



WIND ENSEMBLE

Deanna Hahn-Little, soloist
Bryan T. Braue, guest conductor
Reed Thomas, conductor



T. Earl Hinton Music Hall
Wright Music Building

23 September 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

WIND ENSEMBLE

Evan VanDoren (1987 -)

Luminosities (2023)

Bryan T. Braue, guest conductor

Jenni Brandon (1977 -)

Cobalt Blue (2025)

I. The Great Pyramid

II. The Grand Prix

III. Western Sandpipers at the Water's Edge

IV. Majestic Flight over the Queen Mary

Deanna Hahn-Little, soloist

Peter Fischer (1956 -)

Ballet of Magical Beings (2006)

I. Dance of the Unicorns (Tango)

II. Dance of the Sylphs

III. Dance of the Gryphons

IV. Waltz of the Phoenix

V. Dragon Tarantella

DEANNA HAHN-LITTLE

Dr. Deanna Hahn-Little, Professor of Flute at Middle Tennessee State University, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa, a Master of Music degree and the Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. Her primary instructors include James Scott, Kate Lukas, Peter Lloyd, Trevor Wye, and Angeleita Floyd. As a professor at MTSU, Little currently teaches applied flute, classes in woodwind methods, literature and pedagogy and directs the MTSU Flute Choir. She received the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2017-2018.

As an active performer, Hahn-Little is a frequent performer with the Nashville Opera, the Tennessee Philharmonic and the MTSU Faculty group the Stones River Chamber Players. She also performs with the Nashville Symphony, the innovative chamber ensemble Intersection, the Nashville Ballet and in recording studios in the Middle TN area. Hahn-Little has also performed with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra (TN), Huntsville Symphony (AL), Orchestra Kentucky, Sewanee Symphony Orchestra (TN), and Evansville Philharmonic (IN).

Hahn-Little has won numerous awards for her flute playing. She was a two-time winner in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition as well as the recipient of an award for best performance of a newly commissioned work at the 1996 convention. She was a winner in the 2007 Myrna Brown Competition in Texas and a 1998 semifinalist in the New York Concert Artists Guild Competition.

She has performed as a soloist, master class clinician, chamber musician, and flute ensemble director throughout the United States, Canada, Central and South America, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and the Netherlands. She has served the NFA as coordinator of the Collegiate Flute Choir Competition from 2016-2020, was the 2004 local arrangements coordinator for the NFA Convention in Nashville, TN and is a past-president of the Mid-South Flute Society.

In addition to her teaching duties at MTSU, Hahn-Little teaches on the faculty of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts and has also taught on the faculty at Drake University and the University of the South at Sewanee.

Deanna Hahn-Little is an Altus Artist, and has released two solo CD's "Inspirations From Tennessee/The Dolly Project" (2019) and "Diamonds Uncovered" with pianist, Jerome Reed (July 2009).



BRYAN BRAUE

Dr. Bryan Braue serves as Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Middle Tennessee State University, where his responsibilities include directing the Band of Blue Marching Band, overseeing the athletic band program, conducting the university's Symphonic Band, and teaching a variety of music education courses. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree with an emphasis in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Florida, studying with Dr. David Waybright, Professor Jay Watkins, and Dr. Chip Birkner. During his doctoral studies, he co-taught Basic Conducting, served as a Graduate Conductor for the University Wind Symphony and Monday Night Concert Band, and assisted the Gator Marching Band in drill design, music arranging, and drumline instruction.



A native of Vero Beach, Florida, Dr. Braue earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Stetson University, where he studied under Dr. Bobby Adams. In 2006, he became Director of Bands at Clearwater High School, where his teaching responsibilities included the Marching Band, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Music Theory, and Music History. In addition to his work at Clearwater High School, he served as Adjunct Professor of Percussion at Clearwater Christian College, District Chairman for the Florida Bandmasters Association District IX, and Chairman for the Pinellas All-County Secondary Bands.

From 2011 to 2013, Dr. Braue attended the University of South Florida, earning a Master of Music degree in Instrumental Conducting. Upon graduation, he was appointed Assistant Director of Bands at the university, a position he held for six years. During his tenure, he worked with the Herd of Thunder Marching Band, Basketball Pep Band, Show Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band, and served as Executive Director for the university's Summer Music Camps program, Festival of Winds, and Symphonic Celebration.

