

FRIDAY FANFARE - FEBRUARY 27, 2026

NEWSLETTER



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Christopher Dye, Assistant Director, christopher.dye@mtsu.edu



The School of Music is heading into the final week before Spring Break with no signs of slowing down. This week includes performances by the Stones River Chamber Players, Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble, along with several student recitals and three evenings of jazz performances. We are also hosting a large number of guests on Saturday at the spring's final audition event and the university's Admitted Students Day.

As we celebrate the successes of all of our performers and look forward to welcoming a new cohort of student musicians, we also want to connect with our School of Music alumni. We have just launched an alumni survey to learn more about the experiences of our graduates following their time at MTSU and the ways their degree programs have contributed to their professional lives. This is also an opportunity to offer suggestions about experiences that would benefit our future students as we continually work to provide a world-class curriculum.

If you are a graduate of the School of Music, please watch your email inbox for an invitation to the survey from the alumni office and make sure to provide your feedback. There is even an opportunity to provide a shout-out for faculty or staff to whom you want to give extra recognition. If you have not received a survey link, please reach out to me at Christopher.Dye@mtsu.edu, and I will make sure you are included in the survey. Our alumni play a vital role in the continued success of the School of Music!

MTSU
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

WIND ENSEMBLE *In* **CONCERT**

Featuring
BRYAN HAYSLETT, cello

GALAN TRIO
presents
Kinesis

Monday, March 16, 2026
8:00 P.M.
Hinton Hall, Middle Tennessee State University

Premieres of works by Loew, Gendelman, Slayton, Lavenda, Matheria, Osterfield, and Voliker

The Galan Trio's residency is funded by the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund and the MTSU School of Music.

Voss Violins LLC The cello for this concert is generously supported by Voss Violins LLC.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FEATURED FACULTY: BRYAN HAYSELT, CELLO

Cellist **Dr. Bryan Hayslett** is a versatile solo, chamber, and orchestral musician whose work bridges performance, scholarship, and community building. He is Assistant Professor of Cello and Coordinator of the Music Industry Program at Middle Tennessee State University and a section cellist with Palm Beach Opera. A prizewinner at the Alexander and Buono International String Competition, he has appeared at Carnegie Hall and performs widely as an advocate for new music. His 2024 album *Cello Unlocked* explores connections between music and language. Hayslett is also founder and Executive Director of the Bow and Bridge Society, fostering inclusive learning opportunities for cellists worldwide.

For more information about the Music Industry program at MTSU, please visit <https://www.mtsu.edu/program/music-music-industry-concentration-b-m/>



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Students took center stage at this year's Sumner All-County Band, bringing two days of focused, energized music-making to life. Their preparation, musical curiosity, and collaborative spirit were evident in every rehearsal and performance, reflecting the strong mentorship they receive from band directors across the region. Beyond the ensemble experience, participating students benefited from added opportunities to learn and connect through chamber performances and masterclasses led by Middle Tennessee State University students and faculty. These sessions created space for meaningful exchange, hands-on learning, and shared enthusiasm for music, all driven by a spirit of generosity and service. The result was an experience shaped by students leaning into the work, supporting one another, and rising to the moment together. Their commitment and openness made the event memorable not only for the music they created, but for the community they built along the way.



Senior Jazz Studies major **Daniel Kuk** (piano) arranged and produced an original piece for jazz trio and studio orchestra titled "Strange Lullaby" in December 2025. With engineering by Riley Jermier and Allison Wildrick, graduate audio production majors, and an all-star cast of School of Music performers, this was a truly collaborative effort. Available at Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPVd_aaD-NU&list=RDbPVd_aaD-NU&start_radio=1



Congratulations to **Isaac Swinney** (trumpet) and **Brent Isaac Webb** (horn), who recently joined brass faculty **Michael Arndt** (trumpet) and **Angela DeBoer** (horn) for a Classical Series performance with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. The program featured masterworks by Richard Wagner, Paul Hindemith, and Johannes Brahms, offering these students the opportunity to perform alongside seasoned professionals in a major symphonic setting. Their work reflected both strong preparation and musical maturity, and it was a pleasure to see them representing our program on such a meaningful stage.



MTSU SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
8:00 PM

TCHAIKOVSKY- SWAN LAKE FINALE
HERRINGTON- PHILOSOPHY
(World Premiere)
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV- RUSSIAN EASTER
OVERTURE
BIZET- CARMEN SUITE

HINTON MUSIC HALL
MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC
FREE ADMISSION

MTSU CENTER FOR CHINESE MUSIC AND CULTURE

10th Anniversary Celebration Concert



FEATURING YAZHI GUO

A world-leading performer of Chinese wind instruments; an educator and innovator; a graduate of the Central Conservatory of Music (China) and Berklee College of Music; and a member of the Silk Road Ensemble



HAIQIONG DENG
Director, Florida State University Chinese Music Ensemble



YUXIN MEI
Director, University of North Texas Chinese Music Ensemble



JINGYI ZHAN
Associate Professor, Shaanxi Normal University, MTSU visiting scholar



BEITONG LIU
US-China Music Institute, Bard College Conservatory of Music

With **MTSU Jazz Faculty**, **MTSU Chinese Music Ensemble** and **alumni**, and **Middle Tennessee Community Zheng Ensemble**

Led by **Mei Han**, Director, Center for Chinese Music and Culture

Saturday, March 21 • 7:30 p.m.

Hinton Music Hall
Wright Music Building, MTSU

Presented by MTSU International Affairs, MTSU School of Music, MTSU Center for Chinese Music and Culture, and the Distinguished Lecture Fund

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STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of International Affairs

MTSU JAZZ ARTIST SERIES

-Presents-

The Eastern Boundary Quartet

Wednesday, March 4th 7:30 pm - Hinton Hall

Individual Tickets: \$10 Students and Faculty: FREE!



Nemzeti Kulturális Alap



HANGFOGLALÓ



MTSU

School of Music

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 2 – Jazz Combos Concert, 7:30 pm (HINTON MUSIC HALL)

Tuesday, March 3 – Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (HINTON MUSIC HALL)

Wednesday, March 4 – Jazz Series – Eastern Boundary Quintet, 7:30 pm (HINTON MUSIC HALL)

Thursday, March 5 – SOAL/TEBA Concert, 7:30 pm (HINTON MUSIC HALL)

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.