



SCHOOL OF
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

GUEST RECITAL

JUSTIN BENAVIDEZ, TUBA

LIZ AMES, PIANO

Saturday, October 30, 2025

Walgreen Drama Center, Stamps Auditorium

8:00 PM

Songs of a Wayfarer (1883-85, 1890)

When My Sweetheart is Married
This Morning I Went Over the Field
I Have a Gleaming Knife
The Two Blue Eyes of my Beloved

Gustav Mahler
(1860-1911)

Mourning Dove (2023)

Megumi Kanda
(b. 1975)

Portas (2024)

Ricardo Mollá
(b. 1992)

A Very Good Morning (2010)

Roland Szentpáli
(1891–1964)

*This program was drafted and created by the artist in support of their performance
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Hailed as “a true virtuoso” by *Fanfare* Magazine and described as a “tour-de-force” by *American Record Guide*, Justin Benavidez joined the faculty of the Eastman School of Music as Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium in 2023. He is Principal Tuba of the Syracuse Orchestra and spends his summers on faculty at the Round Top Music Festival in Round Top, Texas and as Principal Tuba of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, California.

Benavidez has performed across North America, Europe, and Japan. He has appeared as a concerto soloist with various ensembles, including the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, the Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, and the Eastman Wind Ensemble. His debut solo album *Emblems* won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the 2018 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* won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Solo Instrumentalist categories of the 2022 Global Music Awards and was named a finalist for the 2023 ITEA Roger Bobo Award for Excellence in Recording. *Fanfare* described the album as “splendidly eloquent [...] a masterclass in expressiveness.”

As an orchestral tubist, Benavidez has performed with the symphony orchestras of Charleston, Charlotte, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Rochester, Santa Fe, Sarasota, Tallahassee, and Utah. He is the only tubist to have been awarded the Orchestral Fellowship and the New Horizons Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival where he was a student for six summers, held the principal tuba chair in the festival orchestra, and was the winner of the Aspen Music Festival concerto competition.

Benavidez was the distinguished recipient of the Horace H. Rackham Merit Fellowship for doctoral studies at the University of Michigan and was presented with the University of Michigan Paul Boylan Award for outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions in the field of music. As a scholar, Benavidez was awarded the McKnight Faculty Fellowship to complete his research on the most significant solo repertoire for tuba, culminating in a critical volume that will be published by Oxford University Press. He serves as Editor-in-Chief for the *ITEA Journal* and was the editor for *Flow Studies* through Mountain Peak Music, a daily routine regimen for tuba.

As one of today’s leading educators, Benavidez is frequently invited to present master classes and perform as a guest recitalist at preeminent universities, workshops, and conferences. Notable invitations have included Indiana University, the University of Michigan, Yale University, Rice University, the Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo, the Bern University of the Arts in Switzerland, the Lyon Conservatory of Music, the Paris Conservatory of Music, and multiple International Tuba Euphonium Conferences. He was awarded the Florida State University Teaching Award in 2021 for exceptional teaching and mentorship. Benavidez’s students have distinguished themselves through numerous accomplishments and awards, including first place prizes at international competitions, performing positions in premier military bands and orchestras, and teaching positions at secondary and collegiate institutions.

Benavidez is a Melton Meinl Weston and Denis Wick performing artist. He performs on his Meinl Weston 2182W F tuba and Nirschl York CC tuba.