



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

Eastman Summer Tuba & Euphonium Faculty Recital

*Sunday, July 12, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30pm*

PROGRAM

Pearls III (2010)

I. Very Good Morning

Chris Bloom, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano

Roland Szentpali
(b. 1977)

How Beautiful (2009)

Chris Bloom, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano

Barbara York
(1949-2020)

Concertino for Tuba and Piano (1978-1982)

I. Allegro con brio

Chris Bloom, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano

Jan Koetsier
(1911-2006)

Egyptian Gods (2022)

I. Apophis—God of Darkness and Destruction
III. Horus—God of War and the Sky

Daniel Mentzer, tuba

Julian Torres
(b. 2000)

Autumn (2009)

John Stevens
(b. 1951)

Daniel Mentzer, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano

Turbulence (2016)

Bruce Broughton
(b. 1945)

Daniel Mentzer, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano

Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra (2007)

Giancarlo Castro D'Addona
(b. 1980)

I. Molto Vivace—Vivo
II. Andante—Maestoso
III. Vivo—Funebre-Fugue-Presto

Justin Benavidez, tuba
Priscilla Yuen, piano



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We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Hailed by *Fanfare Magazine* as “a true virtuoso of his instrument”, **Justin Benavidez** is the newly appointed Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Eastman School of Music. He previously held a similar faculty position at Florida State University. In the summer, he teaches and performs at the Round Top Summer Music Festival in Round Top, Texas.

Benavidez has performed across North America, Europe, and Japan. He has been featured numerous times on APM’s *Performance Today* radio program. His debut solo album, *Emblems*, won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. The *International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal* described it as “an impressive and highly entertaining record” on which Benavidez “shreds with enthusiasm, exuberance, and precision”. His second album, *Storyteller*, also won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. *Fanfare Magazine* described it as “splendidly eloquent [...] a masterclass in expressiveness” with a sound that is “gloriously warm and comforting”.

As an orchestral musician, Benavidez has performed as tubist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, and Utah Symphony. He was previously the principal tuba of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

Benavidez is a Melton Meinl Weston and Denis Wick performing artist.



SSG Chris Bloom, a native of Kingston, Pennsylvania, joined The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” in 2025. He holds degrees from Florida State University (DM), Carnegie Mellon University (MM), and Penn State University (BM). His primary teachers include Matthew Hightower, Justin Benavidez, Craig Knox, and Velvet Brown.

Prior to joining “Pershing’s Own,” Bloom served as Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium at Colorado State University and as Principal Tuba of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the Harrisburg Symphony, Panama City Symphony Orchestra, and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. He is a co-founder of the Honseo Tuba/Euphonium Quartet and has appeared at major conferences including the International Tuba Euphonium Conference, U.S. Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Workshop, International Women’s Brass Conference, and the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference.

An active competitor and scholar, Bloom has won first prize at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference's Arnold Jacobs Mock Orchestra Audition Competition, the Leonard Falcone International Artist Tuba Competition, and the Midwest Tuba Euphonium Conference's Solo Tuba Artist Competition. His articles have been published in the International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal, and he is a Melton Meinl Weston and Denis Wick Performing Artist.

Outside of music, Bloom enjoys weightlifting, watching baseball, and spending time with friends and family.



Musician 1st Class **Daniel Mentzer**, from Orlando, Florida, joined The United States Navy Band in 2023 as a tuba instrumentalist. Before joining the Navy Band, he earned a Bachelor of Music at Florida State University and a Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. While at CCM, Mentzer held a graduate assistantship fellowship and was the principal tuba of the CCM graduate brass quintet. Before joining the Navy Band, Mentzer was a freelance musician and educator in the Cincinnati area and maintained a private teaching studio. His primary teachers include Timothy

Northcut, Justin Benavidez, and Claude Kashnig.



Pianist **Priscilla Yuen** enjoys a rich and varied career as a soloist, collaborator, teacher, and administrator. Currently Assistant Professor of Accompanying at the Eastman School of Music, Ms. Yuen regularly supports instrumentalists and singers from across the Eastman community as they prepare for recitals, competitions and recordings. Additionally, she serves on the piano faculty at the Rochester Institute of Technology and as pianist at John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY.

As a collaborative pianist, Ms. Yuen has performed at colleges and universities across the United States, as well as at venues such as the Kennedy Center and New York City's Yamaha Hall. Since 2016, Ms. Yuen has performed extensively across the country with Eastman faculty trombonist Mark Kellogg.

A native of St. Louis, Ms. Yuen received her undergraduate training at the University of Missouri where she studied with Dr. Peter Miyamoto and her Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School, studying with Dr. Jean Barr. As a graduate student, she was awarded first prize at the Jesse Kneisel Competition as well as the Barbara M.H. Koeng Award for her work with vocal accompanying.

Ms. Yuen served as staff pianist and arts/administrative coordinator at the New York State Music Festival for eleven summers. She also served as Director of Operations at the Odyssey Chamber Music Festival in Columbia, MO as well as a piano fellow for The Quartet Program.