

FRIDAY FANFARE - SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Christopher Dye, Assistant Director - christopher.dye@mtsu.edu



The School of Music is abuzz with activity – from the Band of Blue's multiple homecoming performances to the first wind ensemble concert of the year to a Double Reed Day attended by more than 50 oboists and bassoonists that included a guest recital by jazz bassoon legend Paul Hanson, musical excellence has been on full display!

I would like to take the opportunity this week to highlight an aspect of the School of Music that takes place off campus. Music education students completing their College of Education coursework complete field experiences each semester, observing and teaching alongside experts in the field. This semester, we have 36 students placed with 21 mentor teachers at 19 different elementary, middle, and high schools across the region.

Over the course of their placements, these developing music educators interact with thousands of local K-12 students, learning about different student populations and curricular approaches while honing their own skills in instruction and classroom management. MTSU is fortunate to have a tremendous network of music education alumni, and the majority of the mentors our students work with hold bachelor's or master's degrees in music education from MTSU.

I am thankful for the mutually beneficial relationship our music education program has with the local community. Our school partners provide the most authentic laboratories for our majors to maximize their teaching capabilities, led by outstanding alumni who generously share their expertise. At the same time, MTSU students provide assistance and individual and small group instruction that enhances the classroom experiences of children across Middle Tennessee.

UPDATE FROM DR. V

After 15 years as a full-time faculty member in the School of Music, **Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall** became the inaugural Director of the new MTSU Center for Teaching and Mentoring (CTM). She began this new role in May 2025. The CTM is housed in Walker Library and serves faculty, staff, and graduate students at MTSU. Dr. V will still teach occasionally in the School of Music, but her position is now mostly administrative.



FACULTY NEWS

On Sunday, Sept. 21, we welcomed 57 double reed players from across the region for MTSU Double Reed Day 2025 led by MTSU Music Professors **Dr. Keith Sorrels** (oboe) and **Dr. Staci Spring** (bassoon). With oboists and bassoonists filling our halls, the day was packed with music-making, learning, and community: warmups, reed classes, games, improvisation, ensemble rehearsals, breakout sessions, and a finale concert that brought it all together.

We were honored to host guest faculty Dr. Kristin Sarvela (Sam Houston State University, oboe) and world-renowned jazz bassoonist Paul Hanson, whose improv clinic and artistry inspired everyone in the room.

A huge thank you to our amazing MTSU students for leading with hospitality and heart, to our supporters at Fox Products, Forrest's Music, and Barton Cane, and to the School of Music for helping make the event possible. Early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we could not be prouder of this thriving community.

Paul Hanson's residency continued on Sept. 22 with a stunning recital alongside MTSU faculty John Cowherd (piano), Jack Aylor (bass), and Miles Damaso (drums). Nearly 200 people joined in person and online to hear his one-of-a-kind voice on the bassoon.



Chip Henderson will be featured at the **XII Festival Internacional de Guitarra 2025** in Cartagena de Indias, October 9–12. In addition to performing on the closing concert, Sunday, Oct. 12 at Teatro Adolfo Mejía, Chip will also participate in two seminars and a Q&A session ahead of the festival.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



MTSU School of Music trombone students **Jocelyn Bullock, Mitchell Elmore, Rielly Harris, and Ryan Hungerpiller** performed a **mini-concert at noon on September 25** in the Atrium at Walker Library on campus. This 20-minute program featured Suite for 4 Trombones by Goff Richards and "Rainfall" by MTSU alumnus and current adjunct instructor **Desmond Ng**.



Photo credit: Grover Baker/Walker Library

This past Tuesday, the **MTSU chapter of ACDA** had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Evan Jones from Florida State University for a presentation on *"Bridging the Gap Between Voice Studio and Choral Rehearsal."*

Dr. Jones was joined by FSU graduate students Sarita Olson-Gustley and Steven Gustely, who shared their expertise as we explored standard choral literature and practiced applying healthy vocal techniques directly into rehearsal. It was an energizing and insightful session, and a wonderful way to launch ACDA's Fall Kickoff Week at MTSU!



