TA	Scott Deveraux		TA	Alex Purdy
1991	EA	Robin Taylor		ES	Kennedy Wells		ES	Peyton Sills
	ES	Natalie Mannix		TS	Zachary Graff		TS	Caleb Chambers
1992	EA	David Cleveland	2007	EA	Philip Eberly	2020	EA	Jason Donnelly
	ES	Samuel Chen		TA	Beth McDonald		TA	Seth Carter
1993	EA	Matthew Tropman		ES	Cassie Black		ES	Wesley Gangluff
	ES	Brad Gearhart		TS	Ibanda Ruhumbika		TS	Ben McWilliams
1994	EA	James Jackson	2008	EA	Matthew Mireles	2021	EA	Natsuhiko Aoyama
	ES	David Thornton		TA	Derek Fenstermacher		TA	Bridget Conley
1995	EA	Takeshi Hatano		ES	Layne Todd		ES	Hunter Bellows
	ES	Joseph Bello		TS	Daniel Walley		TS	Ally Hansen
1996	EA	Jeremy Van Hoy	2009	EA	Christopher Buckley	2022	EA	Andrew Ribo
	TA	Jacob Cameron		TA	Clinton McCanless		TA	Chris Bloom
	ES	Mark Jenkins		ES	Ethan Henshaw		ES	Roel Arazo
	TS	Frank Crawford		TS	Patrick Melvin		TS	Victor Cruz
1997	EA	Adam Frey	2010	EA	Kyohei Ando	2023	EA	Hunter Bellows
	TA	Joseph Skillen		TA	Clay Garrett		TA	Jorge Gauvin Caraballo
	ES	Matt Murchison		ES	Toby Furr		ES	Miguel Gonzales
	TS	Kent Eshelman		TS	Joshua deVries		TS	Samuel Hernández Imbernón
1998	EA	Benjamin Pierce	2011	EA	Toby Furr	2024	EA	Justin Weis
	TA	Thomas Bratten		TA	Andy Larson		TA	Jake Alford
	ES	Adam Lessard		ES	Ryan Chen		ES	Will Claudius
	TS	Kevin Sanders		TS	Zach Bridges		TS	Ryan Lamb
1999	EA	Jamie VanValkenburg	2012	EA	Richard Demy	2025	EA	Nathanael Kumar
	TA	Charles Guy		TA	David McLemore		TA	Neo Yamada
	ES	Adam Dotson		ES	Tim Morris		ES	Braden Steenhard
	TS	Nicholas Wyatt		TS	Jacob Daniel		TS	Jake Fagan
2000	EA	Mark Jenkins	2013	EA	Geoff Durbin	2025 Gold Medalists clockwise from top left: EA–Nathanael Kumar TA–Neo Yamada TS–Jake Fagan ES–Braden Steenhard		
	TA	Kent Eshelman		TA	Daniel Frost			
	ES	Kathryn Lindsey		ES	Alfredo Leitão			
	TS	Carolyn Jantsch		TS	Evan Zegiel			
2001	EA	Matt Murchison	2014	EA	Christopher Leslie			
	TA	Benjamin Pierce		TA	Lee Jarzembak			
	ES	Aaron Ging		ES	Michael Stone			
	TS	Tristan Eggener		TS	Joe LeFevre			
2002	EA	Martin Cochran	2015	EA	Alex Avila			
	TA	Jason Koi		TA	Maxwell Briggs			
	ES	Hiram Diaz		ES	Ada Brooks			
	TS	Chase Garner		TS	Ramon Garavito Jr			
2003	EA	Ryan McGeorge	2016	EA	Joe Broom			
	TA	Grant Harville		TA	Preston Light			
	ES	Chester Elliott		ES	Thomas Gusewelle			
	TS	Collin Campbell		TS	Carter Loud			

2025 Special Medallion Recipient: Pete Marvin



On September 10, 2025, the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival proudly presented longtime volunteer and board member Pete Marvin with a special gold medallion in recognition of over 30 years of dedicated service.

Pictured (left to right): Front Row: Pete Marvin, Karen Marvin; Middle Row: Scott Myckowiak, Sue Topping, Cece Falcone, Joy Rimpau, Jane Goodrich; Top Row: Melanie Rosin, Doug Goodrich, Phil Sinder. Photo by Barb Myckowiak

Beginning in 1995, when tubas were added to the annual Falcone euphonium competition, Pete volunteered to serve on the logistics committee. He continued with that commitment for many years while also contributing wherever else he was needed: he transported competitors from Blodgett to Niblock and back for years and did countless airport runs; he added duties for admissions data entry and sent out notifications to applicants with the results of the

preliminary round recordings; he produced the Festival printed program for a number of years; and he served on numerous committees for board activities.

