

FRIDAY FANFARE - OCTOBER 17, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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



This past week marked the official midpoint of the semester and Fall Break. It is also a time when students are participating in many of the small shared cultural experiences that make membership in the MTSU School of Music family so special. So many classes and studios have their own unique traditions, assignments, and projects that tie students to their peers and to the previous years of students accumulating those little milestones.

On Wednesday, my Woodwind Techniques sections processed to the Wright Lobby for their mid-semester chamber music performances, recruiting audiences from lounges and sitting areas on their way to listen to their public debuts on secondary instruments. I thrilled to hear a number of older students light up and say, "It's that day!", remembering their performances in past falls. Likewise, the halls have been full this week with students sharing their considerable understandings of Beethoven's "Eroica". Clarinet students marked their traditional Duet Day in studio class, while I have overheard several strategizing their pathway to add their signature to Dr. Waldecker's Klosé Scale Club.

Amidst the major markers of recitals, concerts, juries, and recording projects, it is often these smaller cultural touchstones that I hear our alumni connect over when they return to campus. I am thankful for the special community culture fostered in the School of Music and celebrate the collective moments of inquiry and shared music making that sustain it.

FEATURED FACULTY: DINA CANCRYN, VOICE

Originally from Long Island, New York, soprano Dina Cancryn teaches voice and vocal studies at MTSU. She earned her Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music and her Master of Music from Indiana University. A former artist-in-residence at Canada's Banff Centre for the Arts, she has performed with Rome Opera Festival, Nashville Opera, and the Nashville Symphony in works by Mozart, Handel, and Poulenc. Her recording Remembrance: African American Songs received acclaim from William Grant Still Music. Cancryn also tours nationally as creator and performer of PORTRAITS: The First Black American Divas of Song and Opera.



FACULTY NEWS

MTSU School of Music faculty and an alumnus recently performed with the Nashville Opera Orchestra in two powerful performances of *The Shining*, based on the novel by Stephen King, composed by Paul Moravec with libretto by Mark Campbell.

(L to R: Dr. Deanna Little – Professor of Flute, Dr. David Loucky – Professor of Trombone and Euphonium, Dr. Michael Arndt – Professor of Trumpet, Jack Marlow – BM Class of 2020, Dr. Keith Sorrels – Professor of Oboe)



Dow Street Community Music School
1272 Dow Street

Experience Music: Listen, Play, Learn
Tennessee Steam Festival Event
Sunday, October 26 (2 - 5 pm)

Learn about the science of sound through exhibits and hands-on projects, try out instruments, and listen to music.

Free and Open to the Public; activities and exhibits for all ages

TENNESSEE STEAM! FESTIVAL

TUBA AT MTSU

SUNDAY OCT. 19
7PM HINTON HALL

STUDIO RECITAL

RECITAL ATTENDANCE WILL BE GIVEN

Jazz Studies
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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, S10 General Public, MTSU Students, Staff, Faculty FREE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

THE MTSU CLARINET CHOIR PRESENTS

A SCARE-INET CONCERT!

CHILLS AND THRILLS!
SQUEAKS AND SQUAWKS!

FREE CANDY!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28
7 PM
HINTON HALL

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



What a full-circle moment! - In the fall of 2020, Mark Britt was performing with friends and students in the MTSU School of Music's Tenor Bass Chorale (TEBA) under the direction of the brilliantly kind and kindly brilliant **Angela Tipps**. One of the highlights of that concert was GLORY from the motion picture Selma, featuring soloists Caleb "Cal" Mitchell and Devin Bowles—then talented School of Theatre students who sang, acted, and lifted everyone's spirits on campus.

Fast forward to today, and both have carried that same energy to Broadway National Tours: Cal as the Lion in The Wiz and Devin as Joe Jackson in MJ.

The photo below captures Cal with MTSU Piano Technician **Mark Britt** after a recent performance of The Wiz. What a joy to see our MTSU community thriving and shining on the national stage!

