

FRIDAY FANFARE - APRIL 10, 2026

# NEWSLETTER

**MTSU***School  
of Music*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass - [jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu)

This weekend, I have the privilege of attending the Tennessee Music Education Association Conference where our alums will be presenting in clinics, our current students will be learning and interacting with excellent educators, and we will finish Saturday off with a large alumni reception with live music from our salsa band! That energy, sense of community, and shared purpose among music educators is so vital. I love going to TMEA each year to reconnect and to learn something new. I always leave better than when I arrived.

There is so much to celebrate as we head into this weekend. On Thursday, we were incredibly proud to recognize Dr. John Duke, the 2026 inductee into the MTSU Arts Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor for a remarkable career dedicated to music and the MTSU community. Thank you to all the friends that attended this event.

We are also continually celebrating the outstanding students. Just this week, several students have been accepted into graduate programs across the country or have been named to leadership teams for the Band of Blue. And every day, we hear of a student who will join us in August of 2026, as a music major, minor, or ensemble participant. We are so excited to welcome them to the SOM community.

Finally, stay tuned. There is an exciting announcement coming this Tuesday that speaks directly to the number one reason we are all here: to educate the outstanding musicians that make up the MTSU School of Music. I feel so fortunate to have been brought here for a time such as this.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND EVERYONE. GO BLUE RAIDERS. LET'S MAKE SOME MUSIC.**

**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!*

## Music Theory/History Tutoring Drop in Hours

(held in the keyboard lab, room 212 Saunders Fine Arts)

Monday*	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday*
6-8	7-9	6-8	7-9

Questions or need different times?  
[Joseph.Morgan@MTSU.edu](mailto:Joseph.Morgan@MTSU.edu)

## FEATURED FACULTY: BRIAN MUELLER, PERCUSSION

A native of Wichita, Kansas, **Dr. Brian Mueller** is currently Lecturer in Percussion at Middle Tennessee State University. He holds a Doctor of Music degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (2016). His prior academic background includes a Bachelor of Music degree from Wichita State University (2007) and a Master of Music degree from The University of North Texas (2009). Brian has worked as a freelance drummer, percussionist, and instructor for many years, and is also a published composer. He has traveled and performed nationally and internationally, including as a guest soloist and clinician at the Paris Conservatory in December of 2014, and has performed twice at PASIC. He has been an active steel pan performer with the Bloomington based steel pan group, Steel Panache, and currently plays marimba with the newly formed B-Line Jazz Percussion Trio. Brian performs regularly with the Sewanee Symphony Orchestra and is also an active clinician, presenting workshops and performances nationally. He proudly endorses Innovative Percussion.



## SYMPHONIC BAND

Bryan T. Braue, conductor  
Reed Thomas, guest conductor  
Cameron Wilson, guest conductor

## BAND of BLUE ALUMNI CLUB

2026 Hall of Fame Induction



Middle Tennessee State University  
T. Earl Hinton Music Hall  
Wright Music Building  
21 April 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

The Choirs of Middle Tennessee State University  
present

# As I Was a Child

Featuring selections from Whitacre, Ešenvalds,  
Hogan, and MTSU Student Composer Stanford Orme

Performed by Schola Cantorum of  
Middle Tennessee State University

Director, Will Chandler  
Pianist, Wenwen Che

Monday, April 20th, 7:30pm  
Hinton Hall - Wright Music Building  
1439 Faulkinberry Dr, Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
ADMISSION IS FREE

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

On April 2, singers at Cane Ridge High School in Antioch welcomed a special visit as part of Metro Nashville Public Schools Choir Day. **Dr. Jamila L. McWhirter**, Professor of Music Education and Director of Graduate Studies at the Middle Tennessee State University School of Music, led an engaging choral clinic with the choir, offering guidance and encouragement to these talented young musicians. The ensemble is directed by MTSU alumna Carlie Brantley (BME, 2009), continuing the strong connection between the School of Music and music educators across the region. Dr. McWhirter was joined by officers from the MTSU Collegiate Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, who shared their own journeys in choral music since high school. Graduate conducting assistant Andrew Davis also spoke with the students about how choral singing shaped his life and career path. Pictured with Dr. McWhirter and Mr. Davis are MTSU ACDA officers **Shaunna King**, **Liv Suggs**, and **Emily Girard**.



