



KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY



TubaChristmas

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

Noon at the Crown Center Square

Scott Watson, *conductor* and Joe LeFevre, *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”

“Four Noels”**

“O Holy Night”**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

“Away in a Manger”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Silent Night”

“Joy to the World”

**University of Kansas Tuba and Euphonium Consort*

About TubaChristmas

2023 is the 50th 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 15th consecutive year, including a virtual celebration in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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, breaking the previous record of 502 performers by a group in California in 2007.

SCOTT WATSON, conductor

Scott Watson is professor of tuba-euphonium at the University of Kansas School of Music, an association that dates back to 1979. His solo efforts can be heard on his “Thoughts of a Cow” solo album, and the educational recordings “Stepping Stones for Tuba, Volume I & II,” both on Potenza Records. He was elected and served as president of the International Tuba Euphonium Association from 1999 to 2001 and currently serves on the Association’s advisory board.



Watson is principal E-flat tuba of the acclaimed Fountain City Brass Band of Kansas City, which is the most successful brass band in American history, having won eight North American titles as well as their historic Scottish Open win in 2009. He is the inaugural music director and has been conductor of the Free State Brass Band since 2014. In 2018, he served as principal tuba of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia as part of its MSO Ambassador Program. While there, he taught at the Conservatorium of Music of the University of Melbourne’s Victorian College of the Arts as well as being principal E-flat tuba of the Glenferrie Brass Band. Watson is a member of the Infinity Brass Quintet of the Martha’s Vineyard Chamber Music Festival and the Kansas City Brassworks. Along with friend Winston Morris, he founded the tuba-euphonium chamber orchestra Symphonia that recorded three groundbreaking albums on Mark Records.

Watson has been tubist with numerous ensembles in his career including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Brevard Music Center Orchestra and the Crested Butte Music Festival Orchestra, along with regular performances with the Kansas City Symphony. He has performed all over the world including Russia, China, Poland, Germany, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

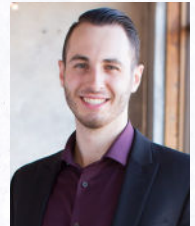
SCOTT WATSON *continued*

As a conductor, he has worked with such groups as the Capital City Brass Band, the Glenferrie Brass Band, the Mansfield University Brass Band, the KU Brass Ensemble, the International All-Star College Tuba Ensemble, The International All-Star High School Tuba Ensemble and the Thunder All-Star Tuba Euphonium Ensemble — all on prestigious conferences or concert series.

Watson's legions of former students can be found throughout orchestras, major military service bands, colleges and universities, and acclaimed public school music programs across the United States. He is on the faculty each summer at the North American Brass Band Summer School in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Watson is an artist/clinician for Besson Tubas through Buffet Crampon Group, USA.

JOE LEFEVRE, conductor

Joe LeFevre joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2018. Prior to this appointment, he was principal tuba of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. LeFevre 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, the Santa Fe Opera, and Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and he was a Tanglewood Music Center fellow in 2016. LeFevre was 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, LeFevre was a member of the Michigan State Spartan Marching Band when they performed at the 100th Rose Bowl Game.

LeFevre 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.

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
O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O come, 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

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

Oh 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!
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 poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til 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!"

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.



Celebrate the Season!



Christmas Festival

Thursday and Friday, December 14-15 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 16 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

BLAINE KRAUSS, vocalist

ALLEGRO CHOIRS OF KANSAS CITY,

CHRISTY ELSNER, founder and director

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY CHORUS,

CHARLES BRUFFY, chorus director

Festive family fun! Carols and songs of the season are performed by your Kansas City Symphony, Symphony Chorus and amazing special guests. From the family sing-along to an early visit from Santa, come and take a musical sleigh ride with us! Tickets start at \$35 for adults and \$25 for children.

Sponsored by

FORV/S **UMB**



The Nightmare Before Christmas

Thursday and Friday, December 21-22 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 23 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 at 1:30 p.m.

JASON SEBER, guest conductor

See one of Tim Burton's most celebrated films like never before! The feature film, "The Nightmare Before Christmas," will be projected on a giant screen in Helzberg Hall with dialogue, singing and effects, accompanied by Danny Elfman's darkly charming score played live by your Kansas City Symphony. Tickets from \$40 for adults and \$25 for children.

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