

FRIDAY FANFARE - OCTOBER 3, 2025

# NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Dr. Jenny Snodgrass** - [jennifer.sndograss@mtsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.sndograss@mtsu.edu)

Over the past few weeks, I have experienced moments that have filled me with profound gratitude—each one a reminder of the power of music and community.

I had the joy of witnessing our Wind Ensemble students deliver a spectacular performance, and I was moved by the outstanding artistry of our own School of Music faculty in the Stone River Chamber Players concert.

I've watched our graduate students step into the classroom for the first time, becoming so captivated by the music they're teaching that their passion is seen by everyone in the room. I've observed student performances during recital hour, where our students performed with such musicianship that I found myself hesitant to applaud—afraid to break the moment.

Finally, I had the wonderful opportunity to reconnect with some of our incredible alumni at band competitions, in my office, and in their homes, who all shared cherished photographs and stories of the faculty and musicians who laid the foundation for what our School of Music has become today.

We are honored to be building upon the legacy of musical excellence of our alums while cheering on our current student population who bring their best every day. These moments remind me why we do what we do—and I am so grateful to be part of this continuing journey. There is nothing better than an active music building.

## FEATURED FACULTY: JOSHUA BEDFORD

Dr. Joshua Bedford joined the MTSU music faculty after earning his Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Georgia, where his dissertation explored Soviet opera under Stalin. His research examines Russian and Soviet opera, socialist realism, and most recently, the role of laughter in opera. He has presented at major conferences worldwide and published on the music of Alexander Tchernin. His teaching experience includes musicology and women's studies courses at UGA.



## FACULTY NEWS



Last Thursday's **STONES RIVER CHAMBER PLAYERS** concert brought together faculty, students, and community members for an evening of powerful music and connection. From Schumann to Barab, the performances captured the imagination and reminded us why live chamber music is so special. We're grateful to all who joined us in the hall and helped make this a memorable evening.

As part of our **WELLNESS INITIATIVE**, we welcomed Carolyn Jackson from MTSU Counseling Services. She shared valuable insights with our students and faculty on wellness, stress management, and the resources available right here on campus. A wonderful step toward building healthier habits and stronger support for our community.



On Sunday, the School of Music welcomed 24 students (15 euphoniums, 9 tubas) from across Middle Tennessee and beyond for the **GREATER NASHVILLE EUPHONIUM and TUBA ENSEMBLE DAY**. The afternoon included a full-group warm-up, Midstate preparation clinics, a massed ensemble reading session, the ever-popular Low Brass Olympics, and plenty of pizza to close the day. Students left encouraged and energized, with new connections to peers, faculty, and MTSU music students. We are grateful to our faculty and students who helped make the event such a success, and we look forward to hosting these young musicians again in the near future.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



The MTSU School of Music Chapter of the **National Association for Music Education – Collegiate (CNAfME)** recently celebrated the start of the semester with a full week of events designed to connect, inspire, and prepare future music educators. Highlights of the Fall Kick Off Week included a mental health day, a spirited wind ensemble concert contest, and a virtual rally featuring digital guest speakers. Students also benefited from a professional development session with a guest presenter, gaining valuable insight into the field of music education. The week concluded with a kickoff informational meeting and pizza party that brought everyone together in a relaxed and welcoming setting. This year's chapter officers—**Rielly Harris, Jocelyn Bullock, and Miles Hall**—are eager to lead the organization forward, creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, serve, and grow as future music educators.

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

The recent Stones River Championship on September 27 brought together several MTSU alumni who continue to make a strong impact as educators and leaders in the music community. Among those in attendance were **Eric Spear (Lebanon High)**, **Jennifer Snodgrass (MTSU)**, **Ty Jessup (Oakland High)**, and **Mondale Rogers (Brentwood High)**. Their work in classrooms and on the podium reflects the influence of their time at MTSU and highlights the lasting connections that unite our alumni network. We are proud to see these graduates shaping the future of music education and inspiring the next generation of student musicians.



Big congratulations to **Christine Welchel** (M.M. 2024 and adjunct instructor of class piano) on an outstanding achievement! Christine recently earned professional certification from the American Guild of Organists—and received the prize for the highest score on the Colleague exam. This certification is the second of five levels that organists can achieve, marking a significant milestone in her professional journey. We are so proud of her accomplishment!

Congratulations to MTSU School of Music alumnus **Spencer Germany** ('21) on receiving first place in the Bach Society of Dayton 2025 Young Composer Competition! His winning piece, "Stay Yet, My Friends" for SATB choir and piano, showcases both artistry and depth. Spencer now serves as choral director at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, where he inspires students in grades 6–12 every day.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Tuesday, October 7 – MTSU Symphonic Band and Chamber Winds, 7:30 (Hinton Hall)

Thursday, October 9 – SOAL and TEBA Choirs Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Hall)

## PARKING IMPACTS

### October 3

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

### October 7

- 7:30 am – 1:00 pm: Career Showcase – Founders Lot (25 spaces)
- 7:00 am – 4:00 pm: Football Tailgating – Greenland A Lot (All spaces)
- 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Volleyball – Greenland Lot (All spaces)

### October 8

- Football Game Closures
  - Greenland Lot – All Day
  - Division Lot – All Day
  - Smith, Holmes, Jones, Nursing, Middle TN Lots – Close at 2:00 pm
  - Faulkinberry Drive – Closes at 12:00 pm
  - Normal Way – Closes at 12:00 pm

### October 10

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm: TN Beekeepers Conference – Stu Lot (All spaces)

### October 12

- 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Soccer – Greenland Lot (All spaces)

### October 12–14

- 7:00 am – 7:00 pm: Police Training – Rutherford Lot (All spaces)



# MTSU SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4  
8:00 PM



RIMSKY-KORSAKOV-  
CAPRICCIO ESPAGNOL

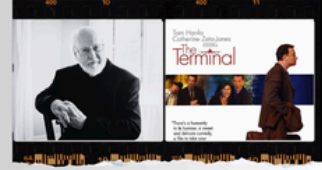
DUKAS- SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

PUCCINI- INTERMEZZO from *Manon Lescaut*

WILLIAMS- STAR WARS SUITE

HINTON MUSIC HALL  
MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
FREE ADMISSION

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

The FRIDAY FANFARE is a weekly newsletter of  
the MTSU School of Music  
edited by Dr. Chris Combest -  
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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](http://music.mtsu.edu).

## 2025 MTSU HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

NOVEMBER 7-8

Apply now! Limited positions available!

Open by Audition to  
Students in the 8-12<sup>th</sup> grades

For Information and the On-Line Application  
<https://www.mtsu.edu/music/orchestra.php>



For more information contact:  
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