

FRIDAY FANFARE - NOVEMBER 21, 2025

# NEWSLETTER

**MTSU***School  
of Music*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Chris Combest, Assistant Director - [chris.combest@mtsu.edu](mailto:chris.combest@mtsu.edu)

As we enter these final weeks of the semester, I find myself appreciating the steady, thoughtful work that has filled our halls since August. Every recital, rehearsal, class session, and late-evening practice has carried its own kind of momentum. You can feel it in the way students lean into new challenges, in the way our faculty guide them with such care, and in the way our community gathers around the music we create together.

This is often a busy stretch. Juries are approaching, projects are coming due, and performances are still taking shape. I believe these moments offer more than pressure. They show us how far we have come, how much we have learned, and how closely our shared efforts support one another. I hope each of you can take a breath, look back at your growth this fall, and feel encouraged by the road you have traveled.

With a new semester just around the corner, I always think of spring as a chance to reset our focus and open the door to new ideas. Fresh repertoire, new collaborations, and the simple excitement of beginning again remind us that learning is a long, generous process. We move forward by listening, by staying curious, and by showing up for one another. Look for a very special final semester issue of the *Friday Fanfare* coming after the Thanksgiving Holiday!

## FEATURED FACULTY: ANGELA DEBOER, HORN

Angela DeBoer is Professor of Horn at MTSU, where she teaches horn, chamber music, and Brass Literature and Pedagogy. She performs regularly with the Chattanooga and Huntsville Symphony Orchestras and appears often with the Nashville Symphony and Nashville Opera. Her work in Nashville's recording studios includes projects for film, television, and video games. She also performs on Baroque and Classical natural horns, presenting lectures and masterclasses nationwide. At MTSU, she is an active member of the Stones River Chamber Players and the faculty concert series. DeBoer has been on the faculty of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts since 2011.



## FACULTY NEWS

MTSU Guitar Professor **Dr. William Yelverton** spent the afternoon with the senior guitar class at Ravenwood High School on November 14. It was a warm and energetic visit, and we are grateful to Allison Cowan for welcoming us into her classroom. To learn more about Dr. Yelverton and the guitar program at MTSU, visit: <https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/william-yelverton>



On Monday morning, **Prof. Angela Tipps** and **Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass** joined WGNS to share their excitement about our upcoming Handel's Messiah Community Sing-a-long and to talk about how the MTSU School of Music continues to invest in the people of Murfreesboro. I always appreciate how they speak about music as a place where everyone belongs, whether you come to sing or simply to listen. We hope you will join us on Sunday, November 30 at 3:00 p.m. in Hinton Hall for an afternoon of music-making that brings neighbors together in a genuine spirit of welcome and celebration.

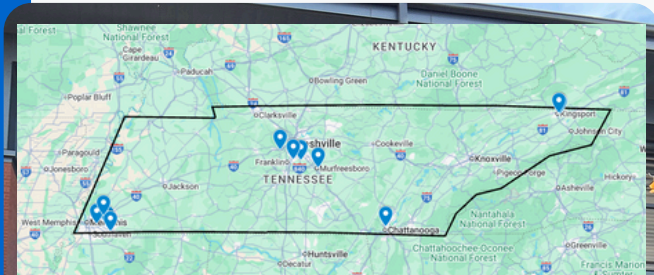


MTSU Piano Professor **Dr. Eunbyol Ko** will spend the Thanksgiving holiday in Korea as a featured presenter and instructor at the Mokwon Piano Festival. During her visit she will also offer presentations and masterclasses at Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary and at Yewon Arts School. We are proud to see her share her artistry and teaching with students and colleagues abroad.





MTSU was well represented at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra's holiday concert this past week. Our tuba professor **Dr. Chris Combest** took the stage as a featured soloist, bringing a festive spirit and a beautiful sound to the program. Also performing in the brass section (pictured below) was MTSU Trombone Professor **Dr. David Loucky**.



Over the past few weeks, MTSU Cello Professor **Dr. Bryan Hayslett** has been on the road sharing music, encouragement, and a glimpse of life at MTSU with young string players across Tennessee. He visited 11 programs including 8 high schools, 2 middle schools, and a K-12 homeschool community. Along the way he worked with nearly 200 students, most of them cellists, and connected with orchestra directors who were eager to learn more about our growing program. Dr. Hayslett believes this kind of hands-on outreach strengthens every part of our musical community. It supports our K-12 colleagues, opens doors for future students, and shows how MTSU is stepping forward as a state leader in collegiate strings. We are grateful for Dr. Hayslett's energy and teaching on this tour, and look forward to welcoming many of these young musicians to campus. To learn more about the MTSU String Program please visit <https://music.mtsu.edu/strings/>



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Several of our **MTSU music theatre minors** traveled to UT Martin on Saturday, November 15, to compete in the TN State NATS auditions. **Seth Pratt, Sarah Henderson, Kacey Clark, and Jester Bowen** all represented our program with real heart and preparation. MTSU Voice Professor **Stephanie Jones** is delighted to share that **Jester Bowen** advanced to finals and earned 1st place in the MT 6 category. A beautiful accomplishment and a proud moment for our community.