Prior to his appointment at Middle Tennessee State University, Dr. Braue served as Director of Bands at the University of Texas Permian Basin, where he directed the Spirit of the Permian Basin Marching Band, oversaw the Basketball Pep Band, conducted the Department of Music's Symphonic Winds and Brass Choir, and taught courses in conducting and music education. He also served as Academic Advisor for all wind and percussion majors and supervised elementary and secondary student interns throughout the Midland–Odessa region. Beyond his university duties, Dr. Braue was the Texas Music Educators Association Region VI Vice President and served on the advisory board for the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Braue maintains professional memberships with the Tennessee Music Educators Association (TNMEA), the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (MTSBOA), the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), and the National Band Association (NBA). He is also a member of numerous honorary organizations, including Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and Sigma Alpha Iota. In addition to his work at the university, Dr. Braue is a nationally recognized clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. He resides in the Murfreesboro area with his wife, Michelle, their cat, Nala, and their dog, Maestro.

REED THOMAS

Dr. Reed Thomas is the Director of Bands and Professor of Music and Conducting in the School of Music at Middle Tennessee State University, a position he has held since 2003. As well as guiding all aspects of MTSU band program, his teaching responsibilities include: conducting the Wind Ensemble and University Chamber Winds, teaching undergraduate courses in conducting and instrumental methods, graduate courses in conducting, wind and orchestral repertoire, and instrumental rehearsal problems. He is the founding conductor of the Three Rivers Wind Symphony, a professional group of wind and percussion players from Northeast Indiana and was the Conductor of the Littleton Chamber Winds in Littleton, Colorado from 1997-99. He has been a guest conductor throughout the United States, South Korea, China, Brazil, Panama, Columbia, Costa Rica, Portugal, Russia, United Kingdom and several European countries. He currently serves as the Executive Musical Director of the Corazon Verde Band Festival in Paraiso, Cartago, Costa Rica.



Dr. Thomas is an active conductor and clinician who has received praise and critical acclaim for his artistic interpretations, thorough preparation, and innovative programming from composers such as David Maslanka, Nigel Clarke, Pete Madsen, James David, Kit Turnbull, Jonathan Newman, DJ Sparr, Shafer Mahoney, Peter Fischer, Jamie Simmons, and Robert Bradshaw, and from solo performers such as Jens Lindeman, Brett Baker, Harmen Vanhoorne, Peter Skaevard Sheppard, Steve Houghton, Eddie Daniels, Jennifer Gunn, David Cooke, Jonathan Gunn, and She-e Wu for his interpretive conducting. His groups have been invited to perform at venues throughout the United States, China, South Korea, Panama and Costa Rica. Dr. Thomas is an avid supporter of new music, commissioning over 60 compositions since 2003 and presenting world premier performances to well over 45 compositions. He has been a strong supporter to music from Brazil, Latin America, Spain, Portugal, and China.

Dr. Thomas has seven Internationally released Compact Disc's featuring the MTSU Wind Ensemble including two on the Naxos Label; the critically acclaimed "Angel's in the Architecture" and "Earthrise;" and four on the Toccata Classics Label; "Nigel Clarke - Music for Symphonic Wind Orchestra," featuring his epic work, "A Richer Dust," commissioned by the MTSU Wind Ensemble," "Music for Trombone and Winds," featuring newly composed works for solo trombone and wind ensemble, Bret Baker soloist, "Chosen Gems of David Maslanka," and the most recently released "Firedance - Music of Peter Fischer."

A native of Colorado, Dr. Thomas received his Ph.D. in Music with an emphasis in conducting from the University of Minnesota and both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Music Education from the University of Utah. Prior to his appointment at MTSU, he conducted at universities in Indiana and Colorado and was a public school Music Director at two high schools in Utah. He has written articles for the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band Series" and is the Artistic Director of the annual Corazon Verde Music Festival in Paraiso, Cartago, Costa Rica. Dr. Thomas is an active member of several associations including the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), Pi Kappa Lambda, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Mu Alpha and is an honorary member of the Costa Rican Band Directors Association, the Korean Band Association, the China Bandmasters Association, and the Asian Pacific Band Directors Association.

