

Greetings from the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival!

Newsletter: February 26, 2024

A new year brings new beginnings and new updates! This update contains messages from Board members Phil Sinder, Jerry Young, and Scott Myckowiak.

Applications for the 39th annual festival are now open!

<https://www.falconefestival.org/index.php/festival-competition/the-competition/competition-overview-application-process>

NEW for 2024: For the Preliminary Round, all applicants **MUST** submit a video entry; no audio-only submissions will be accepted. This shift to a video format is a proactive measure in response to recording practices and technology concerns, ensuring that the Falcone Competition maintains the highest integrity in alignment with evolving technology standards and practices. Once submissions are received, a non-adjudicator will verify recording integrity before it enters the blind evaluation by the judges, ensuring competitor anonymity throughout the process. This means that judges will have no access to, nor the means of ascertaining, the identity of any competitors throughout the evaluation process.

The 2024 Composition Contest is now open!

<https://falconefestival.org/callforworks>

To celebrate the 39th anniversary of the Falcone Festival, we are calling for submission of new unaccompanied compositions for our student level euphonium and student level tuba competitions. Two winners will be selected, one in each category. The prize-winning works (one in each category) will receive a \$500 US monetary award and \$250 prize for two runners-up in each category. Each of the winning works will appear on the required repertoire list for the 2025 competition and receive their premiere performances during the 2024 Festival by the Festival Artist-Adjudicators August 2024 in Twin Lake, Michigan. As such, winning compositions will involve partnering with a festival approved tuba/euphonium publisher to ensure proper availability for contestants. All runner-up and honorable mention works may also appear on future competition repertoire, and as such are subject to the same publishing and availability standards.

Guest artist 2024 – Dr. Bethany Wiese

<https://www.falconefestival.org/index.php/festival-competition/the-festival/guest-artist-2024>

Dr. Bethany Wiese is Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Vanderbilt University and Principal Tuba of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, as well as serving as low brass faculty at the Brevard Music Center Summer Institute and Festival.

“The Artistry of Leonard Falcone” now available for streaming!

<https://www.falconefestival.org/index.php/about-us/about-dr-falcone/artistry-of-leonard-falcone-albums>

The Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival is proud to announce that Dr. Leonard Falcone’s first three albums of solo works for euphonium are now available on digital music streaming services. This collection of recordings, now titled “The Artistry of Leonard Falcone,” can be heard on services such as Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, Prime Music, and more.

Each of the 23 tracks has been digitally remastered and appears in the same order as the original recordings, which were released in 1959, 1965, and 1970. “We are excited to share Dr. Falcone’s mastery of the euphonium with a larger audience,” said Philip Sinder, Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Michigan State University College of Music and President of the Board of Directors overseeing the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. “The Festival is grateful to the recordings’ exclusive licensee, Dr. Falcone’s daughter, Cecilia, for making these historic, virtuosic performances available.”

If you would like to support the festival, please visit

<https://www.falconefestival.org/index.php/support/you-can-support-the-festival>

A Message from Festival President Phil Sinder

Greetings, everyone! I hope that you are enjoying a terrific start to 2024! It has been my pleasure to be actively involved with the Falcone Festival since its inception in 1986, as a board member beginning in 1993, and as the festival president for the past nineteen years. While our event celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Leonard Falcone – a remarkable conductor, instrumentalist, and educator – it also has filled a need in the low brass world on a national and international level to provide a high level competition for euphonium and tuba. We are proud that our annual repertoire selections and regular music commissions help to shape the musical diets for so many performers and instructors!

Our amazing festival board continues to devote countless hours and energy toward a rewarding and professional event each year. I am so thankful for their contributions! While the Falcone Festival is in a strong financial position regarding annual budget and endowment, we are always eager to solicit additional levels of support from various private individuals, foundations, and industry partners. Please consider how you might help to advance the goals of our event!

It was terrific to have Mai Kokubo with us in August, 2023 as our featured guest artist, when the festival once again returned to its home base of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan. We are happy to feature yet another amazing female low brass guest artist (our 5th in the past 13 years) in 2024, when Dr. Beth Wiese joins us from August 9-12, for the 39th annual festival. I hope that you will be able to catch one of the festival featured event livestreams, or perhaps attend in person!

Philip Sinder currently serves as chairman for the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival, and since 2005 has been a Valade Teaching Fellow at the Interlochen Arts Camp. He is professor of tuba and euphonium at the Michigan State University College of Music.