The **MTSU Percussion Studio** had an outstanding week at the 50th Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis. Our students stepped onto the national stage with real commitment and artistry. **Ethan Wilson, Sam Campbell, Josue Garza, and Andrew Oblak** performed Austin Keck's *Evanescence* in the Collegiate Chamber Competition, and **Joseph Flores** competed in both the Collegiate Concert Snare Drum and Marching Tenors events. PASIC also highlighted the creativity of our faculty and alumni. **Dr. Brian Mueller** celebrated the release of his new book, *Scenes from the Countryside*, at the Row-Loff Productions booth, sharing eight new intermediate marimba solos with educators and performers. In addition, MTSU Professors **Lalo Davila, Dr. Mueller, and MTSU alum Christian Kilgore** each marked the debut of new publications, a testament to their imagination, dedication, and ongoing impact on the percussion community. A remarkable week for our students, faculty, and alumni, and a powerful reminder of the talent and energy within the MTSU Percussion Studio.





The **MTSU Oboe Studio** shared a beautiful evening of music at their fall recital on Monday, November 17. Students performed duets and solos ranging from Mozart to Britten, along with oboe ensemble works by Florence Price and a new arrangement of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing. Their preparation and musicianship made for a thoughtful and engaging program. Congratulations to our oboists on a wonderful recital.



Last Thursday, November 13, the **MTSU Wind Ensemble** and **MTSU Symphonic Band** closed their season with a remarkable visit from two distinguished guests. **Charlie Vernon**, bass trombonist of the Chicago Symphony, and **Gregory Fritze**, composer in residence, joined our students and faculty for an evening that filled Hinton Hall with energy and imagination. Their collaboration brought Fritze's Continental Concerto for Bass Trombone and Concert Band to life with a warm, jazz-infused spirit. Conducted by **Dr. Reed Thomas**, the Wind Ensemble program also offered a powerful performance of Karel Husa's Music for Prague 1968, followed by Vernon's encore of Henry Mancini's Slow Hot Wind arranged especially for the occasion by Fritze. Their time on campus extended well beyond the stage. Trombone students received individual lessons with Vernon, an opportunity that many described as unforgettable. At the same time, composition students welcomed Fritze into their classes, where he spoke candidly about craft and the practical wisdom that supports a creative life. It was a full and generous visit that left our students inspired and looking forward to what comes next.



The **MTSU Steel Pan Ensemble** gained national recognition this week with a performance in Nashville for the **American Association of State Colleges and Universities Conference**. The group played during the luncheon for university presidents and chancellors from across the country, bringing energy, color, and a joyful sound to the event. A proud moment for our students and for the School of Music.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, Nov. 23rd – Faculty Natural Horn Recital, Angela DeBoer, 12noon (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, Nov. 23rd – Jazz Voice Studio Recital, 3:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, Nov. 23rd – MTSU Symphony Orchestra, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Monday, Nov. 24th – MTSU Flute Choir Concert, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Monday, Nov. 24th – MTSU Jazz Ensemble 2, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Tuesday, Nov. 25th – Chinese Music Ensemble, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, Nov. 30th – Messiah Sing-a-long, 3:00 pm (Hinton Hall)


The MTSU Flute Choir Presents

# A Journey Through Space


Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm - Hinton Hall

With Guest Conductor,  
Cameron Wilson


"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."  
-Carl Sagen



## FACULTY NATURAL HORN RECITAL



Angela DeBoer  
natural horn



Arunesh Nadgir  
piano

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, 12 p.m.  
T. Earl Hinton Music Hall | Wright Music Building

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. I AM trueBLUE.

# JAZZ VOICE

## STUDIO RECITAL

Sunday, November 23, 2025 3:00PM

Talia Bottiglieri	Erin Seifert
Avery Brown	Nick Shine
Lauren Glaeser	Cade Spradlin
Patrick Jones	Jade Taylor
Jordan Mathis	Allison Wildrick
Phoebe Perkins	Elizabeth Wilborn

Daniel Kuk, Piano, M.D.  
Ethan Assad, Bass  
Julia Rich, Instructor

**Hinton Hall, MTSU School of Music**

STRAIGHT AHEAD AND STRIVE FOR TOMORROW



## 月韻

### SONGS BENEATH THE SILVER MOON

Traditional and contemporary Chinese works inspired by the moon

MTSU Chinese Music Ensemble  
Director, Dr. Mei Han

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 7:00 PM  
MTSU School of Music: Hinton Hall

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY. SCHOOL OF MUSIC.



# MTSU SYMPHONY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23  
8:00 PM

RESPIGHI- PINES OF ROME  
BORODIN- PRINCE IGOR OVERTURE  
BADELT- PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN  
TCHAIKOVSKY- NUTCRACKER SUITE  
*Trepak, Dance of the Reed Flutes, Waltz of the Flowers*

HINTON MUSIC HALL  
MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
FREE ADMISSION

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