

FRIDAY FANFARE - SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Chris Combest, Assistant Director - chris.combest@mtsu.edu

It's Homecoming week - welcome home Raiders! On Tuesday, we welcomed an enthusiastic group of high school students from across Tennessee to our annual *Careers in Music Day*. The event gave students a chance to experience campus life while exploring the many pathways a future in music can take.

Throughout the day, visiting students stepped into music classes to see how college-level learning unfolds, from music industry to education to performance. They had opportunities to talk one-on-one with current School of Music students, hearing firsthand what it's like to study music at MTSU. Faculty members also spent time with the group, offering guidance and encouragement as students shared their own career aspirations.

Their enthusiasm for the future of music as a career was clear. Some spoke about becoming studio session musicians, while others imagined paths that combine engineering and music. Together, their wide-ranging goals highlighted the many ways music can shape a career.

For me, the highlight of the day was a panel discussion with my colleagues and several very enthusiastic students. Their energy and curiosity reminded me why we do this work; one that recharged my batteries. I love those moments.

We are grateful for the chance to meet and inspire the next generation of musicians and look forward to seeing many of them again at future School of Music events.

FEATURED FACULTY MEMBER: MICHAEL ARNDT, TRUMPET

Dr. Michael Arndt, Professor of Trumpet at MTSU since 2002, directs the Symphonic Brass and award-winning Trumpet Ensembles while teaching a large studio of majors and minors. He performs widely as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player, appearing with the Nashville Symphony, Stones River Chamber Players, and Faculty Brass Quintet.



FEATURED ENSEMBLE: MTSU EUPHONIUM-TUBA ENSEMBLE



The MTSU Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble has a rich tradition of performance, touring, and commissioning new works for low brass. Offered each spring, it welcomes majors, secondary players, and non-majors with a passion for performance. Members present campus concerts, collaborate with other brass groups, and tour local schools, inspiring young musicians and strengthening community ties. The ensemble brings together students from diverse degree paths, enriching its sound and culture while offering varied repertoire and collaborative experiences. It remains a vital space for musical growth and creative exploration in the tuba and euphonium repertoire.

Join our Midstate Clinic on Sunday, September 28th at the School of Music!
More information available at <https://forms.office.com/r/pPcK4TTb29>

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

The SOAL (Soprano-Alto) Chorale welcomed two incredible guest artists this week! On Tuesday, singer/songwriter Summer Rona joined rehearsal, sharing vocal warm-ups and stories from her life in music. Then on Thursday, fresh from receiving the CMA Music Teacher of Excellence Award, Chattanooga educator Neshawn Calloway worked with the ensemble on their upcoming concert selections and performed for the students with Dr. Cedric Dent at the piano. A week full of music, learning, and inspiration!



Photo 1. A large group of chorale students smiling for a group photo with Summer Rona, who stands in the center wearing a black t-shirt and jeans.

Photo 2. Chorale members gathered with Neshawn Calloway, Dr. Cedric Dent, and faculty after rehearsal, all smiling together at the front of the classroom.

MTSU Trumpet Studio Trumpeters **Wyatt Murphy** and graduate GTA, **Sarah Browning** represented the MTSU School of Music at the Rutherford County 9/11 Memorial, hosted at the Sheriff's Department. Their performance of Echo Taps provided a reverent conclusion to a ceremony attended by regional and local officials, including a keynote address from Tennessee's Deputy Director of Homeland Security. We're proud of Wyatt and Sarah for honoring this day with music that carried both reflection and remembrance.



We're proud of **Warren Quandt**, Siegel HS graduate and current MTSU music major, who was featured in the Siegel High School newsletter this week. Warren returned to campus to speak with over 100 Humanities Academy students about his journey as a music student at MTSU. He shared why he chose MTSU as both affordable and worthwhile, along with opportunities he's had to study abroad, perform with the symphony, and be part of the university's concert series. Great to see Warren inspiring the next generation of Siegel students through his academic and musical journey!