The Falcone Festival – What It Means to Me

By Jerry A. Young

I first became involved with the Leonard Falcone Euphonium Festival (as it was then called) in its second year. The summer of the first Festival was only my third summer at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, and I couldn’t get away to come. In 1987 I was able convince the administration at Interlochen that this Festival was going to be very important to our Camp as time went on, and that our presence and our students’ participation would be very important. So, I was allowed to make the drive from Interlochen to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and I’ve been a part of the “Falcone Festival Family”

ever since – and many Interlochen students (as well as a variety of students from Wisconsin, where I spent most of my professional career) have been a part of the Festival as well over the years.

Over sixty competitor finalists from the Falcone Festival over the past thirty-seven years have gone on to professional positions in orchestras, military bands, and college teaching. If one were to add to that number the semi-finalists and those who participated in the preliminary round and gone on to successful careers, the total of those whose work has been affected would grow exponentially. The discipline required to study and learn great repertoire has proven to be its own reward. The Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival makes a difference.

The Falcone Festival Board is the singularly most remarkable group of people with whom I have ever worked, and that is singular reason why I have remained part of this special organization for so many years. The Board is comprised of a broad variety of individuals. Not everyone is a professional euphonium or tuba player – in fact, professional players constitute only half of the Board's membership. Further, some of our Board members don't play the euphonium or tuba at all, but everyone understands the legacy of Leonard Falcone. The ultimate vision for the Festival is the same for every member, and in our meetings the passion for that vision overrides everything else. As we approach our 40th year in 2025, that unified vision remains strong. We always ask the hard questions. How can we make the experience better for everyone from the preliminary round through the finals? How can we make the overall experience more beneficial and educational? How can we maximize fairness in the competition? These are the topics that we return to every year in our several meetings. Discussion is always lively, and decisions made are supported. We give our very best for everyone who has participated in the Festival, past, present, and future.

This Newsletter is coming to you because your life and probably the lives of your students or others who you know have been affected by the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. I would implore you to continue to support the great work in progress through your participation and your encouragement of others to participate – and, whenever possible, to support the Festival financially. Meeting our goals as described above comes with a financial cost, and we are striving to meet those needs/goals without raising the cost to participants. Your generous help makes a difference for every student who participates and further cements the legacy of the great musician, teacher, and mentor, Leonard Falcone.

Dr. Jerry Young has been a member of the Falcone Festival Board since 1988 and has served as Chair of the Music Selection Committee and as an adjudicator of the preliminary round and at the Festival on many occasions. He is Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and is former President of the International Tuba – Euphonium Association.

From the Festival Vice-President and Treasurer Scott Myckowiak

The Falcone Festival celebrated our 38th Festival last year. It was fun to be back at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and be together as the Falcone family of judges and “elves.” It is also interesting to look at the names of the prior players who became finalists and recognize where they are now. Their names appear as teachers, as members of the military bands and as members of symphonies. This list doesn't recognize the many players who, while not placing at the festival, have gone on to have very successful careers as teachers and performers. All of these people have benefitted from their participation in the festival.

It is also interesting to see the names of the teachers of these students and how many students they have sent to the festival. Last year we sent letters to all the teachers we could find to thank them for preparing their students for the festival. There were over 300 letters sent to these teachers. We apologize if we missed you. It was quite a task to do this!

We will have given away over \$500,000 in prizes following this year's festival. This is only part of the costs of the festival though. We have the normal expenses like venue rental, and insurance like any musical organization. We also have judges to pay and do hire an artist annually as part of the festival. We have commissioned works for our instruments, and our recent composition contest resulted in many new works for the instrument.

The board is a dedicated group of volunteers. There is a lot of work that goes into producing the festival annually. The "elves" do the logistics at the festival. Most of them are on the board and volunteer their time in other ways, than working the festival.

If you are someone who participated in the festival either as a player or a teacher, we thank you for your participation in the festival. We would appreciate your consideration of giving a financial gift to the festival. You can give by visiting our website and use our donate button. You can also contribute with either PayPal or Venmo if those are more convenient. The Falcone Festival is a 501c(3) charitable organization. Please give to the Festival so we can continue to promote our instruments. Thank you for considering a gift.

If you would like to support the festival, please visit

<https://www.falconefestival.org/index.php/support/you-can-support-the-festival>