

TO DO

Listen in on Octubafest

WHAT: Wichita State University's annual celebration of brass' lowest instruments, in three recitals.

WHEN: WSU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble recital, 1:30 p.m. today. Faculty Artist Recital by Phillip Black, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. WSU student soloists concert, 1:30 p.m. Oct. 26.

WHERE: Wiedemann Recital Hall, WSU campus.

HOW MUCH: Free; 689-3103.

WHAT YOU'LL HEAR: Today's recital will feature the premiere of "Suite for Tubas," a three-movement work composed by Kevin Miller, a WSU euphonium and composition major. Other works include Meyer Kupferman's "Kierkegaard"; Lennie Niehaus' "Grand Slam" and "Timbuktubas"; and works by Eugene Vasconi, William Hill and John Stevens. On Sunday, Black will play works by Arthur Honegger, Antonio Vivaldi and Stevens, as well as the Sonata for tuba and piano by Paul Hindemith. The Oct. 26 recital will feature works of J.S. Bach, Ferdinand David, Vincent Persichetti and others, performed by WSU students Matthew Koehn, Jeremy McDonald, Kevin Miller and Ray Linkous.

SPECIAL WORK: Today's recital will feature John Stevens' "Power," a piece that was included on the program at the request of the late Melissanne Saudade. Saudade, a WSU junior who was to have played tuba on the recital and to have been featured on Oct. 26, took her own life two weeks ago. "It was a shock," said Black, assistant professor at WSU and principal tubist of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. He described the 1978 work by Stevens, which has been a regular Octubafest closing number, as "fairly bright and uptempo."

WHY OCTUBAFEST: To try to get all of Black's young players on stage, early in the



Courtesy photo

Phillip Black, who has played principal tuba with the Wichita Symphony for 10 years, is the driving force behind WSU's Octubafest.

school year. And, "we're trying to present the community with music for tuba and euphonium to once again defeat the oom-pah stereotype," he said. "They should not think of an elephant or a hippo, but more like a bass singer. We try to have a more vocal approach in our playing."

WHAT'S MISSING: The festival's annual polka event. "There was just too many things happening all at once," Black said. But watch for a return next fall.

WHY YOU SHOULD COME: "We have serious pieces. We have jazzy-type pieces, and I think it's an eye-opening experience. The sonority of a tuba and euphonium ensemble, with all the four low voices, is a very beautiful sound. If they've never heard it, now is the time."

— Rhonda Holman