Evan VanDoren | *Luminosities* (2023)

Luminosities is a flourish for wind ensemble that evokes the immense energy, warmth, and vibrance of light itself. The title, derived from the word “luminescence,” signifies a spontaneous emission of light without a heat source. This work is written in dedication to Laura Springer, a long-time leader within the Coppell community and current principal of Coppell High School. The composer writes:

“In learning more about Laura’s impact throughout her career, it became clear to me that she was a guiding light for a myriad of students who might otherwise be lost. Just as a bright light illuminates a darkened room, so does Laura Springer share her light with countless others, bringing them into her light, and helping them shine all on their own.”

Luminosities was commissioned by Kim Shuttlesworth, Director of Bands at Coppell High School, Texas, and premiered on Friday, December 22nd, at the 2023 Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Evan VanDoren is a freelance arranger, composer, and educational consultant. As the owner of VanDoren Music, Evan is commissioned each year to create works for concert and marching ensembles. He has arranged and orchestrated award-winning marching shows for numerous high school bands across the country. Evan is an active clinician, presenting for Drum Corp International, the Music Educators National Convention, the Texas Bandmasters Association, the Texas Music Educators Association, and Music for All. He regularly consults with band programs around the country. Additionally, Evan is an active adjudicator with Bands of America, the University Interscholastic League, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association. Evan is the brass arranger for the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, from Santa Clara, California, as well as the leadership faculty of SASI Leadership, based in Central Texas. Before devoting his life to creating music, Evan was a band director at Cedar Park High School, in Cedar Park, Texas, during which time the band was awarded multiple marching state championships and national recognition. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education with Honors from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently, He lives in Cedar Park, Texas, with his wife, Katie, and their dog, Cooper.

Program note provided by the composer

Jenni Brandon | *Cobalt Blue* (2025)

Commissioned by flutist Dr. Jenni Olson and a consortium of ensembles and individuals, ***Cobalt Blue: Concerto for Flute (with Piccolo) and Wind Symphony*** is inspired by the beauty and unique landscape of Long Beach, California, with the flute solo (with piccolo) as our guide through its sights and sounds.

I. The Great Pyramid

The journey begins at the striking Walter Pyramid, a cobalt-blue landmark rising 18 stories above the city on the campus of California State University, Long Beach. As the flute soars above, the Cobalt Blue theme emerges, weaving throughout the piece.

II. The Grand Prix

Moving through the city's roads and highways, we arrive at the Grand Prix of Long Beach, where a rhythmic groove captures the speed and excitement of the race. Trombones mimic a Doppler effect as cars zip by, and the Cobalt Blue theme returns in a dreamlike slow-motion moments before accelerating towards the finish line.

III. Western Sandpipers at the Water's Edge

Leaving the race behind, we head to the beach, where wind chimes and flute jet whistles evoke the ocean breeze. The piccolo sings the calls of western sandpipers in a solo cadenza using several transcribed western sandpiper songs, eventually joined by the flute section as birds play in the surf: running, darting, and soaring into the sky. Sunlight sparkles on the water as the solo piccolo gives us a bird's-eye view of the water and sand below.

IV. Majestic Flight over the Queen Mary

In majestic flight, we fly over the Long Beach harbor, glimpsing the Queen Mary with her iconic red and black stacks. As birds dive and glide above, we await the deep, resounding blast of her 55 Hz typhoon whistle from the low brass and low winds. The journey concludes back at the Great Pyramid, bringing our musical exploration full circle.

Jenni Brandon stands out as a distinguished composer and conductor, weaving memorable melodies inspired by collaborator stories, nature, and poetry. Her extensive catalogue of over 100 works spans solo pieces, chamber music, concertos, operas, and orchestral compositions, and two dozen albums across prestigious labels like Delos and MSR Classics feature her music. Brandon's artistry has earned her top accolades, such as the Sorel Medallion and the American Prize, reflecting her music's influence on the global stage. Her compositions are required repertoire for leading music competitions and auditions at premier institutions like Juilliard, UT Austin, and the Manhattan School of Music among others. She oversees the global publication and distribution of her works through Jenni Brandon Music, collaborating with top publishers like Boosey & Hawkes, Imagine Music and others. As a conductor, she's led performances of her works and others, notably her opera "3 PADEREWSKIS" at the Kennedy Center. Beyond her compositions, Brandon champions music education and collaboration, holding workshops nationwide and co-directing Heartland Marimba. With degrees from West Chester University and the University of Texas at Austin, plus doctoral studies at the University of Southern California, Brandon's academic and professional footprint is significant.

