

FRIDAY FANFARE - MARCH 27, 2026

# NEWSLETTER

**MTSU***School  
of Music*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jenny Snodgrass, Director - [jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu)

This weekend, we're thrilled to host our Annual Jazzfest, and we cannot wait to welcome the incredible artists and students who will fill our halls with energy and talent. But that's just the beginning. On either side of Jazzfest, we have three student recitals on Friday and three more on Saturday. Hinton Hall is the place to be and I probably should call in food trucks.

These recitals are so much more than performances. They are milestones and celebrations. They are the culmination of years of practice, persistence, and passion. They are moments when our students share not only their talent, but their journey. In the audience sit the people who made that journey possible, former teachers, families and friends who drove countless miles to lessons, sat through rehearsals, and yes, bought just one more black outfit for the stage. These moments belong to them, too.

And as we close out March, Music in Our Schools Month, we're reminded that none of this begins here at MTSU. These achievements are rooted in years of guidance and inspiration from dedicated teachers. So who was that first teacher for you?

For me, it was Meg Dornbrock, my general music and choral teacher at Kingston Elementary in Virginia Beach. She handed me a set of hand chimes in fourth grade, cast me in *The Mikado* in fifth, and encouraged me to sing and learn for the rest of my life.

In the midst of all the concerts, rehearsals, and celebrations, take a moment to reach out to that teacher who helped shape your path. A simple "thank you" carries more meaning than you might ever imagine

NEW ALBUM  
OUT NOW**KOMOREBI**

D E S M O N D N G

**MTSU** *School of Music*

## Alumni Reception

**Saturday, April 11  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.****Gaylord Opryland  
Magnolia Mezzanine 2-4****Come See Us At the  
TMEA Conference!**

## FEATURED FACULTY: DAVID LOUCKY, TROMBONE AND EUPHONIUM

Dr. David Loucky is a trombonist and low brass specialist who performs across the full family of instruments. He has been on the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University since 1989 and previously served as Assistant Principal Trombonist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared at international festivals and conferences and has spent many years on the faculty of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. His performing work includes the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Opera Orchestra, New Hampshire Music Festival Orchestra, and Intersection, Nashville's new music ensemble. Loucky has performed in multiple orchestral settings across the country and is featured on numerous recordings and studio projects in Nashville. He holds degrees from Wesleyan University, the Yale School of Music, and SUNY Stony Brook, with additional study in Germany and Austria. He also performs on historical instruments including ophicleide, cimbasso, and alphorn.



**MTSU KEYBOARD ARTIST SERIES**

**Sticks and Hammers**  
Saturday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.  
Hinton Music Hall

**David Viscoli and Daniel Rieppel,**  
*pianos*

**Pedro Fernández and Erich Rieppel,**  
*percussion*

Performing Bartok's **Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion** and works by Cesar Bresgen and Samuel Robles

Free and open to the public  
[music.mtsu.edu/keyboardseries](http://music.mtsu.edu/keyboardseries)

STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY  
NASHVILLE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
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Ascend PROUDLY PRESENTS  
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FACULTY

# PIANO TRIO

Friday, April 3, 2026 • 8:00 p.m.  
Hinton Hall

Free and open to the public

**Andrea Dawson**  
violin

**Bryan Hayslett**  
cello

**Eunbyol Ko**  
piano

PROGRAM

Trio No. 3 in G Minor by Robert Schumann

Aubade by Benjamin Godard

Café Music by Paul Schoenfield

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The performances on Sunday night were quite spectacular from all. of the **2026 Tom Naylor Solo Artist Competition!** We are very proud of our students!

### GRADUATE:

**Eric "Sully" Sullivan** (clarinet) - FIRST PRIZE  
**Elizabeth Currier** (harp)

### UNDERGRADUATE:

**Caitlin Clements** (voice) - FIRST PRIZE  
**Nathanael Taylor** (clarinet) - SECOND PRIZE  
**Grace Gonzalez-Whitten** (flute) - THIRD PRIZE  
**Wyatt Crabill** (marimba)  
**Sam Miller** (trumpet), **Jayden Po'e** (viola)

Special thanks to the judges for the finals:  
**Gavyn Frankenfield, Seth Gregory, Dr. Michael Holland.**

And to our judges for the Preliminary Round on March 6: **Dr. Bryan Braue, Dr. Arunesh Nadgir, Dr. Reed Thomas**

Thank you to all accompanists: **Gyuhee Kim, Wenwen Che, Sandy Arndt, Christine Whelchel**



**Brody Adams** earned 1st place in his category in Music Theatre at the NATS Mid-South Regional Voice Competition. **Rachel Oppmann** earned 2nd place in her category. **Caitlin Clements** placed 3rd in the highly competitive JR/SR treble classical category (student of **Dr. Will Perkins**). Pictured here with MTSU Voice Faculty Member **Stephanie Jones**, all 3 students have now qualified to advance to the national level competition. Please join us in congratulating Brody, Rachel and Caitlin as they continue their journey on the national stage.

## FACULTY NEWS

Last Saturday, the **MTSU Center for Chinese Music and Culture** marked its 10th anniversary with a vibrant concert featuring the MTSU Chinese Music Ensemble, alumni, and guest artists including Yazhi Guo, Haiqiong Deng, Yuxin Mei, Beitong Liu, and visiting scholar Jingyi Zhan. Under the direction of **Dr. Mei Han**, the program brought together ensemble and solo works that were full of energy, joy, and connection. Alumni and guest artists shared reflections that highlighted the lasting impact of this community and the role the Center continues to play in their lives. An inspiring milestone. A powerful reminder of what music can build over time. Congratulations to everyone involved in this remarkable celebration.