Pete's unique viewpoints and insights enriched the board process, helping the Festival to grow and mature over the years. Pete was known for his humor and honorable and caring interactions with everyone with whom he came in contact. We are also grateful to his wife, Karen, for helping with the afterglow for many, many years, as well as for her support of Pete.

Pete Marvin shared a passion and dedication as an amateur musician in the Lansing area and beyond, performing as local choir member as well as longtime tubist in the Lansing Concert Band. His long career at Michigan State University was spent primarily in Student Services, and he was most proud of his involvement on campus with the student judiciary, listening to people to help them find common ground and consensus.

Pete's countless hours, days, weeks, and years behind the scenes have been vital to the Festival's success. While volunteers often work outside of the spotlight, they are the heartbeat that keeps this event alive year after year.



From all of us at the Festival and throughout the euphonium and tuba community: thank you, Pete, for your extraordinary dedication and commitment!

On October 4, 2025 Pete Marvin passed away. We are all saddened by the loss of such a friend; bright, caring, thoughtful, empathetic, and dedicated to the Falcone Festival. Our heartfelt sympathies to Karen and family. He will be missed.

They also will be missed . . .



On November 29, 2025, we lost a member of the Falcone Festival family, **Cassie Ellis**, wife of Rod Ellis. She was a remarkable person and graciousness personified. While her interaction with the Festival was lighter in recent years, she was instrumental in graciously hosting and attending Festival events for many years, opening the Ellis home to us as another Festival was about to begin, and then joyous afterglows at the conclusion!

James (Jim) Akins (1956-2025) taught at The Ohio State University for more than 30 years and was principal tuba of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra for 40. He was also a deeply committed player and maker of Native American flutes.

James (Jim) Self (1943-2025), an internationally renowned tubist, composer, and teacher, was one of LA's most in-demand studio musicians for over 50 years, using his success to establish many tuba scholarships.

Gerhard Meinel (1958-2026) was a visionary instrument maker, entrepreneur, and music lover who really pushed the development of tubas. He was a member of the seventh generation of his family to work making musical instruments.

Public Events & Concert Programs

Friday, August 7

7:30 pm	Guest Artist Recital	Blodgett Recital Hall
	Master Sgt. Hiram Diaz, Euphonium • Dr. Mary Jo Cox, Piano	
Aria con Variazioni	George Frederic Handel/arr. Bernard Fitzgerald	
Rhapsody for Euphonium	Kevin Day	
Euph'tudes	Phil Snedecor	
	I. Freely-Vivace • 2. Andante • 3. Graceful Waltz	
Robin Robin	Liz Lane	
Euphonium Concerto	Vladimir Cosma	
	I. Allegro Assai • II. Andantino • III. Giocoso	

Saturday, August 8

4:00–7:00 pm	Brass Stop/Adams Instruments display and instruments to play	Blodgett Lobby
7:30 pm	Festival Adjudicators Recital	Blodgett Recital Hall
	Marie Blair, Piano	

Sunday, August 9

7:30 pm	BLFAC Festival Band Concert – Live Broadcast	Stewart Shell
	Dr. Trae Blanco, Conductor	
	<i>Live Streaming of concert available at: https://bluelake.org/radio/listen.html (use QR code at right)</i>	
Double F Fanfare	David Gillingham	
Early Light	Carolyn Bremer	
The Circus Bee	Henry Fillmore	
	<i>Falcone Festival Adjudicators will join the band</i>	
	Selected pieces announced from the stage	
	Falcone Festival Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble (Adjudicators & Competitors)	
Theme and Variations on <i>La Comparsa</i>	Dennis Llinás	
	Master Sgt Hiram Diaz, Euphonium	
Arabesque Duet	Joseph Turrin	
	Master Sgt Hiram Diaz, Euphonium • Ryan McGeorge, Euphonium	
Adventures from Earth from <i>E. T. The Extra-Terrestrial</i>	John Williams/arr. Paul Lavender	