Program note provided by the composer

Peter Fischer | ***Ballet of Magical Beings*** (2006)

Dedicated to Reed Thomas and the Middle Tennessee State University Wind Ensemble, ***Ballet of Magical Beings*** is a suite of five dances, all based around mythical and magical creatures. I was reading J.C. Cooper's book *Traditional Symbols* and became fascinated with how complex these creatures are as they appear throughout the diverse cultures of the West and East. In traditional Chinese mythology, there are four sacred or spiritually endowed creatures - the phoenix, unicorn, dragon, and tortoise. I used the three of those that were more magical in our culture and then added two others, the gryphon and the sylph. I elevate them into "being" status because of how real they have become in the imagination of our arts. We anthropomorphize them in our literature and films, and they are often characterized with an ability that supersedes the humans. My music is based on a quintal (or 5ths) harmonic language with variants into quartal and secundal structures. The melodic

structure is chromatically modal, also using octatonic, and other exotic scales. The language carefully avoids thirds throughout in both harmonic structures to the bass and (with some exceptions) in melodic materials as well.

I. Dance of the Unicorns (Tango)

The first dance I began sketching, this traditional dance of Argentina is filled with passion and sensual rhythmic energy. The movement features an irregular metrical scheme and solos in the E-flat clarinet and tenor saxophone. A dissonant underlying harmonic structure consistently punctuates the rhythmic drive. Clarinets, using parallel chord streaming, imitate the bandoneón (the traditional accordion instrument found in many tangos).

II. Dance of the Sylphs

The Sylph is one of a race of beings or spirits who inhabit the air. They are sometimes referred to as resembling butterflies. This dance is the only true slow movement in the suite. It features the woodwind section alone with metal percussion and piano.

III. Dance of the Gryphons

A fabulous beast with the head and talons of an eagle and the body of a lion, it symbolizes the sun, great power, and vengeance, but also wisdom and enlightenment. The movement is a short powerful rhythmic episode featuring static or minimal harmonic movement against which the trumpets and brass enter in dramatic dissonant arpeggiations.

IV. Waltz of the Phoenix

It is the symbol of immortality and resurrection. The phoenix dies in its own fire and is reborn three days later. Traditional waltz textures are distorted by metrical augmentations and diminutions. Repeated refrains define the idea of rebirth in a quasi-rondo form.

