

IN THEIR OWN WORDS
Get to Know the WVS Musicians
Daniel Palma, Principal Tuba



Tell us a little about yourself:

I was born and raised in Miami, FL. I started playing the trumpet the summer before going into 7th grade but switched over to tuba when classes began. At the time, I figured carrying around a big piece of metal would help put some meat on my bones.

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, Frost School of Music and a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University. After finishing my studies in Pittsburgh, I moved to Arizona in the summer of 2022. In addition to playing with the West Valley Symphony, I am the principal tuba of the Symphony of the Southwest and a musician with the Phoenix Brass Collective.

Here's a photo of me and my wife, Morgan. We're in a field of Sunflowers, somewhere in Ohio.

Star Trek, or Star Wars? They're both great! I will say that I have a soft spot for Star Trek, especially The Next Generation and Deep Space Nine, because it tackles so many questions of ethics and morality.



Tell us about a trip you've taken. The one time I went on a cruise, I felt that I had to bring along a tuba. For one of my practice sessions, I snuck into one of the ship's clubs while it wasn't in use. The crewmember who found me was kind enough to lend me a music stand to use. Here you can see me practicing on an outside deck.



Here I am posing with an alligator. This was taken at Shark Valley in the Florida Everglades.

Have you read any intriguing books lately?

I just finished reading Frank Herbert's *Dune*. I'm not a particularly quick reader, so I'd been chipping away at it for quite some time. Happy to have another classic piece of sci-fi under my belt. I'm also working my way through Greg Bear's Forerunner saga in the *Halo* franchise.



What is your favorite movie of all time? Hard to pick just one, but if put on the spot I'd probably have to say the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Extended edition, of course. Not far behind would be *Barry Lyndon*, *Master and Commander*, and *Waterloo*.

If you could start a charity, what would it be? A charity aimed at lowering the financial barrier of entry into classical music.

I consider myself lucky because I had access to many useful resources throughout my early years in music. I was able to have private lessons from a young age, able to play on a quality horn of my own by the time I was in high school, able to participate in a youth orchestra, and had the means to travel for music programs in the summer on more than one occasion.

Any aspiring musician, no matter their economic upbringing, should have access to these sorts of things.



Mr. Tuba



Do you have any hobbies? In my free time, I enjoy board games, tabletop gaming, and miniature painting. I'm particularly fond of Star Wars X-Wing and Warhammer 40,000.

One of my favorite things about moving to Arizona was finding the active tabletop gaming community at some of the local game stores.

This photo is a group of friends enjoying an evening of board games celebrating a birthday. The game we're playing is called Secret Hitler. Don't let the name worry you, it's a very good time for everyone!

Do you wish you played a smaller instrument?

No