On Saturday, March 21, the MTSU Clarinet Studio hosted its annual High School Honor Clarinet Choir. Over 50 clarinetists from across the region gathered on campus for a day of clarinet-choir-fun. **Dr. Todd Waldecker** and MTSU's new Associate Director of Bands, **Dr. Bryan Braue**, conducted the ensemble and MTSU Clarinet Studio members led sectionals. The day ended with a concert featuring both the HS Honor Clarinet Choir and the MTSU Clarinet Choir. CLARINET CHOIRS ROCK!



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to all of the award recipients being recognized this year with honors from the Tennessee Music Educators Association, but we're proud to also celebrate several MTSU alumni and friends: **Brittany Jarrell** – Outstanding Young Music Educator, **Mark and Daphne Garey** – Outstanding Service Award, **Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry** – Hall of Fame, **Kathy Waldecker** – Outstanding Elementary School Music Educator. We also celebrate **Catherine Stephens**, Superintendent of Tullahoma City Schools and former MTSU College of Education faculty member, who is receiving the Outstanding District Administrator Award. Congratulations to each of these outstanding leaders making a lasting impact through music and education.

**TMEA**  
Tennessee Music Education Association

*proudly announces*

## 2026 Award Recipients

 <b>Brittany Jarrell</b> Outstanding Young Music Educator	 <b>Grayson Martin</b> Outstanding Young Music Educator	 <b>Kinsey Healy</b> Outstanding Young Music Educator	 <b>Kathy Waldecker</b> Outstanding Elementary School Music Educator	 <b>Carolyn Hankins</b> Outstanding Middle School Music Educator	 <b>Catherine Stephens</b> Outstanding District Administrator
 <b>Ben Channell</b> Outstanding High School Music Educator	 <b>Ollie Liddell</b> Outstanding High School Music Educator	 <b>Mark and Daphne Garey</b> TMEA Outstanding Service Award	 <b>Connie Marley</b> TMEA Outstanding Service Award	 <b>Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry</b> TMEA Hall of Fame	



**Aaron King** (MM, 2013) recently directed the North Side High School Jazz Ensemble at the Indiana State Jazz Finals, where the group was named State Champions. The ensemble also earned Best Rhythm Section, Best Trombone Soloist, Best Saxophone Soloist. Congratulations to Aaron and the North Side HS Wildsider Jazz Ensemble on an outstanding performance!



**DUAL**  
*A Senior Composition Recital by Paul West*

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:45 p.m.  
1439 Faulkinberry Dr,  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

*Abigail Miller, Soprano*

Piano  
Joseph Walker  
Clarinet  
Yassin Adams  
Flute  
Grace Whitten

Works by  
Delibes  
Donizetti  
Liszt  
Schubert

*Junior Piano Recital*

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM MTSU Hinton Hall

JOSEPH WALKER, PIANO

**Jordan Mathis** TENOR  
**Caitlin Clements** SOPRANO  
A JUNIOR RECITAL

FEATURING WORKS BY:  
DONIZETTI, BEETHOVEN, SCHUBERT, VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

SATURDAY APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM, HINTON HALL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, March 30 – Arunesh Nadgir Piano Studio Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Wednesday, April 1 – Percussion Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Thursday, April 2 – Kylie Loh Senior Guitar Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Thursday, April 2 – Cade Spradlin Senior Saxophone Recital, 8:00 pm (SFA 101)  
Thursday, April 2 – Perry Herrington Senior Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Friday, April 3 – Dawson, Hayslett, and Ko Faculty Trio, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Saturday, April 4 – Guest Piano and Percussion Recital, 1:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Saturday, April 4 – Ryan Hungerpillar Senior Recital, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Saturday, April 4 – Jordan Mathis Junior Voice Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)  
Saturday, April 4 – Caitlin Clements Junior Voice Recital, 7:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

## PARKING NOTICES

March 27

- 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- COE-URP Scholars Meeting
- Founders Lot (10 spaces)
- 11:30 AM – 6:30 PM
- Baseball
- Smith Lot (All spaces)
- 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Tennis
- Greenland A Lot

March 29

- 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Tennis
- Greenland A Lot

March 31

- 6:30 AM – 2:00 PM
- SBCME Internship Career Fair
- Ezell (All spaces)
- 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Baseball
- Smith Lot (All spaces)



March 28<sup>th</sup> 2026

Featuring guest artists **Jesús Santandreu & Chester Thompson**



### Schedule:

- 9:00 am – 12:30 Visiting ensembles perform
- 9:00 am – 12:30 MTSU and visiting combos perform
- 11:30 MTSU Jazz Ensemble 2
- 1:00 The Establishment Big Band
- 2:15 Jazz faculty clinic and Q+A
- 3:30 Guest jazz clinic by saxophonist Jesús Santandreu
- 4:30 Announcement of student and ensemble awards
- 5:30 Concert: saxophonist Jesús Santandreu with MTSU Jazz Ensemble I

**\$10 Admission. FREE for MTSU students and faculty**

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For more information, go to:  
<https://music.mtsu.edu/jazzfest/>

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](#)

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](http://music.mtsu.edu).