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

MTSU Opera Theater presents The Pirates of Penzance at Tucker Theatre Nov 6-9. This powerful collaboration between the School of Music and Department of Theatre and Dance features a 19-piece student orchestra directed by Professor Angela Tipps.

We need \$14,000 to pay our student musicians in the orchestra. Your donation provides real-world experience and directly supports their education.

- \$600 – Sponsor one musician
- \$1,200 – Sponsor two musicians
- Any amount – Every dollar makes a difference

Please consider supporting this production and our students' growth as artists. Contact jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu to help



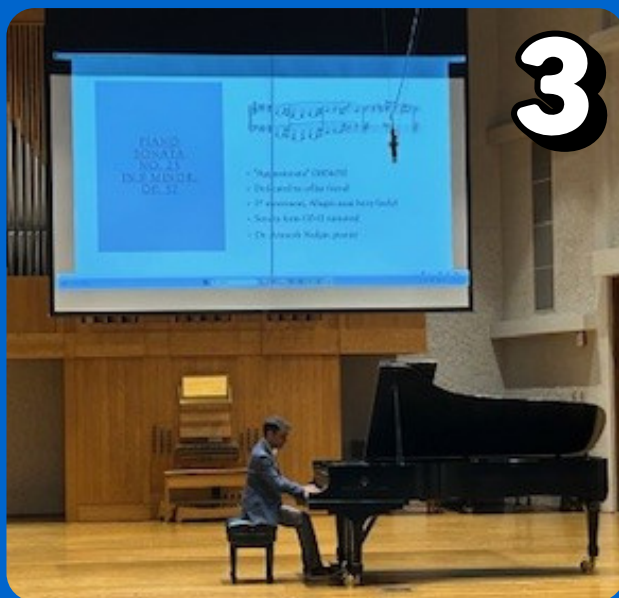
TUCKER THEATRE | NOVEMBER 6-9, 2025

CENTERSTAGE SERIES Ascend Middle Tennessee State University MTSU Arts

TAKE A LOOK AND LISTEN: MUSIC APPRECIATION

Each semester, hundreds of MTSU students experience the joy of live music through Introduction to Music, a cornerstone of the university's True Blue general education curriculum. This fall, more than 750 students are enrolled across 22 sections—12 in-person (including two Honors) and 10 online, led by a team of 11 dedicated instructors. The course's largest class meets in Hinton Hall, where students don't just study music, they experience it. This semester alone, performances have ranged from Bach to Bollywood:

- 1) Graduate teaching assistant Jayna Powell brought Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 to life (pictured below).
- 2) Angela Tipps performed Bach's Fugue in G Minor on the Cassavant organ, giving students a rare look inside the instrument.
- 3) Dr. Arunesh Nadgir shared Beethoven's passionate "Appassionata" Sonata.
- 4) Brothers Chintan and Chirag Katti introduced Indian classical traditions on the sitar.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 20 – Drake Wallace Composition Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Tuesday, October 21 – Drake Wallace Composition Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Wednesday, October 22 – Faculty Woodwind Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Thursday, October 23 – The Roland Barber Quartet, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Friday, October 24 – Ethan Wilson Senior Percussion Recital, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, October 26 – Jakob Young Senior Flute Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Sunday, October 26 – Andrew Oblak Senior Percussion Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

PARKING NOTICES

October 18

- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Volleyball
- Greenland Lot – All spaces

October 19

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

October 21

- 6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Recording Industry Career Fair
- Ezell Lot North – 52 spaces

October 22

- 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – TN Biodiversity Summit
- Rutherford Lot – Available spaces

October 23

- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – TSSAA Volleyball
- Greenland A Lot – All spaces

October 24

- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – TSSAA Volleyball
- Greenland Lot – All spaces
- 7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – COE-URP Scholars Meeting
- Founders Lot – 10 spaces



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.

Ascend PROUDLY PRESENTS MTSU Arts COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS ENRICH MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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.

