

FRIDAY FANFARE - NOVEMBER 7, 2025

NEWSLETTER

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

Last week, I had an opportunity to spend several days in the Pacific Northwest working with faculty and students at both Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University. I talked with students about my own journey that led me from voice, to teaching, to research, and then eventually in administration. I found myself reminding students of something crucial: even with detours, I was able to gain skills along the way toward the work I love.

One of the highlights of my trip? Spending time at the College Music Society national meeting, an organization that brings together some of the voices that shape our field—musicologists, composers, theorists, educators, performers, and administrators—to tackle the big questions about music, performance practice, research, and the pressing issues facing music in higher education. I've been part of this society since 1999, when I attended my first meeting as a graduate student. I even had the privilege of serving on a CMS panel in 2012 with my now colleague Dr. Paul Osterfield. The title of our panel was ADVOCATE. We're still advocating for our students, just now from the same building!

The diversity of ideas and backgrounds in the CMS community is what fuels me to return to work at MTSU every day. I like to think we're training more than just musicians—we're developing thinkers, engaged citizens, and people who genuinely want to make a difference in the world. Our new tag line, voted on by the students themselves, captures it perfectly: This is the MTSU School of Music. **Where every note counts.**

MTSU JAZZ Ensemble 1

Monday, November 17th 8:00 PM — Hinton Hall,
Wright Music BldgFeaturing Selections from:
John Coltrane, Mary Lou Williams,
Dizzy Gillespie, & more!Jazz Studies
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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MTSU Chamber Orchestra and select string chamber groups

Places Remembered

Sat, Nov 15 8:00pm

Hinton Hall

Mari Esabel Valverde
Cranville BarrockMartin Ellerby
Jorge Sosa

FEATURED FACULTY: CHRIS COMBEST, TUBA

Dr. Chris Combest joined the MTSU School of Music in 2016 and serves as an Assistant Director and as Associate Professor of Tuba. In addition to his performing, Dr. Combest teaches applied tuba and is also President of the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival. In 2024, he founded the Greater Nashville Euphonium and Tuba Ensemble, a community initiative that expands performance opportunities for low brass students across Middle Tennessee.

Learn more about Tuba at MTSU at:
<https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/chris-combest>



FACULTY NEWS

Earlier this month, **Dr. Arunesh Nadgir** traveled to Dublin, Ireland for a series of performances and masterclasses! He performed in recital with cellist Ailbhe McDonagh at St. Anne's Church and presented two piano masterclasses, one for the European Piano Teachers Association (EPTA) pre-college division and another for college students at TU Dublin. Watch a clip of the Debussy Cello Sonata from the TU Dublin concert here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqLecz3FpII>



The **MTSU Faculty Woodwind Quartet** presented a captivating recital last Thursday evening, weaving together music, nature, and the visual and fiber arts. Performers **Drs. Hahn, Sorrels, Waldecker, and Spring** showcased ten different instruments: flute, piccolo, oboe, oboe d'amore, English horn, B ♭ and A clarinets, bass clarinet, bassoon, and contrabassoon. Highlights included the live premiere of *Three-Ply Yarn* by Althea Talbot-Howard for flute, oboe d'amore, and bass clarinet, and a lively appearance by an eight-legged "guest" during Jenni Brandon's *Spider Suite*. The concert concluded with Dr. Hahn's spirited new arrangement of Saint-Saëns's *Tarantella*.



We need your help supporting the orchestra of *The Pirates of Penzance* production!

Avast, ye landlubbers! The orchestra be needin' a bit o' treasure to keep the music sailin'. Toss a coin in our chest, and we'll fill yer ears with melodies fit for a captain! *The Pirates of Penzance* sails this Thursday - Sunday in Tucker Theater! Donate here: https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/V_G7_Q?fbclid=IwY2xjawN13C9leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFYUDV0ZHU3T3hrWGJVJRGICAR5VAQnRGIMapg1hVh2PMyxkEk9XS9W-tCvdA4E-Za3l7m_279x9vAljSgwz3A_aem_pymqHYjYMaTWI0Fkmete7A&vid=1mmswi

AHOY! CAN YE HELP US OUT?





Dr. **Jennifer Snodgrass** was an invited presenter at the recent College Music Society National Meeting held in Spokane, WA from October 30-November 1. The plenary session was entitled "Defining Professional Futures" and Dr. Snodgrass was able to talk with graduate students and faculty from around the world about the changing dynamics in music higher education. She also was a part of the Student Advisory Council Student Research mentoring session and spent several hours in one on one mentoring sessions with faculty members. Before the start of the conference, Dr. Snodgrass led workshops and masterclasses at Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University in aural skills, teaching, voice, and professional development.



This past Saturday, **Dr. Andrea Dawson** (violin and viola) and **Dr. Bryan Hayslett** (cello) joined Mickey Rybiski (bass, Brentwood Middle School orchestra director) for the TN ASTA Mid-State Prep Clinic at Ravenwood High School! Dr. Dawson and Dr. Hayslett worked with 39 young violinists, violists, and cellists in grades 7–10, sharing techniques, practice strategies, and encouragement as they prepared for their upcoming Mid-State Orchestra auditions. It was an inspiring day of learning, collaboration, and music-making!