SCHOOL OF MUSIC DIGITAL BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

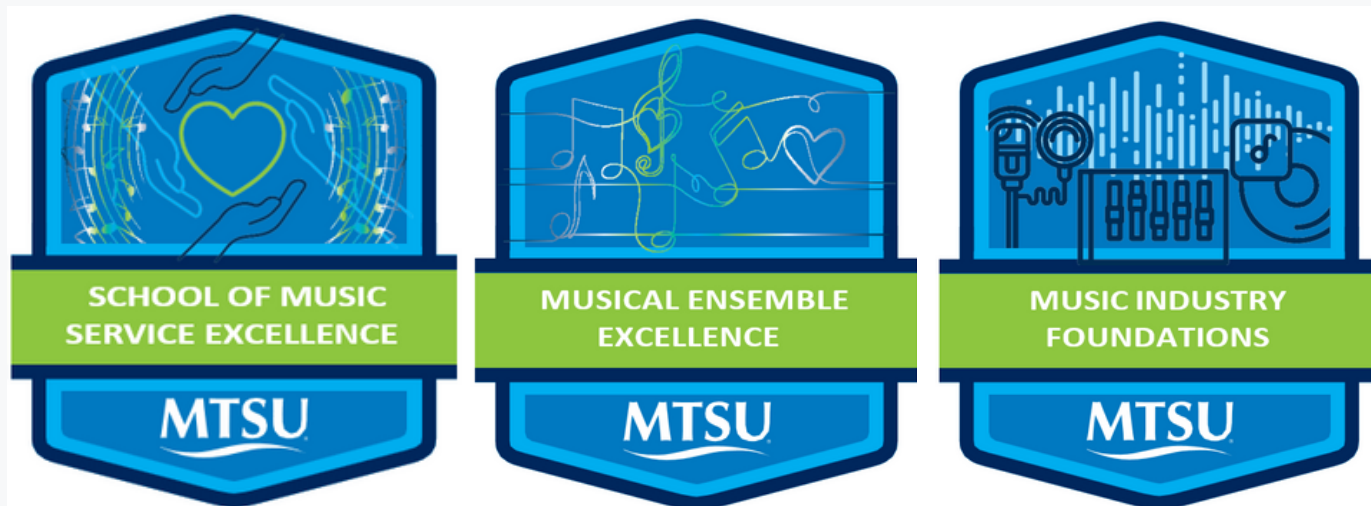
At the School of Music, we know that learning is more than grades and transcripts. Students also grow through experiences in classes, rehearsals, performances, and service opportunities, and much of that important work can be hard to capture on paper. That's where digital badges come in!

A digital badge is a credential you can share online that highlights what you've learned and the experiences that shape what you bring to the table, especially for employers outside of music. Think of it as a small but meaningful marker of growth. When students complete certain courses, perform in ensembles, or contribute through service, they can apply for a badge that documents those experiences. Once awarded, a badge can be added to a résumé, portfolio, or LinkedIn profile. It offers a simple way to show employers or graduate schools not just what you studied, but how you applied yourself and what skills you developed during your time here. Here at the School of Music, we've introduced three new options that are now available:

- 1) The **Music Industry Foundations badge** recognizes students who complete coursework and experiences that build a strong understanding of the field.
- 2) The **Musical Ensemble Excellence badge** celebrates non-majors who dedicate themselves to performing in our ensembles over several semesters, demonstrating teamwork, consistency, and growth.
- 3) the **School of Music Service Excellence badge** acknowledges majors who go beyond their own studies to support concerts, outreach, and the life of the School of Music.

For students, these badges are more than symbols. They offer a way to reflect on how efforts inside and outside the classroom shape who they are becoming, while also giving them something tangible to share with the world.

To learn more about these badges and how to obtain them, visit music.mtsu.edu/digital-badges.



