

FRIDAY FANFARE - OCTOBER 10, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

As I've been piecing together next semester's schedule, I keep pausing to take in just how much happens within our School of Music. Every corner of the building holds a different sound and purpose: classes that challenge, ensembles that inspire, and creative projects that stretch what music education can be. The range of offerings is astonishing; from education, performance, and theory to composition, wellness, and the professional focus of our music industry program. It reminds me that learning here isn't confined to one path; it's a network of opportunities shaped by people who care deeply about their craft and community.

What strikes me most is the shared energy behind it all. Our students approach their work with sincerity and courage, taking risks that lead to real growth. My colleagues bring that same spirit, continually reimagining how to teach, mentor, and create. That daily effort, often unseen, forms the quiet pulse of the semester, the steady rhythm that keeps us moving forward together.

As we approach fall break, I find myself reflecting on what truly sustains this place: people, place, and purpose. The people who show up every day with passion and care. The place where sound and friendship fill the air. And the shared purpose that gives meaning to every rehearsal, lesson, and conversation. We are fortunate to have all three, and in that combination lies the reason I continue to feel inspired and grateful to be part of this community's ongoing story.

FEATURED FACULTY: DR. BRYAN BRAU

Dr. Bryan Braue serves as Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Middle Tennessee State University. He directs the Band of Blue Marching Band and oversees all aspects of the athletic band program. At MTSU, Dr. Braue also conducts the Symphonic Band, guiding students through diverse repertoire that builds both ensemble and individual musicianship. He teaches courses in music education and conducting, supporting the development of future band directors in rehearsal methods, score study, and classroom leadership.



THE MTSU CLARINET CHOIR PRESENTS

A SCARE-INET CONCERT!



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28
7 PM
HINTON HALL

2025 MTSU HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

NOVEMBER 7-8

Apply now! Limited positions available!

Open by Audition to
Students in the 8-12th grades

For Information and the On-Line Application

<https://www.mtsu.edu/music/orchestra.php>



For more information contact:
Dr. Carol Nies, Director of Orchestras
MTSU School of Music
carolnies@mtsu.edu

FACULTY NEWS

The Nashville Jazz Festival returns October 25–26, 2025, at 3rd & Lindsley, presented by the Nashville Jazz Workshop. This two-day celebration of Nashville's jazz scene will feature over 70 musicians, from local legends to national artists, across a dynamic weekend of performances, a Gospel brunch, and a grand closing jam. Among the featured artists are MTSU School of Music faculty members **Don Aliquo** (saxophone) and **Jon Cowherd** (piano). Aliquo performs Sunday afternoon with Sofia Goodman, while Cowherd joins the All-Star Super Band on Sunday evening. Tickets and full lineup details are available at nashvillejazz.org/jazz-festival



OCT. 25 + 26, 2025

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Arts in the Atrium returned this past Wednesday, October 8, in Walker Library! Students, faculty, and visitors took a midweek break to enjoy a 20-minute concert by the MTSU Flute Choir, directed by Dr. Deanna Hahn. Their program featured Twilight and Frequency by Herman Beefink, along with Adventures in Space by Ricky Lombardo – a beautiful mix of calm reflection and cosmic energy that filled the library atrium with sound and community. Here's to more moments where music brightens the middle of our week!



Photo credit: Grover Baker

The MTSU Jazz Artist Series and Distinguished Lecture Series presents



ROLAND BARBER
JAZZ TROMBONIST

Thursday, October 23, 8 p.m.

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall
Wright Music Building
Middle Tennessee State University

FREE JAZZ CLINIC
Thursday, October 23
4:30 p.m.
Saunders Room 101

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ARE \$10.
MTSU students and faculty get in FREE.

Roland Barber's appearance is made possible by a grant from the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Series.

