



THE SANTA FE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AND THE
SANTA FE YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
PRESENT A FREE SCREENING OF THE FILM
R. A. W. TUBA: FROM SANDTOWN TO SYMPHONY
AND A FREE ZOOM CONVERSATION WITH THE FILM'S
STAR, TUBIST RICHARD WHITE, IN JANUARY 2021

R. A. W. Tuba centers on Dr. White's journey from being a homeless child in Baltimore to earning a doctoral degree and performing with major symphony orchestras, including as principal tuba for the Santa Fe Symphony and New Mexico Philharmonic

The 29-minute film will be shown January 23–31, 2021, and the live conversation will be held on January 30, 2021, via Zoom, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (MST)

Viewers can register for the film and conversation at RawTubaSantaFe.com

Both presenting organizations will provide 7th–12th-graders in Santa Fe Public Schools' music programs and music programs at other north-central New Mexico schools with broad opportunities to view the film and conversation

As part of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association's *Inspired by Excellence* series, Dr. White will give a free master class on March 10, 2021, via Zoom, at 6 p.m. (MST)



(Santa Fe, NM, December 29, 2020)—The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association are proud to present a free screening of the documentary *R. A. W. Tuba: From Sandtown to Symphony*, which will be available to screen via RawTubaSantaFe.com January 23–31, 2021. The 29-minute film was produced by Early Light Media as part of its *Invisible Thread* series—which focuses on “people-driven stories” and “explores human connectivity”—and premiered at the Mountainfilm festival in Telluride, Colorado, in May 2019.

R. A. W. Tuba spotlights the extraordinary and inspiring journey of Dr. Richard Antoine White (R. A. W.), who serves as principal tuba for the Santa Fe Symphony and New Mexico Philharmonic and as an associate professor of tuba and euphonium at the University of New Mexico.

Growing up, Dr. White experienced poverty and homelessness on the streets of West Baltimore’s Sandtown neighborhood while living with his mother, who struggled with alcoholism. Dr. White was eventually raised by his mother’s adoptive parents, Richard and Vivian McClain, who gave him his first instrument, a trumpet, in fourth grade. In middle school, Dr. White switched from the trumpet to the baritone before deciding on the tuba, and in eighth grade, despite turning up a day late for the school’s annual auditions, he won admittance to the Baltimore School for the Arts, one of the top public arts high schools in the country.

For all four years of high school, Dr. White studied with Ed Goldstein, whom he’d worked with previously in TWIGS, the Baltimore School for the Arts’ free after-school and Saturday program for students in grades 2–8. After graduating from high school, Dr. White earned a bachelor’s degree from the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra’s then-principal tuba, David Fedderly. At Mr. Fedderly’s suggestion, Dr. White pursued his graduate studies with the influential artist and pedagogue Daniel Perantoni at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. During that time, he was also mentored by one of the school’s professors emeriti, the legendary tubist Harvey Phillips. Today Dr. White holds the distinction of being the first African American to earn a doctor of music degree in tuba performance.

“This project, which includes presenting the film *R. A. W. Tuba* and helping to share Dr. White’s story, is an outgrowth of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival’s reason for providing exceptional opportunities in music for youth,” said Leanne DeVane, the Festival’s Director of Education and Outreach. “Training in music is more than a meaningful, rewarding avocation; it provides an academically rigorous pathway to a bright, successful, hopeful future—one in which possibilities are limitless and one in which kids, in their adult years, may, as empowered individuals, contribute to their community and their world.”

“The heartfelt and inspiring story in *R. A. W. Tuba* reminds us of the transformative power of music,” said Andrea Cassutt, the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association. “Our two organizations, dedicated to providing music and performance education for students in northern New Mexico, share this story with you to uplift your own sense of hope and possibility and to invite you to join us in making music a lifeline for kids in New Mexico.”

In addition to the film, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association will present a free, live conversation with Dr. White, hosted by Ms. DeVane and Ms. Cassutt, on January 30, 2021, via Zoom, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (MST).

Viewers can register to watch both the film and the conversation at RawTubaSantaFe.com. After they’ve registered, they’ll receive emails containing links that will allow for viewing.

The cost to watch the film or the conversation is free. Donations, however, are appreciated and encouraged. All donations will benefit the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association’s music education and performance programs. The suggested donation is \$25.

As part of a further collaboration with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Dr. White will give a free master class on March 10, 2021, via Zoom, at 6 p.m. (MST). The class is part of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association’s *Inspired by Excellence* series, which features acclaimed musicians and educators instructing Santa Fe Youth Symphony students on refining and improving their technique. Registration is available at sfysa.org/richardwhite.html.



The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association’s free presentation of the film *R. A. W. Tuba* and its live, follow-up conversation with Dr. White is made possible thanks, in part, to a generous Special and Urgent Needs (SUN) Grant from the Santa Fe Community Foundation.

The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association also thank Enterprise Bank & Trust for their generous longtime support of both organizations’ music education and performance programs.

EVENT DETAILS

What: The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association present the documentary *R. A. W. Tuba: From Sandtown to Symphony*.

When: January 23–31, 2021

Where: Register at RawTubaSantaFe.com.

Cost: Free; suggested donation \$25

For more information: Watch the trailer for *R. A. W. Tuba: From Sandtown to Symphony* at RawTubaSantaFe.com.

What: The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association present a live conversation, via Zoom, with Dr. Richard White, hosted by Leanne DeVane and Andrea Cassutt.

When: January 30, 2021, 4–5 p.m. (MST)

Where: Register at RawTubaSantaFe.com.

Cost: Free; suggested donation \$25

ABOUT THE SANTA FE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Founded in 1972, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival is today one of the world's preeminent music festivals. Guided by a visionary spirit and dedicated to artistic excellence and innovation, the Festival demonstrates the depth and breadth of the chamber music repertoire through high-level programming and performances. Under the leadership of Executive Director Steven Ovitsky and Artistic Director Marc Neikrug, the Festival invites both distinguished seasoned musicians and acclaimed emerging artists to perform during its six-week summer season. The Festival also upholds a commitment to the musical needs of northern New Mexico's youth through year-round educational programming. With Music in Our Schools, Strings in Our Schools, Guitar in Our Schools, and the Dream Big Private Lesson Program, students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 can participate in direct instrumental instruction as well as in intensive chamber music appreciation experiences. For more information about the Festival's education programs, visit SantaFeChamberMusic.com/education.

ABOUT THE SANTA FE YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

The Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1994. It offers outstanding music education and performance opportunities in multiple genres for hundreds of children in more than 40 Santa Fe-area schools every year. SFYSA's programs include four youth orchestras, which serve children of different ages and with different levels of experience; a youth jazz ensemble; a youth mariachi ensemble; a youth chamber music ensemble for strings, winds, brass, and percussion; a monthly master class series called *Inspired by Excellence*; and the award-winning Elementary Strings program, which offers after-school string-instrument instruction in public and private elementary schools. SFYSA provides instruments for its Elementary Strings students free of charge, and it offers all its programs on a sliding-scale basis. For more information, visit sfysa.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT

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