We're proud to share that percussion professors **Lalo Davila** and **Julie Davila** have been named to the Pearl Educational Advisory Board! This exciting initiative brings together leading educators from across the country to inspire the next generation of percussionists and strengthen the global Pearl community.

Learn more about the board and its mission here:
https://youtu.be/d9Xd_b4ESD0?si=OVTEcbGmhe98AqUf

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Senior Music Education major **Olivia Guthier** performed a beautiful and heartfelt senior recital yesterday –bravo, Olivia! We also loved seeing **Grace Whitten** take the stage with Fanny Ray and the Sinner's Symphonic, bringing her talent and creativity to this dynamic performance. Both students continue to inspire us with their artistry, dedication, and spirit of collaboration.



AFTERMAN
 Josue Garza Senior Percussion Recital

A S C E N S I O N

PHASE 1	PHASE 2
WHARTON CANGELOSI BAKER VENET SCHUBERT	AKIHO MIKI KECK WALKER TREVINO GADE

HINTON HALL - MTSU NOV. 9, 8:00 PM

NATHAN MALONE

SENIOR COMPOSITION RECITAL

November 6th at 8:00 pm - Hinton Hall

Featuring:

- Untitled (A Guitar Suite in 4 Movements)
- Sketches and Doodles
- Wind Quintet for the Cemetery Community

FAITH BROWN
 A Senior Recital

November 9th
 5pm
 Hinton Hall
 Reception in IRH following recital

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

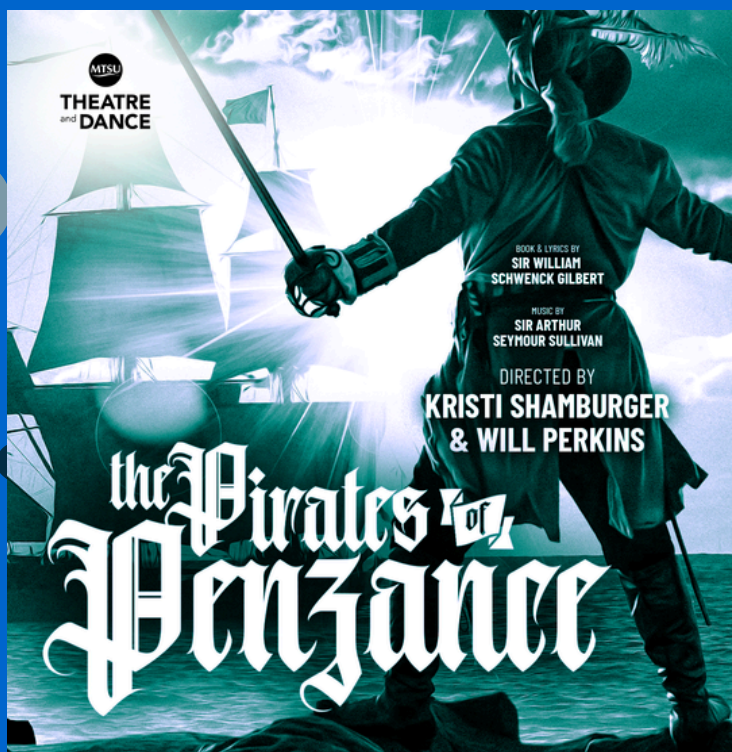
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Share your Alumni news at <https://forms.office.com/r/8Eu72excj6>

We're proud to spotlight MTSU alumnus **Dr. Scott Willis** (B.M. Vocal Performance, 2007), whose career continues to inspire! Dr. Willis currently serves as Artist Affiliate of Applied Voice and Director of Opera and Musical Theatre at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, as well as Music Director at Northside Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga. Beyond the classroom, he leads the Chattanooga Music Academy as Executive Director, expanding access to arts education throughout Chattanooga and North Georgia.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, November 8 - MTSU Honors Orchestra Concert, 4:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Monday, November 10 - MTSU Steel Band Concert, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Tuesday, November 11 - Nadgir Studio Piano Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Wednesday, November 12 - MTSU Guitar Ensemble Concert, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Thursday, November 13 - Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Saturday, November 15 - MTSU Chamber Orchestra, 8:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 16 - SOAL and TEBA Choirs Concert, 3:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 16 - MTSU Flute Choir Concert, 5:00 pm (Hinton Hall)
- Sunday, November 16 - Brass Chamber Ensembles Concert, 7:00 pm (Hinton Hall)



DAWN TO DUSK

Music for Piano Trio by MTSU faculty
Andrea Dawson, violin Bryan Hayslett, cello Eunbyol Ko, piano

Friday, Nov. 21 6:00pm Hinton Hall
Works by Shostakovich, Mozart, and Turina

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.