



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents the MTSU Jazz Artist Series

The Roland Barber Quintet

Roland Barber, trombone

Greg Tardy, saxophone

Clay Perry, piano

Jack Aylor, bass

Joshua Cook, drums

Guest Artist Concert | Thursday, October 23rd, 2025 | 8pm
T. Earl Hinton Hall

All arrangements by Roland Barber
Selections to be announced from stage.

Program to feature compositions by:

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899 - 1974)

Wayne Shorter (1933 - 2023)

J.J. Johnson (1924 - 2001)

Steve Turre (b.1948)

Roland Barber (b.1980)

Mr. Barber's performance tonight is made possible by a grant from the
MTSU Distinguished Lecture Series

Hello Jazz Supporter,

Every note our students play, every concert that fills our halls, and every opportunity to learn from world-class jazz artists is made possible because of generous donors like you.

Your support has brought Grammy Award-winning legends such as Slide Hampton and Phil Woods to our stage, giving MTSU students the chance to learn, perform, and dream bigger than ever before. The joy our community experiences through these performances starts with your generosity.

This year, your gift will:

- Strengthen the MTSU Jazz Artist Series and expand opportunities for student performances
- Provide students with life-changing workshops and masterclasses with top clinicians
- Enrich our community with unforgettable concerts while recognizing you for your support

When you give, you are not just supporting concerts—you are investing in the future of jazz and the next generation of musicians.

Give Today and keep jazz alive at MTSU.

With gratitude,

Jamey Simmons

Director of Jazz Studies

Middle Tennessee State University



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Roland Barber is a versatile and dynamic brass musician who has become a fixture in the Nashville studio scene after spending seven years in New York City. Since returning to Nashville, he has recorded in nearly every genre imaginable and is widely regarded as one of the city's top brass performers.

Roland's career includes collaborations with jazz legends and rising stars alike. He has performed with Stefon Harris, Sean Jones, Clark Terry, Branford Marsalis, Houston Person, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Lainie Cooke, and the Grammy-winning New Orleans Jazz Ensemble. His performances have taken him to renowned venues around the world—from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to the Kennedy Center, Birdland, the Blue Note, Madison Square Garden, and as far as Estonia.

In 2020, despite the challenges brought by the global pandemic, Roland reached a remarkable milestone: he recorded on **every** brass instrument in the studio—from trumpet to tuba—establishing himself as a trailblazing, one-man brass section. His unique blend of experience, talent, and versatility makes him a go-to studio musician for projects across the musical spectrum.

Beyond performance, Roland is an active and passionate educator. He has taught at the Manhattan School of Music, the Nashville Symphony, Vanderbilt University, Nashville Notes, and the Nashville Jazz Workshop. He has also given masterclasses across the country, including at the University of North Carolina, University of Michigan, Vanderbilt University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Tennessee State University.

A notable highlight in his educational work was his 2021 JEN (Jazz Education Network) Clinic presentation, *"The Voice of the Plunger,"* which traced the evolution of plunger mute artistry from its roots in early Duke Ellington bands through to modern masters like Clark Terry, Al Grey, and Steve Turre—key influences on Roland's own expressive style.

Today, Roland leads several groups across the region, including his small jazz ensemble, his New Orleans-inspired **Righteous Few Brass Band**, and his high-energy salsa band, **Souvenir**.

He holds an M.M. in Jazz Studies from the Manhattan School of Music (2005), as well as an Artist Diploma (2003) and B.M. in Jazz Studies (2001) from Indiana University.