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Mt Middle Tennessee State University Jazz Studies

MTSU JAZZ WEEK

OCT 20 MTSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE I WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT BIG BAND
7-10PM, SEASONS RESTAURANT, MURFREESBORO, TN

OCT 22 RUDY'S MTSU JAZZ NIGHT
6PM, 809 Gleaves St, Nashville, TN \$12 cover

OCT 23 ROLAND BARBER CLINIC
4:20PM, SFA 101

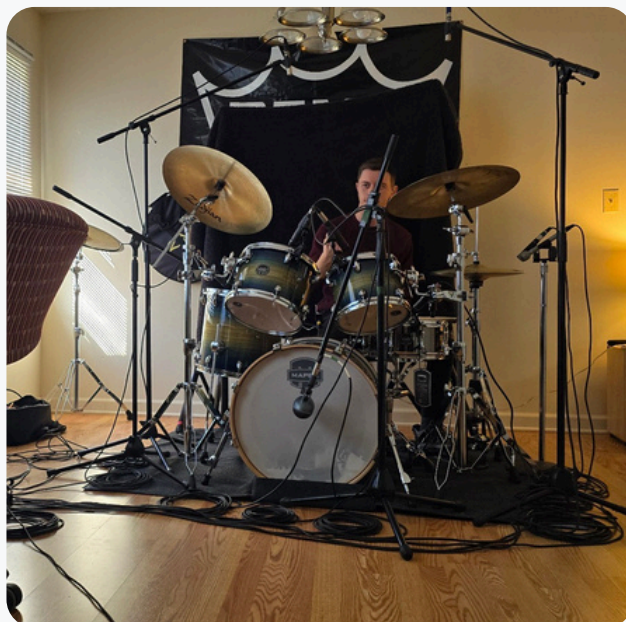
OCT 23 JAZZ ARTIST SERIES - THE ROLAND BARBER QUARTET
8 PM, Hinton Hall, \$10 General Public, MTSU Students, Staff, Faculty FREE



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Alumni Highlight: Erich Smith (B.M. Music Education – Percussion, 2023). Since graduating from MTSU, Erich Smith has built a vibrant career as Percussion Director at Springfield High School, private instructor, and performer. He plays with the Country/Americana band ASHH and the percussion ensemble Igneous, which recently released a video of Prof. Russell Wharton's Lightweaver. Erich credits MTSU for inspiring both his musicianship and creativity: "MTSU taught me to balance the business and artistic sides of music while cultivating an identity in every project."



UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL BREAK – Monday and Tuesday, October 13-14

Saturday, October 18 – Stephanie Jones Studio Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, October 19 – Middle Tennessee Sinfonietta Concert, 2:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, October 19 – Chelsea Liu Senior Flute Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, October 19 – Tuba Studio Recital, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

PARKING NOTICES

October 10

- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – TN Beekeepers Conference: Stu Lot – All spaces
- 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Echoes of the Archive Exhibition: Smith Lot – All spaces

October 12

- 12:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Soccer: Greenland Lot – All spaces

October 12–14

- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Police Training: Rutherford Lot – All spaces

October 13–16

- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – MTSU PD Bike Training: Highland Lot – All spaces

October 16

- 12:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Soccer: Greenland Lot – All spaces

October 17

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – SCCM IHM Meeting: North Ezell Lot – 40 spaces
- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Leadership Music Visit: CYC Dock, Friendship Lot – All spaces
- 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – Volleyball: Greenland Lot – All spaces
- 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – PCA Football Game: Greenland Lot – All spaces

REFRACTIVE ELEMENTS
 BY ETHAN WILSON
 A MULTIMEDIA SENIOR RECITAL

COMPOSITIONS BY
 W-HARTON EWAZEN PSATHAS
 KECK AKHO

OCTOBER 24TH 7:00PM
 1439 FAULKNER DR. MURFREESBORO, TN
 HINTON HALL

MTSU JAZZ NIGHT

*Featuring Current Students,
 Faculty, and Alumni*

**ALL
 AGES
 SHOW!**

Alumni are Welcome to Play!

**Wednesday,
 October 22nd
 6 - 8:15 PM**

**Rudy's
 JAZZ ROOM**

Chelsea Lin
Senior Flute Recital
 Sunday - October 19 at 5pm - Hinton Hall
Inspired by the film Everything Everywhere All At Once

With accompaniment by:
 Gyuhee Kim, piano
 Andrew Oblak, vibraphone

Featuring works by
 Bozza, Harberg,
 Debussy, and Widor




Photo credit: Jenny Snodgrass

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.