

FRIDAY FANFARE - JANUARY 23, 2026

NEWSLETTER


MTSU
*School
of Music*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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



This week, we welcomed students back to the School of Music for the Spring semester 2026. This week's edition of the Friday Fanfare highlights our honors recital which features performances by students selected by faculty for their outstanding fall semester juries. While I was impressed by the exceptional talent on display, what truly struck me was the remarkable variety of music represented. From Chopin to Barber to Hailstok, from trumpet to cello to voice—the breadth of genres, styles, and composers was wonderful to experience. Congratulations to all of our student performers on a truly memorable afternoon.

I find myself back in the theory classroom this semester, teaching Theory I every morning at 8 AM. It's been years since I've taught those important 8 am classes, but I'm finding it incredibly rewarding to be among these students, many of them freshmen. When I asked them about their favorite performers and composers, I was pleased to hear such diverse responses—from names you might expect like Shostakovich, Holst, Grainger, Rosephanye Powell, Ella Fitzgerald, and John Williams, to artists like Laufey and Sleep Token who may be less familiar to some. Each student brings their own unique musical journey to our community, and I look forward to exploring the new music they've introduced me to in the coming weeks.

I wish everyone in our School of Music community a healthy and productive start to the semester. Please stay safe with the weather expected over the weekend. These occasional pauses in our routine offer a welcome reminder to slow down and simply listen to the music.

MTSU KEYBOARD ARTIST SERIES



Michael Min
Piano

Friday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.
Hinton Music Hall

Free and open to the public

Performing works by Bach,
Busoni, Schubert-Liszt, Debussy,
and Prokofiev

music.mtsu.edu/keyboardseries

STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY
NASHVILLE

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Ascend
PROUDLY PRESENTS MTSU Arts
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

ENRICH
YOUR LIFE
through your study
College of Liberal Arts

I AM true
BLUE

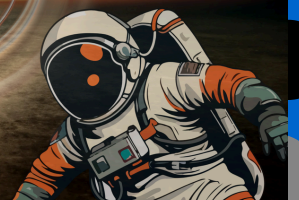
HORIZONS

Chris Combest, tuba
Gyuhee Kim, piano
Brian Mueller, percussion



Prokofiev
Gibbing
Creehan
Penderecki
Corley

MTSU Faculty Recital
Tuesday, February 10th
8pm, Hinton Hall
MTSU School of Music
Free and open to the public



FEATURED FACULTY: CEDRIC DENT, MTSU SINGERS & MUSIC INDUSTRY

Dr. **Cedric Dent**, a Detroit native, is a baritone vocalist, arranger, and co-producer of the 10-time GRAMMY-winning vocal group TAKE 6. After 25 years with the group, he retired in 2011 and returned for their 2014 Gospel Music Hall of Fame induction. A professor at Middle Tennessee State University, Dent directs the MTSU Singers, teaches music theory and a course on Black gospel music, and coordinates music industry internships. His works are published by Walton Music and Anchor Music Publications, and his arrangements and compositions span major ensembles and media projects. Learn more about Dr. Dent at:

<https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/cedric-dent>



FACULTY NEWS

Professor **Jamey Simmons**, jazz faculty member at the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) School of Music, is proud to announce a new publishing partnership with iJazz Music for his original compositions and arrangements.

iJazz Music is a non-profit organization that directs its profits toward educational jazz opportunities worldwide, making this collaboration a strong fit in both mission and spirit.

Explore the catalog at:

<https://www.ijazzmusic.com/pages/jamey-simmons>

Learn more about MTSU Jazz Studies at:

<https://music.mtsu.edu/jazz/>



MTSU MUSIC MONDAY IS LIVE!

High school juniors and seniors, MTSU Music Monday is your chance to step into a real day at the MTSU School of Music and picture yourself here. Registration is open now, and spots are limited. [Music-Monday-Schedule-for-Web](#)

Monday, February 16, 2026 starts with registration, refreshments, and a welcome in the Wright Music Building lobby, followed by a Music Mixer where you can explore areas like ensembles, jazz studies, music industry options, scholarships and financial aid, housing, student life, and more. [Music-Monday-Schedule-for-Web](#)

You will also choose from hands-on experiences throughout the day, including classroom sessions (like percussion techniques, music industry, theory, and music education), masterclass and ensemble options, open office hours with degree coordinators and faculty, and audition opportunities. The day wraps with a School of Music Showcase Concert that is open to parents and the public, plus an evening composition recital.

View the schedule [HERE](#) and register before FEBRUARY 1st [HERE](#)



MTSU MUSIC MONDAY

Save the Date

Learn about Careers in Music
Eat lunch with SOM students
Sit in on classes
Play with ensembles
Seniors may audition
Enjoy a Final Concert
Explore opportunities at Music Mixer

MTSU
School of Music
Where every note counts

02/16/26
All Day Event

Register at www.music.mtsu.edu after 12/19

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



On Thursday, the MTSU School of Music celebrated student achievement and the beginning of the semester at the Spring Honors Recital in T. Earl Hinton Hall. Friends, faculty, and families filled the room to support a program that moved with ease across voice, winds, strings, percussion, and jazz. After a welcome from Director **Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass**, mezzo-soprano **Erin Seifert** opened with Samuel Barber's "Monk and His Cat," joined by new staff pianist **Christine Welchel**. Flutist **Jonathan Oldham** and staff pianist **Gyuhee Kim** followed with Pierre Sancan's Sonatine, and contralto **Cecilia Lovelace** sang Menotti's "Lullaby" from The Consul. Pianist **Kalea Villas** performed Chopin's Etude in C minor, Op. 10 No. 12 ("Revolutionary"). The second half featured cellist **Jayna Powell** in movements from Bach's Cello Suite No. 2, trumpeter **Isaac Swinney** in Adolphus Hailstork's Variations, guitarist **Hazel Crossler** in Villa-Lobos's Suite Populaire, Brésilienne, and percussionist **Cecil Joh** in Pat Jacobs' Alter Ego. The program closed with alto saxophonist **Dylan Kubilus** on Chick Corea's "500 Miles High," with **Daniel Mazur** (guitar) and **Ethan Assad** (bass), and **Sam Campbell** (drums).

The recital was a strong reminder of all the talent we have in the School of Music and set the tone for the semester - thank you to all the performers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 23 – Keyboard Artist Series: Michael Min, 7:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Sunday, February 1 – Slide by Slide: Trombone Takeover @ MTSU, 2:00–6:15 pm (Hinton Hall)

PARKING NOTICES

Friday, January 23 | 7:00 am to 1:30 pm

COE-URP Scholars Meeting

Founders Lot

25 spaces reserved

Friday, January 23 | 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Basketball

Greenland Lot, Hall of Fame, and Raider Drive

All spaces reserved

Thursday, January 29 | 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Basketball

Greenland Lot, Hall of Fame, and Raider Drive

All spaces reserved

Saturday, January 31 | 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Basketball

Greenland Lot, Hall of Fame, and Raider Drive

All spaces reserved

THE MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS:

*David Loucky
and Friends*

2:00 PM

*MTSU Studio
Host Ensemble*

2:45 PM

Slide by Slide
Trombone Takeover @ MTSU

*Midstar Trombone
Ensemble*

3:30 PM

Bone Therapy

4:15 PM

*The Slide
Hustle*

5:00 PM

*Grand Finale
Ensemble*

5:45 PM

HINTON HALL, WRIGHT MUSIC BUILDING 2:00 – 6:15 PM



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](#)

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

To learn more about our programs and events at the School of Music, please visit music.mtsu.edu.