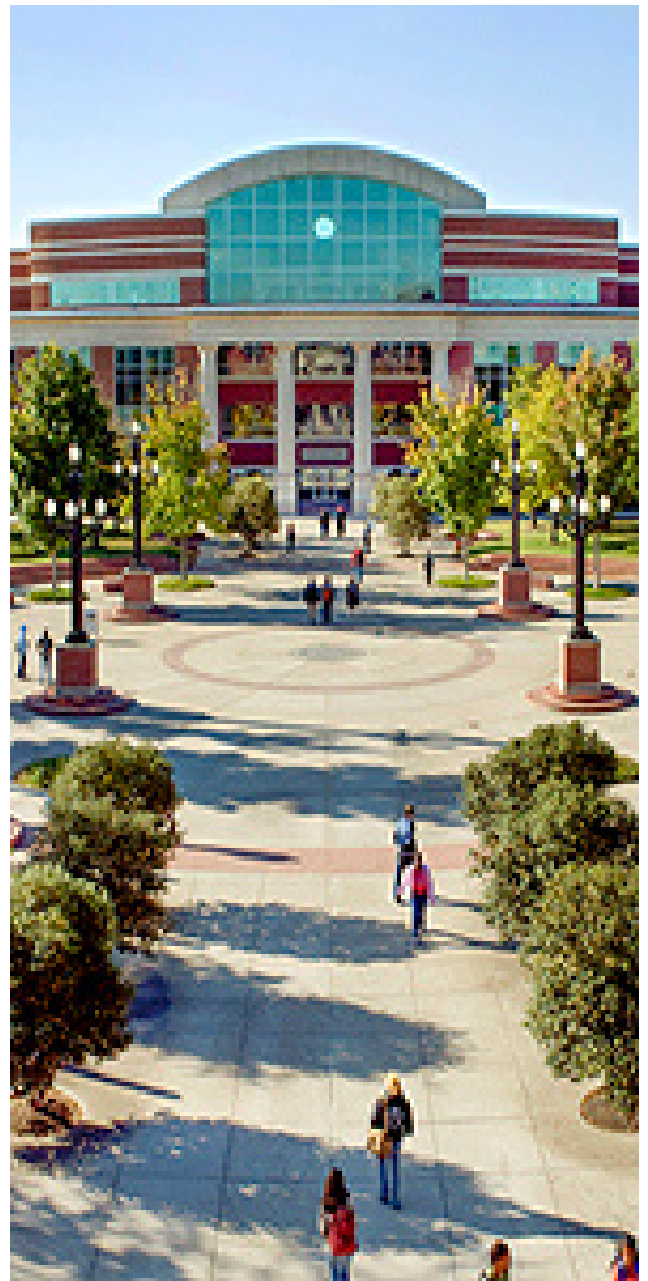
V. Dragon Tarantella

Dragons are now ubiquitous with our modern fantasy literature and culture; they traditionally represented a benevolent power of life. This obviously has changed over time to represent many complex mythoi, but always represent unimaginable power. To many, they are also a symbol of beauty and wisdom. The dance originally was titled “primitive” in my sketches and has aspects of my admiration of Stravinsky's earlier Russian period.

Dr. Peter Fischer is Associate Professor of Music at Texas Tech University, where he teaches composition and theory. Many of his works use a unique harmonic and melodic language about which he has given seminars throughout the United States. His works have been performed nationally and internationally. Recent music includes *The Universe Cantos* (2021), a suite of five movements for large Orchestra, his three-movement *Piano Concerto* (2019), *Primordial* (2018) for large Orchestra, a *Violin Concerto*, and a *Piano Quartet*, commissioned and premiered in 2016 by the world-renowned Ames Piano Quartet. Dr. Fischer also has a rich library of choral works, including *Peace I Leave With You*, just performed at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City in February of 2020 by Florida Gulf Coast University. Other choral works include *Take My Hand*, *Strange Voices Sing Among the Planets*, *Peace*, *The Sea is Calm Tonight*, and *O Magnum Mysterium*, the latter premiering in Germany during the Lubbock Chorale Tour. His choral works have been performed at the ACDA Regional Convention in Salt Lake City, and the National SCI Convention in Columbia, South Carolina. His chamber opera *O D'Amarti O Morire*, based on the infamous Gesualdo murders, received its premiere in Toronto, Canada, and its US premiere by the faculty at the University of Delaware.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Conducted by Dr. Reed Thomas, The **Middle Tennessee State University Wind Ensemble** is the premier performing ensemble for wind, brass, and percussion students at the university. Members are selected through audition each semester and comprise the best musicians at MTSU. The ensemble explores the vast range of the wind repertoire by utilizing a flexible instrumentation approach where the repertoire dictates the number of players for each piece. The ensemble is dedicated to performing outstanding and challenging works of diverse musical styles while furthering wind music of artistic and historical significance. Performing three to five concerts each semester, they also tour extensively throughout the region and overseas. The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding university ensembles in the country and abroad having performed on concert tours of South Korea, China, Costa Rica, and Panama. Membership is open to all MTSU students and is based upon successful audition. Audition and further information can be found by visiting the MTSU band website at www.mtsubands.com.



Having commissioned more than 60 new works for winds since 2003, the MTSU Wind Ensemble Commissioning Project has enlisted such composers as Nigel Clarke, Jesus Santandreu, Kit Turnbull, Jessie Montgomery, David Rose, David Maslanka, Jonathan Newman, Jeffery Brooks, Edson Beltrami (Brazil), Anthony Plog, D.J. Sparr, Peter Fischer, Jamey Simmons, Todd Coleman, Robert Bradshaw, and Michael Linton. Soloists who have performed with this ensemble include, Jens Lindemann (Trumpet), Steve Houghton (Percussion), Eddie Daniels (Clarinet), Jennifer Gunn (Flute), Jonathan Gunn (Clarinet), Sandra Arndt (Piano), She-e Wu (Marimba), Peter Skaevard Sheppard (Violin), Gilbert Long (Tuba), John Gilbert (Violin), David Loucky (Trombone), Michael Arndt (Trumpet), Don Aliquou (Saxophone), Jamey Simmons (Trumpet), Maya Stone (Bassoon) Todd Waldecker (Clarinet), George Riordan (Oboe), Deanna Little (Flute), Angela DeBoer (Horn), James Douglas (Piano), Laura Ann Ross (Oboe), Song, Inguck (Conductor, S. Korea), and Kim, Yeoung-Du (Conductor, S. Korea).

