

Benavidez Short Biography

Hailed as “a true virtuoso of his instrument” by *Fanfare Magazine*, Justin Benavidez is the Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the Eastman School of Music. In the summer, he teaches and performs at the Round Top Music Festival in Round Top, Texas and at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, California.

Benavidez has performed across Europe, Asia, and North America. He has appeared as a concerto soloist with various ensembles including the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, and the Eastman Wind Ensemble. His solo albums have won four combined Global Music Awards, the most recent described by *Fanfare* as “splendidly eloquent [...] a masterclass in expressiveness.”

As an orchestral musician, Benavidez has performed with the symphony orchestras of Charleston, Charlotte, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Rochester, Santa Fe, Sarasota, Syracuse, Tallahassee, and Utah.

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

Benavidez Full Biography

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Benavidez has performed across Europe, Asia, and North America. He has appeared as a concerto soloist with various ensembles including the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, 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 musician, Benavidez has performed with the symphony orchestras of Charleston, Charlotte, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Rochester, Santa Fe, Sarasota, Syracuse, Tallahassee, and Utah. He is the only tubist to have been awarded the New Horizons Fellowship and the Orchestral 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 prestigious 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 UM 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, 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, the United States Army Band Tuba Euphonium Workshop, 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.