

# Emma Eckert : Close-ups of a Tiny World



she really didn't notice things like that.

"That small encounter influenced much of my photography over the years. I enjoy finding the small details in things that are overlooked by others, bringing to their attention the hidden beauty all around us, in the patterns in the dirt, the bark of a tree, or a peculiar insect's wing.

"Take insects, for example," Eckert continued. "They really are fascinating, strange creatures. Many people don't take a close enough look at them. They see something crawling around and it frightens them and they call someone over to squish it. I run to grab a camera and try to get as close to the creature as

possible, sharing some details about its hinged legs, or its iridescent abdomen, or its delicate antennae. Maybe someone will see that photo one day and think twice about squishing that life that is just going about its business, hoping to make it home at the end of the day.

"Slowing down and taking a look at the details is a great meditation for me. By looking at the smaller patterns, I can begin to see how they fit into the bigger picture, and finding things of beauty in hidden spots can brighten any dark day."

Eckert doesn't confine herself to insect "portraits," although during the pandemic, they, along with her two young sons, have



provided her main subjects. When asked what she feels contributes to a successful portrait, Eckert said,

"I think lighting, mood, and composition all have to work together to make a successful portrait," she said. "Sometimes you only have a couple of the ideal portrait components to work with, so you make the best of it. Sometimes it's hard to pinpoint why I like a certain image and feel it works – often it is a combination of things all working together to tell a little story of the person in the photo and why they are there, what they are doing. Sometimes it's more mysterious – you don't really have much background information to gather about the person

(or mantis), so you have to use their expression and posture to try and put together some kind of story about them."

And when you look at Eckert's mantis portraits, you realize that she has captured the delicate and vulnerable essence of these tiny creatures with aplomb. Her adept use of selective focus and available lighting make many of the images appear as if the mantids are performing on stage.

## Essentials

For more of Eckert's photos, you can visit her website at [emmaecho.com](http://emmaecho.com) or on Instagram at [@em.ma.echo](https://www.instagram.com/em.ma.echo)



## R.A.W. Tuba - a Free Screening - Presented by The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association

### From a Press Release

The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association will present a free virtual screening of the film "R.A.W. Tuba From Sandtown to Symphony" and a free Zoom conversation with the film's star, tubist Richard Antoine White (R.A.W.).

R. A. W. Tuba centers on 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 Jan. 23 to 31, and the live conversation will be held 4 to 5 p.m., Jan. 30, via Zoom.

Viewers can register for the film and conversation at [RawTubaSantaFe.com](http://RawTubaSantaFe.com)

Both presenting organizations will provide seventh–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, White will give a free master class 6 p.m., March 10, via Zoom.

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, Colo., in May 2019.

R. A. W. Tuba spotlights the extraordinary and inspiring journey of White, 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, White experienced poverty and homelessness on the streets of West Baltimore's Sandtown neighborhood while living with his mother, who struggled with alcoholism.

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, 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, White studied with Ed Goldstein, with whom he'd worked previously in TWIGS, the Baltimore School for the Arts' free after-school and Saturday program for students in grades two through eight.

After graduating from high school, 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 Fedderly's suggestion, 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 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 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 White, hosted by DeVane and Cassutt, from 4 to 5 p.m., Jan. 30, via Zoom.

Viewers can register to watch both the film and the conversation at [RawTubaSantaFe.com](http://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.

As part of a further collaboration with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, White will give a free master

class at 6 p.m., March 10, via Zoom. 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](http://sfysa.org/richardwhite.html)

### Essentials

**When:** Jan. 23–31

**How Much:** Free

**Info:** [RawTubaSantaFe.com](http://RawTubaSantaFe.com).

# 4 x 10 Church Dir