

FRIDAY FANFARE - OCTOBER 24, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass - jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu

When my appointment was announced in March of 2025, over 40 alumni reached out to welcome me. The messages spoke volumes... "The place is special, take care of it," "The faculty are good people, be kind to them," and my personal favorite, "The place has a vibe...what are you going to do to make it even better?" told me everything I needed to know about this community. That vibe? It's real, and I'm thrilled to be working alongside our incredible faculty and staff to honor our successes while dreaming of the next chapter.

The past few weeks have been packed with amazing alumni connections—from band directors at the Blue Devils Invitational to lunch dates with couples who met in the Band of Blue or in the classrooms of Saunders back in the late '60s (how fun is that?!), to recent grads who are out there making impacts well beyond just a practice room. Our alumni network is vibrant and alive. Every story I've heard reminds me that we're standing on an amazing foundation built by passionate administrators, faculty, and students who came before us—and we're creating new stories every day. To all our alums: we see you, we celebrate you, and we're so proud of the impact you're making—whether you're in a music classroom, a courtroom, or hosting friends and family in your living room. Music is what brought us all together and music continues to be the pulse in the School of Music at MTSU.

FEATURED FACULTY: ADAM CLARK, PIANO

Dr. Adam Clark, Professor of Piano at Middle Tennessee State University, has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia, with performances broadcast on WPLN, WMUK, and MBC National Television. Praised by New York Concert Review for his "thoughtful expressiveness," Clark has performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Sejong Arts Center, and the Sydney Conservatorium. A devoted educator, his students have earned top prizes and placements in leading programs nationwide. His scholarly work on piano pedagogy has been published in *American Music Teacher* and the College Music Society Symposium.



FACULTY NEWS

On Oct. 17, professors **Angela DeBoer** and **Michael Arndt** performed Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and *La Peri* (including the brass fanfare!) with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. They were joined by horn studio alumnus Jacob Campbell, who also does instrument repair at Bandwagon in Nashville. Jacob Campbell also joined Professor DeBoer on Sunday's HSO performance at Oak Hill Mansion where they performed an arrangement of Telemann's *Concerto á 4* transcribed for eight horns and Mozart's *Serenade No. 8, K286*, an unfinished three movement work composed for four orchestras with each orchestra performing on a different floor of the historic building!



Live from Rudy's Jazz Room! The Jamey Simmons Quintet, featuring MTSU alumnus Jovan Quallo, performed Friday, Oct. 17 at one of Nashville's most beloved jazz venues.

📸 Pictured here are **Jamey Simmons** on trumpet and **Miles Damaso**, MTSU Instructor of Jazz Drumset. Joining them on stage were **Jon Cowherd**, MTSU Jazz Piano Instructor, and guest artist Jovan Quallo. An unforgettable night of creativity, collaboration, and world-class musicianship from our MTSU Jazz community.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Last Friday, October 17, MTSU Guitar students performed a 50-minute concert for about 30 residents at Adam's Place, an assisted living community here in Murfreesboro. Performers included: Norah Wells • Nathan Malone • Kylie Loh • Will Vineyard • Dustin Bloom • Joe Desarla. Their thoughtful program brought smiles, conversation, and a beautiful connection between generations through music. Thank you to our students and the residents of Adam's Place for making this a memorable afternoon!

Our Foundations of Music Industry students visited MTSU's Center for Popular Music yesterday – an incredible archive dedicated to preserving and studying American popular and vernacular music. Students explored rare vinyl, sheet music, and original recordings that tell the story of our shared musical heritage. The Center for Popular Music isn't just a library – it's a living lab for musicians, songwriters, and scholars. Whether your passion is performance, publishing, production, or promotion, experiences like this bring the business and history of music to life.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Share your Alumni news at <https://forms.office.com/r/8Eu72excj6>



This past weekend, Alumni of the Band of Blue from the 1960s and 1970s gathered at the home of **Tim and Linda Tackett** to welcome Dr. Bryan Braue, Director of the Band of Blue and Dr. **Jennifer Snodgrass**, Director of the School of Music. Retired Band of Blue Director Dr. **Craig Cornish**, who led the BOB for over 20 years, joined in the sharing of memories.



Meet **Jason Chafatelli** ('17, Music Education) – a true example of following your passion wherever the rhythm leads! After five years teaching in MNPS schools, Jason landed his dream job performing drums on the national tour of *Chicago the Musical*, playing an incredible 441 shows from 2022–2025. Next up, he's hitting the road again as drummer for the national tour of *Kinky Boots* beginning late fall 2025. Between shows, Jason gives back through masterclasses and Q&A sessions with schools across the country, inspiring the next generation of musicians. We're also proud to share that Jason is now an Innovative Percussion drumset artist—a well-deserved recognition of his artistry and dedication.



Ryan Schmidt (BM, Classical Guitar Performance '21)

Ryan Schmidt's musical journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Ryan is currently based in Osaka, Japan, where he performs as a staff guitarist, actor, and singer at Universal Studios Japan. His versatility has taken him from solo recitals and chamber ensembles to commercial bands and pit orchestras. Before moving abroad, Ryan served as the featured guitar soloist and show band member aboard Disney Cruise Line's Disney Dream, Fantasy, and the inaugural sailings of Wish ('22-'24). Drawing on his MTSU theatre experience, he also performed as both actor and guitarist for Asolo Repertory Theatre productions of *Inherit the Wind* and *Hair*, and appeared with the Young Americans Dinner Theatre in Arkansas.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, October 27 – MTSU Jazz Combos Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Tuesday, October 28 – MTSU Clarinet Studio Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Saturday, November 1 – Ethan Morrell Senior Composition Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 2 – Lauren Parker Senior Tuba Recital, 3:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 2 – Mario Puentes Senior Bassoon Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 2 – Oliva Guthier Senior Flute Recital, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)

Jakob Young Senior Recital

Accompanied by Joseph Walker, piano
Members of the MTSU Chinese Ensemble
Sunday, October 26 - 5PM
Hinton Hall

Lauren Parker's Senior Recital
November 2nd at 3 pm in the
Wright School of Music,
Hinton Hall
Featuring works from:
Robert Sibley, Kayla Hobapple,
Stephen Rosh, Drew R. Truett,
and Philip Catalaet
Syuhoo Kim on Piano
Faith Brown on Euphonium

FAITH BROWN

A Senior Recital

Works by Spencer,
McDonald, Stevens, Molla
Joseph Walker, Piano

November 9th
5pm
Hinton Hall

Reception in IRH
following recital



THE MTSU CLARINET CHOIR PRESENTS

A SCARE-INET CONCERT!



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28
7 PM
HINTON HALL



**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



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 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.

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>



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