

The 2025



Saturday, March 29th, 2025

For Middle School, High School, and University Jazz Ensembles, and
General Public

REGISTER AT <https://music.mtsu.edu/jazzfest/>

ARTISTS & CLINICIANS

GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SAXOPHONIST

Miguel Zenón

GUEST CLINICIANS

MTSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE 1, 2 AND JAZZ COMBOS

AND

the MTSU Faculty Jazztet
Don Aliquo, saxophone
Miguel Alvarado, saxophone
Jamey Simmons, trumpet
Julia Rich, voice
Pat Coil, piano
Chip Henderson, guitar
Jack Aylor, bass
Jordan Perlson, drums



TO: Middle Tennessee music students, directors, and general public

Greetings to you. The MTSU School of Music and the Illinois Jacquet Foundation invite you and your students to participate in the **2025 MTSU Illinois Jacquet Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 29th, 2025.**

The day long festival is full of outstanding educational components including:

- **Middle School, High School, and University jazz ensemble and combo performances** for a panel of highly respected jazz educators/adjudicators in a non-competitive format, but with comment sheets/ratings, and a post-performance clinic for each band.
Past clinicians have included Casey Brefka, Cord Martin, Roland Barber, Pat Coil, Gary Wittner, and Imer Santiago.
- Morning **performances and clinics** by MTSU student combos, jazz ensembles, and area school ensembles with clinics by faculty and respected clinicians.
- **A 10 a.m. jam session** hosted by MTSU faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. All are invited to participate and listen!
- **TBA - Presentation by Pamela Jacquet Davis** of the Illinois Jacquet Foundation.
- **2:15 Guest faculty clinic *the Art of Small Group Jazz Performance*** by the **MTSU Faculty Jazztet**, Jordan Perlson (drums), Jack Aylor (bass), Chip Henderson (Guitar), Pat Coil (piano), Jamey Simmons (trumpet), and Don Aliquo (saxophone) and Julia Rich (voice). Topics include soloist/rhythm section interaction, improvising tips, jazz styles, song form, basic arranging, and musicality.
- **3:30 p.m. guest clinic by innovative jazz saxophonist Miguel Zenón.** A veteran of the international jazz scene, Miguel will discuss his career as a working jazz musician and educator, give saxophone insights, and the details of jazz style and improvisation. For details about Mr. Zenón see his website at <https://miguelzenon.com/>.
- **4:30 p.m. Awards ceremony** recognizing **Outstanding Musicianship Awards**, an **Outstanding Soloist Award**, and **Outstanding Ensemble Award(s)** selected by festival adjudicators, with one or more ensembles chosen to perform on the Saturday evening concert.
- **5:30 p.m. Concert** featuring **MTSU Jazz Ensemble I**, and award-winning **saxophonist Miguel Zenón**. With registration, all ensembles receive tickets for students, directors, and parents.

Registration for the festival is at <https://music.mtsu.edu/jazzfest/>. **Application fee is \$20 for individual students participating in the jam session and clinics and performances, \$250 for Jazz Ensembles and \$125 for each additional ensemble.** For further information, contact Jamey Simmons, James.Simmons@mtsu.edu.

REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENT WILL BE OPEN UNTIL FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH.

The festival honors the legacy of tenor saxophonist/band leader **ILLINOIS JACQUET**, who rose to prominence in the 1940s with the big bands of Count Basie and Lionel Hampton. To learn more about the Illinois Jacquet Foundation go to <https://illinoisjacquetfoundation.org/>. We hope that you and your students will join us in this celebration of America's great art form at Middle Tennessee State University. Best wishes for continuing success in your programs.

Sincerely,



Jamey Simmons
Director of Jazz Studies
Middle Tennessee State University School of Music
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
James.Simmons@mtsu.edu (615) 898-2724

Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 29th, 2025

All LIVE events occur in the Wright and Saunders music buildings on the MTSU campus.

8:30 - 11:30 am	Visiting ensembles perform in Hinton Hall
9:30 - Noon	Visiting ensemble one-on-one clinics with guest clinicians in the IRH
10 - 11:30 am	Jam Session, visiting students, MTSU jazz students and faculty, Choral Rehearsal Hall
11:30	Presentation by Pamela Jacquet Davis of the Illinois Jacquet Foundation.
9 - Noon	Combo performances and clinics in Saunders 101
Noon	Break
1 pm	<u>MTSU Jazz Ensemble 2</u> , Don Aliquo, Director, Hinton Hall
2:15 pm	<u>Jazz faculty clinic and Q+A - the Art of Small Group Jazz Performance</u> , Hinton Hall
3:30 pm	<u>Guest jazz clinic by jazz saxophonist Miguel Zenón</u> , Hinton Hall
4:30 pm	Awards Ceremony, Hinton Hall
5:30 pm	Concert: <u>saxophonist Miguel Zenón</u> with MTSU Jazz Ensemble I, Jamey Simmons, Director, Hinton Hall

2025 MTSU ILLINOIS JACQUET JAZZ FESTIVAL APPLICATION

SCHOOL: _____ DIRECTOR: _____

ENSEMBLE: (big band) _____ (combo) _____ (complete applications for each ensemble)

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (school) _____ (cell or home) _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

EQUIPMENT: Middle Tennessee State University will provide the following equipment for warm-up and performance spaces:

Chairs & stands – set up assistance will be provided. Guitar & bass amplifiers; drum set (cymbals and hi-hat clutch not included), vibraphone, tuned acoustic piano, and PA system for a vocalist. Risers for trumpets and trombones will be provided in the performance space but not the clinic space. **NOTE:** Drummers should use their own cymbals in performances and clinics.