Monday, August 10

8:30–9:00 am	Combined Euphonium-Tuba warm up session	Blodgett Recital Hall
9:10–10:20 am	Artist Level Master Class	Blodgett Recital Hall
	Student Level Master Class	SAC 125
10:30–11:20 am	Clinic for all participants	Blodgett Recital Hall
1:00–2:30 pm	Student Divisions Final Competition	Niblock Hall
	Tuba: Blue Lake Concert Piece by Salvador Brotons • Marie Blair, Piano	
	Euphonium: Concertino No. 1 in Bb, Op. 7, Mvt. 1 by Julius Klengel/arr. Leonard Falcone • Dr. Ling Lo, Piano	
7:00 pm	Artist Divisions Final Competition	Blodgett Recital Hall
	Euphonium: Euphonium Concerto No. 4 "Omaggio" Mvts. 1&3 by Philip Sparke	
	Blue Lake Festival Band • Dr. Trae Blanco, conductor	
	Tuba: Tuba Sonata by Anthony DiLorenzo • Dr. Hyekyung Sia Lee, Piano	
	Presentation of the Medallions and Awards	
9:00–10:30 pm	Festival Afterglow Reception	Blodgett Foyer

Friday Schedule

Friday, August 7

1:00-1:30 pm Festival staff organizational meeting..... Niblock Hall
 1:30-2:30 pm Adjudicator meeting..... Niblock Hall
 3:00-4:30 pm Festival welcome meeting for competitors..... Marek South



6:30-7:15 pm Guest Artist/pianist sound check..... Blodgett Recital Hall

7:30 pm * Guest Artist Recital.....Blodgett Recital Hall
 * open to general public (See program on page 13)

2026 Festival Competition Required Music



EUPHONIUM ARTIST

Preliminary Round

Concerto per Flicorno Basso by Amilcare Ponchielli, arr. Henry Howey

Semi-Final Round (unaccompanied)

Four Caprices, Caprice 20 by Niccolò Paganini, arr. David Werden

– AND –

Inspired by Blue by Andrea Hobson

Semi-Final Round (accompanied)

Concertino, Op. 107 by Cecile Chaminade, arr. David Werden

Final Round (with band)

Euphonium Concerto No. 4 "Omaggio," movements 1 & 3 by Philip Sparke

EUPHONIUM STUDENT

Preliminary Round

Golden Hour by Cait Nishimura

– AND –

25 Advanced Studies for Euphonium, Volume 1, Etude No. 1 by Kevin Day

Semi-Final Round (unaccompanied)

Proverbs, movements 1, 4 & 5 by Lynn Blake John

Semi-Final Round (accompanied)

Pioneer of the New Land at Sea by Wan-Yun Liang

– AND –

Adagio Cantabile, Lyrica No. 10 by Giuseppe Tartini, trans. Leonard Falcone

Final Round (with piano)

Concertino No. 1 in Bb, Op. 7, movement 1 by Julius Klengel, arr. Leonard Falcone

TUBA ARTIST

Preliminary Round

Concerto for Bass Tuba, movement 1 by Ralph Vaughan Williams

– AND –

Twenty Characteristic Etudes, Etude #2 by Gregory Fritze

Semi-Final Round (unaccompanied)

Mythos Suite, Five Greek Myths for Tuba, movements 3, 4 & 5 by Lynn Blake John

– AND –

15 Advanced Studies for Tuba, No. 8 "Stars, Stripes and Sousa" by Andrew Duncan

Semi-Final Round (accompanied)

Naptown by Drew Bonner

Final Round (with piano)

Tuba Sonata by Anthony DiLorenzo

TUBA STUDENT

Preliminary Round

12-Tonal for Tuba and Piano by Gabriel Newvine

– AND –

Sonata Breve for Solo Tuba, movements 2 & 4 by Jack Gallagher

Semi-Final Round (unaccompanied)

Cadenza and Groove by Brooke Pierson

– AND –

70 Studies for BBb Tuba, Etude #30 by Vladislav Blazhevich

Semi-Final Round (accompanied)

Surus for Tuba and Piano by Nicole Chamberlain

– AND –

Two Latin Dances, II. Tango by Lauren Bernofsky

Final Round (with piano)

Blue Lake Concert Piece by Salvador Brotons

Saturday Schedule

Saturday, August 8

- 9:00 am-2:30 pm Semi-Final Competition-unaccompanied (closed to the public; screened)
ALL COMPETITORS WARM UP IN SAC MEZZANINE—YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH VOLUNTEERS
Euphonium Artists, Euphonium Students, Tuba Students compete in Niblock Hall
Tuba Artists compete in Blodgett Recital Hall
- 1:00-6:15 pm Rehearsals with pianists (30 minutes each) in SAC Mezzanine posted rooms
- 2:50-3:30 pm Guest Artist rehearsal with Festival Band Blodgett Recital Hall
- 4:00-7:00 pm *Brass Stop/Adams Instruments display and instruments to play Blodgett Lobby
- 6:00-7:15 pm Adjudicators sound check..... Blodgett Recital Hall
- 7:30 pm * Festival Adjudicators RecitalBlodgett Recital Hall**
* open to general public



