

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**The 2026
Dr. Tom Naylor Memorial
Solo Artist Competition**

Sunday, March 22, 2026
7:00 p.m.

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, Director, MTSU School of Music

GRADUATE

Pièce Symphonique en trois épisodes

Henriette Renié
(1875–1956)

Elizabeth Currier, harp
Nashville, Tennessee | M.M., Performance (2027)

Hillandale Waltzes

Victor Babin
(1908–1972)

Eric “Sully” Sullivan, clarinet
Toccoa, Georgia | M.M., Performance (2027)
Wenwen Che, piano

UNDERGRADUATE

Chain

Kazunori Miyake
(b. 1963)

Wyatt Crabill, marimba
Murfreesboro, Tennessee | B.M., Music Education (2029)

Capriccio “Hommage á Paganini”

Henri Vieuxtemps
(1820–1881)

Jayden Po’e, viola
Murfreesboro, Tennessee | B.M., Performance (2029)

Fish are Jumping

Robert Dick
(b. 1950)

Grace Gonzalez-Whitten, flute
Elizabethton, Tennessee | B.M., Performance (2027)

Première Rhapsodie

Claude Debussy
(1862–1918)

Nathanael Taylor, clarinet
Fisherville, Kentucky | B.M., Performance and Music Education (2028)
Gyuhee Kim, piano

Légende

George Enescu
(1881–1955)

Sam Miller, trumpet
Mount Juliet, Tennessee | B.M., Music Education (2028)
Sandy Arndt, piano

O luce di quest'anima, from Linda di Chamounix

Gaetano Donizetti
(1797–1848)

Caitlin Clements, voice
Murfreesboro, Tennessee | B.M., Performance (2027)
Christine Whelchel, piano

This Evening's Judges

Gavyn Frankenfield is head band director at Coffee County Central High School in Manchester and a Middle Tennessee State University alumnus. A native of Northampton, Pennsylvania, he earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, graduating in spring 2021. He continued his education at MTSU, earning a Master of Music in spring 2023, focusing on tuba performance.

Under his leadership, the Red Raider Band program at Coffee County Central High School has grown from 47 members to over 100 members in the current calendar year and has achieved success in both marching and concert band competitions. The program was crowned Small Band Division Grand Champion at the Stones River Championship and received a Superior rating in Sight-Reading at Concert Performance Assessment. Frankenfield lives in Murfreesboro with his wife, Hailey, and their dog, Cece.

Dr. Michael Holland is director of bands at Franklin High School and an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University (Bachelor of Music, 2008). He previously worked with the Franklin High band from 2008–2018 as percussion director and assistant band director. The program became a consistent Bands of America Regional Finalist, Grand National Semi-Finalist, and was awarded the Sudler Shield in 2014. The wind ensemble also performed at the Music for All National Festival in 2013 and at the Tennessee Music Education Association (TMEA) conference in 2013 and 2017.

As director of bands, Holland has led the band to consistent superior ratings and American School Band Directors Association Awards of Distinction at regional concert performance assessments. The wind ensemble performed at TMEA in 2025, and the marching band marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in 2026.

Holland is a four-time CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence and three-time National Band Association Citation of Excellence recipient. He has served on the executive board of the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association and served three terms as president of Williamson County Band Directors Association. He is an Innovative Percussion artist and a Pearl/Adams Educational Artist.

Seth Gregory has taught for Rutherford County Schools since 2014, the year he received his Bachelor of Music from Middle Tennessee State University. He currently serves as music specialist and director of choirs at Stewarts Creek Middle School in Smyrna, where he is also a dean for seventh grade students. In addition, he serves as an adjunct professor of Music Education at MTSU, teaching Secondary General Music Methods.

Gregory is an active member of the American Choir Directors Association (ACDA) and the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association (MTVA). He earned his Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Carson-Newman University in May 2021. He is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education at Boston University and plans to complete a dissertation on seven shape-note singing schools in 2027.

In 2018, Gregory was inducted as an honorary member of the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and he was recognized as a Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts Outstanding Teacher of Excellence in 2019. His choir students consistently earn Superior ratings at the MTVA Choral Performance Assessment and are regularly selected for regional and national honor choirs through MTVA and ACDA.

Gregory lives in Smyrna with his wife, Katie Leaptrot, and their son, Kason.

Special thanks to preliminary round adjudicators

Bryan Braue, Arunesh Nadgir, and Reed Thomas

And to accompanists

Gyuhee Kim, Christine Whelchel, Sandy Arndt, and Wenwen Che

About Dr. Tom Naylor

Tom Naylor joined the faculty of MTSU in the fall 1967, teaching trumpet, music theory, and band at the Homer Pittard Campus School. He held four degrees in music: a B.S. from Bob Jones University, an M.A. from Appalachian State University, and an M.M. and a D.M. from Indiana University.

Naylor wrote *The Trumpet and Trombone in Graphic Arts, 1500–1800* and was the author of numerous articles for periodicals and journals. He was a member of The Tennessee Valley Winds, was an honorary member of the Band of Blue, served on the Tennessee Arts Commission, and was a founder of Murfreesboro's Center for the Arts.

He served as chair of MTSU's music department for 15 years and was the director of the Governor's School for the Arts from its inception in 1985 until 1998.

Naylor invested his professional life and career in encouraging and developing young musicians; he would be honored by this competition and excited to hear these performances tonight.

Please join the musicians onstage for a reception hosted by
the MTSU School of Music.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dr. Adam Clark and Dr. Todd Waldecker

PRIZES

Undergraduate

First Prize: \$300

Second Prize: \$200

Third Prize: \$100

Graduate

First Prize: \$300

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