Learn more about other digital badges offered by MTSU at <https://www.mtsu.edu/badges/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 21 - MTSU Double Reed Day (Poster below)

Monday, September 22 – Paul Hanson Jazz Bassoon Recital, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Tuesday, September 23 – Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Hall)

Wednesday, September 24 – Francesca Arnone Guest Flute Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Thursday, September 25 – CONVOCATION: Wellness Presentation, 11:30am (Hinton Hall)

Thursday, September 25 – Stones River Chamber Players, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Saturday, September 27 – Angel Birchfield Senior Clarinet Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, September 28 – Greater Nashville Euph/Tuba Ensemble Day, 1:00 pm (Hinton Hall)



PARKING IMPACTS

September 19

- Golden Raiders & Alumni Awards – ING & Back Lots (10:00 am–6:00 pm)
- COE-URP Scholars Meeting – Founders Lot, 10 spaces (7:00 am–1:30 pm)
- Honors College Board of Visitors – Ezell North, 10 spaces (9:00 am–3:30 pm)
- Football Tailgating – RV Lot, all spaces (7:00 am–4:00 pm)
- ASID TN Conference – Ezell North, all spaces (8:00 am–3:00 pm)

September 20

- Homecoming Mixer – Ingram Lot, all spaces (6:00 am–9:00 pm)
- Fresh Faces Event – Champion Way/Tucker, all spaces (10:00 am–5:00 pm)
- MTSU Football – Multiple lots, all spaces (7:00 am–8:00 pm)

September 21

- Soccer – Greenland Lot, all spaces (12:00 pm–8:00 pm)

September 23

- Nursing Accreditation Visit – Nursing Lot, 2 spaces (8:30 am–4:00 pm)

September 24–25

- LEADS Program – Ezell Lot, 20 spaces (Sep 24, 8:00 am–3:00 pm)
- Army Reserve Ambassador Conference – STU Lot, 21 spaces (Sep 24–25, 7:00 am–6:00 pm)

September 25

- PCA Football – Greenland Lot, all spaces (7:00 pm–10:00 pm)
- BIG Career Fair – Softball Lot, all spaces (7:00 am–4:30 pm)

September 26–27

- Volleyball – Greenland Lot, all spaces (Sep 26, 6:00 pm–10:00 pm; Sep 27, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm)

ACDA Presents:
Dr. Evan Jones
presenting on...

“Bridging the Gap
Between Voice Studio
and Choral
Rehearsal”



Dr. Evan Jones
Associate Professor of
Voice at Florida State
University

Location: Hinton Hall

Date: September 23

Time: 11:20

Hosted by MTSU Faculty
Dr. Keith Sorrels &
Dr. Staci Spring



[Register HERE](#)



MTSU Double Reed Day 2025

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Workshops, Games, Vendors, Faculty/Guest
Concert, Double Reed Ensemble, and More!

Featuring special guests!



Paul Hanson,
Jazz/Electric
Bassoon Specialist



Dr. Kristin Sarvela,
Oboe Professor @ Sam
Houston State University



Sponsored in part by the MTSU Distinguished
Lecture Fund & Fox Products



Join Us!
Free & Open to ALL

September 24 & 25, 2025

9/24 Flute Masterclass
11:30 am
SFA 207

Support from Powell Flutes,
MTengage & MTSU SoM

9/24 Dr. Arnone's
Recital with
Joseph Walker
6:00 pm
Hinton Hall



9/25 Alexander
Technique
Class
11:20 am
SFA 208

Guest Artist
Dr. Francesca Arnone Powell Artist

The FRIDAY FANFARE is a weekly
newsletter of the MTSU School of Music
edited by Dr. Chris Combest -
chris.combest@mtsu.edu
Want to see your event, faculty, student or
alumni news featured? Submit it to the
[Director's Advisory Box](#)
To learn more about our programs and
events at the School of Music, please visit
music.mtsu.edu.