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Once a member, always a member! The **MTSU Band of Blue Alumni Band** came together at Saturday's Homecoming game to celebrate tradition, music, and lifelong friendships. Thank you to all who returned to march, play, and cheer with us—it's always a joy to see the Blue Raider spirit carry on!



PARKING NOTICES

September 26

- 6:00–10:00 pm — Volleyball
- *Greenland Lot (All spaces)*

September 27

- 1:00–5:00 pm — Volleyball
- *Greenland Lot (All spaces)*

September 30

- 7:00 am–7:00 pm — Rutherford County Sheriffs
- *Rutherford Lot (All spaces)*

October 1

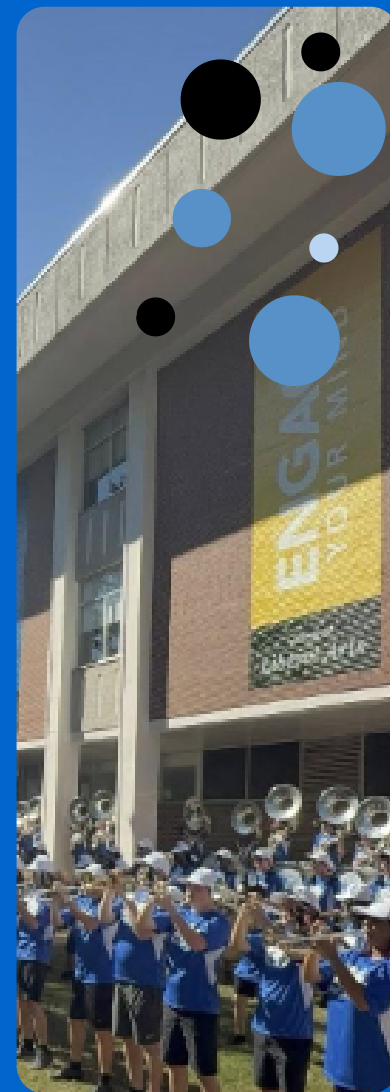
- 7:30–9:30 am — Substance Use and the Impact on Families
- *Smith Lot (All spaces)*
- 11:00 am–4:00 pm — CCM Fall Networking
- *Student and Academic Lots (250 spaces)*

October 2

- 9:30 am–3:30 pm — Insurance & Actuarial Science Career Fair
- *Lightning Lot (All spaces)*

October 3

- 7:30 am–3:30 pm — Physician Assistant Interview Day
- *Smith Lot (30 spaces)*
- 7:00–10:00 pm — PCA Football Game
- *Greenland Lot (All spaces)*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 29 – Jazz Combo Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)


Friday, October 3 – Todd Waldecker and Adam Clark Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Saturday, October 4 – Sam Thompson Voice Lecture Recital, 1:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Saturday, October 4 – Matt Lund: Faculty Modern Jazz Recital, 4:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Saturday, October 4 – MTSU Symphony Orchestra Concert, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

A FACULTY RECITAL FEATURING
MUSIC FOR THE CONCERT HALL AND SILVER SCREEN



TODD WALDECKER CLARINET
ADAM CLARK PIANO

WITH
ANDREA DAWSON VIOLIN
BRYAN HAYSLETT CELLO

Friday, October 3, 6 pm
Hinton Hall, MTSU Campus

Selections by Nino Rota, Leonard Bernstein,
Rachel Portman and John Williams

MATT LUND
FACULTY MODERN JAZZ RECITAL



FEATURING MATT LUND ON GUITAR
BRIAN MUELLER ON DRUMS
AND LELAND NELSON ON BASS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4:00 PM
HINTON MUSIC HALL IN THE WRIGHT MUSIC BUILDING
MTSU CAMPUS

PERFORMING TUNES BY:
PAT METHENY
WAYNE SHORTER
HERBIE HANCOCK
HORACE SILVER
JOHN COLTRANE



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(ALL AGES)

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
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To learn more about our programs and events at the School of Music, please visit music.mtsu.edu.

