

**Texas Tech University School of Music**  
**Tuba and Euphonium Studio**  
**Kevin Wass, Assistant Professor**

## **Information for Prospective Students**

### **Lessons:**

- One-hour private lesson weekly
- One-hour performance class weekly
- Performance, teaching, and academic projects chosen by the student or assigned by the instructor as appropriate for each student's goals and interests.
- 5-15 required events: faculty recitals, degree recitals, guest recitals, master classes, etc.
- Jury: 10-minute performance for faculty at end of semester
- Recitals in Junior Year (MUTC) or Junior and Senior Year (MUPF)

### **Ensembles:**

- Goin' Band from Raiderland: 400-piece marching band performs at all home games, at least one away game and a bowl game each year. Entrance is by audition and MUTC majors are required to march at least two years.
- Court Jesters: Red and Black bands perform at men's and women's home basketball games as well as Big 12 and NCAA tournament games. By audition.
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble: 70-piece band is top winds and percussion ensemble at Tech. Conducted by Director of Bands, Dr. Sarah McKoin. Annual tours as well as performances at TMEA, CBDNA, etc. By very competitive audition. Three tubas, two euphoniums.
- Symphonic Band: 70-80 piece band conducted by Associate Director of Bands, Christopher Anderson. By very competitive audition. Three or four tubas, two or three euphoniums.
- Concert Band: 70-80 piece band conducted by Assistant Director of Bands, Keith Dye. By audition. Three or four tubas, two or three euphoniums.
- University Bands: Large band made up of both music majors and non-majors. Conducted Bill Ballenger, Director of the School of Music. Students who do not place in one of the other three bands will be placed in this ensemble. Meets only in the spring semester.
- University Symphony Orchestra: Full symphony orchestra conducted by Gary Lewis, Director of Orchestral Activities. Plays in the pit for all opera and some music theater productions, performs for Scholarship Concert, Halloween Concert, and other major campus events. Annual tours and appearances at TMEA and other conferences. By very competitive audition (only one tuba chair). The University Sinfonietta is a chamber orchestra made up of University Symphony members. This group will occasionally include tuba.
- Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble: Directed by Dr. Wass, includes most of the tuba-euphonium studio members. One concert each semester, with annual trips or special events including TMEA conference in 2004, Southwest Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference in Las Vegas in 2005, International Tuba-Euphonium Conference in Denver in 2006, and South-Central Tuba-Euphonium Conference in Austin in 2007. By permission of instructor.

**Organizations:**

- Kappa Kappa Psi/Tau Beta Sigma: Band service fraternity/sorority. Very active on the Tech campus. Many of the students in leadership positions in the Goin' Band are members of one of these organizations.
- Phi Mu Alpha/Mu Phi Epsilon: Music fraternities. Responsible for management and ushering at all recitals and concerts, assist with many School of Music events.
- Tech Tuba-Euphonium Association: Texas Tech chapter of the International Tuba-Euphonium Association. Responsible for the promotion of tuba and euphonium on the Tech campus. Raises funds for guest artists and other events and supports the activities of the Texas Tech Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble.

**Practice:**

- There is no specific practice requirement for students in the tuba and euphonium studio. Most successful students (those who get A's and B's for their lessons) practice 10-20 hours per week, and repertoire is assigned with that amount of practice time in mind.

**Financial Commitments:**

- Most students in the studio own their instruments. While this can be a large investment, it is crucial to the continued success of all music majors to play on a professional-quality instrument. Euphonium players should budget \$4000-\$7000 for this purchase, while tuba players will need to plan on a minimum investment of \$6500. Most students make the purchase with a combination of savings, student loans, and gifts. Start planning and saving NOW!
- Students are expected to purchase (NOT copy) their own music and recordings. Much of the music that is assigned will be stocked at Jent's Music in Lubbock, but some will have to be ordered online. Students should have a debit card that draws on their checking account to use for these purchases. Recordings will generally need to be ordered online, from Amazon or similar retailers. Some recordings will be available from iTunes or other pay download sites. Plan on an average of \$50-100 per semester for music (more for the first semester freshman year) and an equal amount for recordings.
- All performances in studio classes, studio recitals, and juries must be accompanied. Students are responsible for contacting and hiring their own accompanists. Rates vary widely, from as little as \$25 per performance to as much as \$150 per performance. For most of the repertoire being performed in the studio, two rehearsals, a lesson and the performance will run about \$50. Students who perform once in performance class and once in their jury each semester should budget a minimum of \$100 per semester for this expense.
- At this time, there is only partial financial support from the University or School of Music for off-campus appearances of the tuba-euphonium ensemble. While we are working on this from several angles, it may be necessary for students to cover part of their own travel expenses for trips. Some of this cost will be offset with fundraising.
- Students who participate in solo competitions, professional auditions, and summer festival auditions will need to budget money for travel, application fees, recording and editing audition CD's and other expenses. These costs can vary widely, but can easily run into the hundreds or thousands depending on location of the audition or competition.