Graduates of the MTSU Wind Ensemble have pursued graduate degrees at other major universities throughout the country, have held positions in symphony orchestras and several of the premier military bands, and are exceptional conductors, teachers and performers in public and private schools and colleges throughout the world.



ROSTER

Flute/Piccolo

Chelsea Liu *
Jonathan Oldham
Delana Renz
Grace Whitten
Jacob Young

Oboe/English Horn

Kayla Ownby
Cami Smith *
Roman Tillis

Clarinet

Yassin Adams *
Ethan Bullock
Ashley Eady
Spencer Goad
Patrick Lazarus
Kelsa Rice
Lukas Sharp
Eric Sullivan
Nathanael Taylor

Bassoon

James Orme
Mario Puentes *
Cadence Russell

Saxophone

Avery Cobb
Dylan Floyd
Jack Harrison
TC Rich *

Horn

Ian Gilbert
Perry Herrington
John Oshop
Isaac Webb *

Cornet/Trumpet

Sarah Browning
Østen Collins
Miles Hall
Sam Miller
Wyatt Murphy
Isaac Swinney *

Trombone

Jocelyn Bullock *
Mitchell Elmore
Rielly Harris
Ryan Hungerpiller

Euphonium

Faith Brown
Henry Wright *

Tuba

Charlie Pettyjohn
Matty Travis *

String Bass

Maddie Sanders

Piano

Gyuhee Kim

Harp

Claire Cifonie

Percussion

Jackson Alford
Kiefer Burks *
Joseph Flores
Isaac Ivy
Jonah Sherlin
Paul West

* Section Leader

MTSU BANDS PERFORMANCES

FALL 2025

Chamber Winds and Symphonic Band

Tuesday, October 7 | 7:30 p.m. | T. Earl Hinton Music Hall

62nd Contest of Champions

Saturday, October 25 | Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble

Thursday, November 13 | 7:30 p.m. | T. Earl Hinton Music Hall

MTSU BANDS FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Reed Thomas, director of bands

Dr. Bryan Braue, associate director of bands/director of athletic bands

Dr. Dennis A. Hawkins, Jr., assistant director of bands

Ms. Jennifer Stemberge, bands coordinator

Ms. Sarah Browning, graduate teaching assistant

Ms. Delana Renz, graduate teaching assistant

Mr. Cameron Wilson, graduate teaching assistant

MTSU WIND AND PERCUSSION APPLIED FACULTY

WOODWINDS

Prof. Don Aliquo, saxophone, woodwind coordinator

Dr. Deanna Little, flute

Dr. Keith Sorrels, oboe

Dr. Todd Waldecker, clarinet

Dr. Staci Spring, bassoon

BRASS

Dr. Michael Arndt, trumpet

Dr. Chris Combest, tuba

Prof. Angela DeBoer, horn

Dr. David Loucky, trombone, euphonium, brass coordinator

PERCUSSION

Prof. Julie Davila, percussion

Prof. Lalo Davila, percussion, percussion coordinator

Dr. Brian Mueller, percussion



In 2011, MTSU Arts was established to provide a singular brand through which the University community delivers our many outstanding art offerings to Middle Tennessee. Literally hundreds of performances, exhibitions, and concerts are held annually through MTSU Arts in our art, dance, music, and theatre programs. Our students' artistic expressions demonstrate the transformative power of education and the arts. Just as our students enrich their lives by showcasing their skills, we invite you to enrich yours by being a MTSU Arts Patron.

The MTSU Arts Patrons Society was created to enhance opportunities for our students in the performing and fine arts programs. When you become a member of the MTSU Arts Patrons Society, you support students with: scholarships to educational workshops and conferences, guest artist workshops and student art exhibits, theatre performances and concerts produced by students, and student music recording projects.

We are also pleased to announce that Ascend Federal Credit Union is the presenting sponsor of MTSU Arts for the 2025-26 season.





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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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