Sunday Schedule

Sunday, August 9

- 9:00 am-Noon Semi-Final Competition-accompanied (closed to the public & screened)
ALL COMPETITORS WARM UP IN SAC MEZZANINE—YOU MUST CHECK IN WITH VOLUNTEERS
Euphonium Artists compete in Niblock Hall
Tuba Artists compete in Blodgett Recital Hall
Euphonium Students and Tuba Students compete in SAC String Room 125
- 12:00-12:30 pm Photo Session (competitors with instruments & in t-shirts plus judges)..... Blodgett Lobby
- 12:30-1:30 pm Luncheon and announcement of finalists Marek South
- 1:30-3:30 pm Informal adjudicator/competitor conferences Marek South
- 1:30 pm Tuba Artist and all Student finalists select rehearsal times with pianists..... Marek South
- 1:30 pm Euphonium Artist finalists meet with conductor-discuss piece Marek South
- 2:00-4:00 pm Tuba Artist and All Student finalists rehearse with pianists in SAC Mezzanine posted rooms
- 2:10-3:40 pm Euphonium Artist finalists & Guest Artist rehearse with Festival Band Stewart Shell
- 2:50-3:30 pm For Adjudicators: Euphonium & Tuba Clinic for BLFAC campers SAC 125
- 3:50-4:30 pm Festival Euphonium & Tuba Ensemble Rehearsal Stewart Shell
Adjudicators and Competitors
- 7:30 pm * BLFAC Festival Band ConcertStewart Shell**
Guest Artist & Blue Lake Festival Band (See program on page 13)
Live Streaming of concert available at: <https://bluelake.org/radio/listen.html>
* open to general public

Monday Schedule

Monday, August 10

8:30-9:00 am	* Combined Euphonium-Tuba warm-up session.....	Blodgett Recital Hall
9:10-10:20 am	* Artist Level Master Class.....	Blodgett Recital Hall
9:10-10:20 am	* Student Level Master Class.....	SAC 125
10:30-11:20 am	* Clinic for all participants	Blodgett Recital Hall
1:00-2:30 pm	* Student Divisions Final Competition	Niblock Hall
	Competitor warm-up rooms: SAC Mezzanine	
	Tuba finalists • Marie Blair, Piano	
	Euphonium finalists • Dr. Ling Lo, Piano	
2:10-3:40 pm	Euphonium Artist Finalists rehearse with Festival Band.....	Blodgett Recital Hall
7:00 pm	* Artist Divisions Final Competition	Blodgett Recital Hall
	Competitor warm-up rooms: SAC First Floor	
	Euphonium finalists • Blue Lake Festival Band • Dr. Trae Blanco, Conductor	
	Tuba finalists • Dr. Hyekyung Sia Lee, Piano	
	* Presentation of the Medallions and Awards	
9:00-10:30 pm	* Festival Afterglow Reception	Blodgett Lobby
	* open to general public	

2025 Festival Competitors & Adjudicators

Euphonium Artists



Euphonium Students



Tuba Artists



Tuba Students

In Gratitude

A HUGE THANK YOU for the hours and hours of work and creative talents that the board of directors, including committee chairs, individual participants, and staff, provide for the success of the Falcone Festival! In addition, the Festival could not exist or thrive without the gifts of time and expertise of our guest artist, adjudicators (both preliminary round and semi-final and final rounds), and collaborative pianists.

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SEYMOUR & FAYE OKUN FAMILY for over forty years of continuous support

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BLUE LAKE FESTIVAL BAND & DR. TRAE BLANCO, CONDUCTOR, for their excellent musical support for our 2026 guest artist and the Euphonium Artist Finals

RICH ERNE & DAVID MCCORMICK for their guidance with BLFAC room scheduling, and to the BLFAC setup crew

TRICIA & TOM HENTSCHEL for providing the Monday night afterglow, and **TOM**, our photographer since 2016

TOBY SALZMAN for handling composition, editing, and layout for the Festival program since 2010

TERESA DUNN for organizing WMCW volunteers to help out at the Festival

ANDREA ZACK, dauntless van driver

Our logistic and operating support team:

Cece Falcone • Doug Goodrich • Jane Goodrich • Tricia Hentschel • Scott Myckowiak • Joy Rimpau • Melanie Rosin • Toby Salzman • Abby Zarimba • Dan Zarimba
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... and last but not least, congratulations to **DR. CHRIS COMBEST** for a most successful first year of leadership as President of the Falcone Festival

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