PLEASE LIST ANY ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

REPERTOIRE

1. Title: _____ Composer/Arranger: _____

Soloists (name/instrument): _____

2. Title: _____ Composer/Arranger: _____

Soloists (name/instrument): _____

3. Title: _____ Composer/Arranger: _____

Soloists (name/instrument): _____

PLEASE: LIMIT YOUR SELECTIONS TO A MAXIMUM OF THREE WORKS.

Please include a personnel roster/schematic for each ensemble with your application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is Friday, March 7th

Application fee is \$250 for Jazz Ensembles and \$100 for each additional ensemble.

RETURN THIS FORM AND FEE TO:

MTSU JAZZ FESTIVAL

MTSU Box 47

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Or scan and send to

James.Simmons@mtsu.edu

FAX: 615 898 5037 telephone: 615 898 2724

2025 MTSU ILLINOIS JACQUET JAZZ FESTIVAL

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

1. **APPLICATION DEADLINE** is Friday, March 7th.
2. **ENTRY FEE:** \$250 for one ensemble; \$100 for each additional ensemble per school. Please make checks payable to MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC.
3. **SATURDAY "ROAD MAP"**. An MTSU student will meet and guide all ensembles from arrival to the conclusion of their performance and clinic. Each ensemble is allotted 25 minutes for on-stage tuning and performing and 25 minutes for an immediate workshop with a clinician.
4. **PLEASE LIMIT SELECTIONS TO THREE PIECES!** Each group should perform works in a variety of styles (swing, ballad, funk, Latin, etc.).
5. **SATURDAY POST PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES:**
 - Each ensemble will receive an immediate clinic after the performance.
 - Ensembles may be given the opportunity to play as a part of the 5:30 p.m. festival concert in Hinton Hall.
 - Various activities will take place throughout the day, including sessions by MTSU JAZZ FACULTY, TAMIR HENDELMAN and MTSU STUDENT GROUPS.
6. **EQUIPMENT STORAGE:** Guarded storage space for school/personal equipment will be provided. However, MTSU is not liable for any school or student equipment.
7. **ADJUDICATION:** All ensembles will receive written comments and a certificate for participation. The emphasis is upon education. The adjudicators' packets will be mailed to each ensemble.
8. **CITATIONS/PERFORMANCE AWARDS:** The clinicians will select students to receive Outstanding Musicianship and Outstanding Soloist citations and will select one or more ensembles to perform on the evening concert. All students should plan to attend the 4:30 p.m. awards ceremony in Hinton Hall.
9. **EQUIPMENT:** MTSU will provide all equipment (stands, amps, drums, percussion, keyboards, etc.) in warm up and performance rooms. Drummers must provide their own cymbals, snare drum, hi-hat clutch, and bass drum pedal. Guarded storage space of school/personal equipment will be provided.
10. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** All big bands must perform in the "stacked" format. A campus map, parking and food information and a scheduling update will be sent to you upon receipt of your application.

QUESTIONS: Contact Jamey Simmons

615-898-2724; James.Simmons@mtsu.edu

2025 MTSU ILLINOIS JACQUET JAZZ FESTIVAL GUEST ARTIST/CLINICIAN BIOGRAPHIES



Miguel Zenón

"This young musician and composer is at once reestablishing the artistic, cultural, and social tradition of jazz while creating an entirely new jazz language for the 21st century."

— MacArthur Foundation, 2008.

Grammy Winner, Doris Duke Artist and Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow **Miguel Zenón** represents a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often-contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists and composers of his generation, he has also developed a unique voice as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between jazz and his many musical influences. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Zenón has released seventeen recordings as a leader, including his latest *Golden City* (2024), the Grammy-winning album *El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2* (2023) and the Grammy-nominated *Música De Las Américas* (2022), *Sonero: The Music of Ismael Rivera* (2019) and *Yo Soy La Tradición* (2018). He has worked with luminaries such as The SFJAZZ Collective, Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, David Sánchez, Danilo Perez, The Village Vanguard Orchestra, Kurt Elling, Joey Calderazzo, Steve Coleman, Ray Barreto, Andy Montañez, Jerry Gonzalez & The Fort Apache Band, The Mingus Big Band and Bobby Hutcherson.

In April 2008 he received a fellowship from the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Later that year he was one of 25 distinguished individuals chosen to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the "Genius Grant." In 2011 he founded Caravana Cultural, a program which presents free-of-charge Jazz concerts in rural areas of Puerto Rico. In 2022 he received an Honorary Doctorate from La Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the highest honor bestowed by the institution. In 2024 he received a Doris Duke Artist Award from the Doris Duke Foundation.

Zenón has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe and The Chicago Tribune. In addition, he topped both the Jazz Artist of the Year and Alto Saxophonist of the Year categories in the 2014 JazzTimes Critics Poll and was selected as Alto Saxophonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association in 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (when he was also recognized as Arranger of the Year). In 2023 he was recognized by the same organization as the Composer of the Year.

As a composer he has been commissioned by SFJAZZ, NYO Jazz, The New York State Council on the Arts, Chamber Music America, Logan Center for The Arts, The Hyde Park Jazz Festival, The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, MIT, Spektral Quartet, Miller Theater, The Hewlett Foundation, Peak Performances, PRISM Quartet and many of his peers. Zenón has given hundreds of lectures and master classes at institutions all over the world and is a faculty member in the Music & Theater Arts Department at MIT, as well as the current Visiting Scholar for the Harmony and Jazz Composition Department at Berklee College of Music.

Zenón lives in New York City with his wife Elga and their daughter.

LOCAL CLINICIANS TBA

MTSU Faculty Member Clinicians are found at <https://music.mtsu.edu/faculty-fields/>