Congratulations to **Ace Coleman** on an exciting creative milestone. Ace recently traveled with the Sumner Academy Band to Dollywood as the ensemble's resident composer and guest conductor. During the trip, Ace made an official debut as a composer with a performance of the original work "The Breeze of a Spring Morning."



## MTSU CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE SPRING SEMESTER CONCERT

DIRECTOR DR. MEI HAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2026 7:00 P.M.  
HINTON MUSIC HALL, MTSU



## FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to Professor **Lalo Davila**, MTSU's 2026 Conference USA Faculty Achievement Award winner. Lalo is an internationally acclaimed percussionist, composer, and educator whose 38-year career has left an indelible mark on the performing arts. A prolific creator, he has authored more than 50 compositions and 10 instructional books used in music programs worldwide. His performances span global stages and major entertainment productions, including television, film, and video game soundtracks. As an educator, Professor Davila is renowned for his ability to cultivate talent, mentoring generations of students into successful professional careers. His teaching blends technical mastery with creative expression, fostering both artistic excellence and innovation. His contributions extend beyond the classroom through international performances, workshops, and collaborations that elevate the visibility of MTSU and the School of Music. Widely recognized as one of the most influential figures in percussion, Lalo exemplifies excellence in creative activity, teaching, and global engagement. Professor Davila was selected from many competitive applications by a committee of faculty colleagues and will serve as MTSU's institutional nominee for the Conference USA Professor of the Year Award, which will be announced this summer.



*Katherine Beaty*  
Senior Flute Recital

April 11  
5:00PM  
Hinton Hall



Gyuhee Kim, Piano  
Yassin Adams, Clarinet

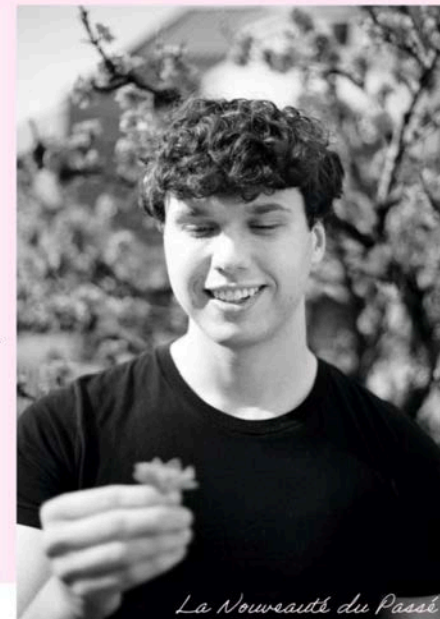


[MUSIC.MTSU.EDU](https://music.mtsu.edu)

*La Nouveauté du Passé*

Sat  
4/11  
3PM CT

Hinton Hall  
MTSU



*La Nouveauté du Passé*

A Senior Lecture Recital by *Jordan Russell*  
with Taylor van Ryckeghem, collaborative pianist

With Guest Performances by:  
Isabelle Kailing, percussion | Jayna Powell, cello | The MTSU Chansonniers

# Matty Travis

## Junior Tuba Recital



SUNDAY  
APRIL 11  
7PM  
SFA 11

WORKS BY:  
VAUGHN WILLIAMS  
BLAKE-JOHN  
PROKOFIEV

ELIOT HINSON PIANO

# An American Sampler

MTSU SOAL and TEBA Chorales



Sunday, April 26th, 3:00 pm  
Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building

Angela Tipps, conductor  
Delana Easley, pianist

JOIN

# SOMSAC

BECOME A  
SENATOR!

APPLY NOW

Applications close  
April 30th

Email [keb8m@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:keb8m@mtmail.mtsu.edu)  
with questions.



DEAN

# WILLIAMSON

## Q & A SESSION

Learn about the music business from the Music Director of the Nashville Opera

April 15 - 12:30 p.m.

- Saunders Fine Arts, Room 101
- Snacks and drinks provided
- Recital credit earned

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 13 – Rawlings/Hassler Recital @ St. Paul's, 6:00 pm (Off Campus)

Wednesday, April 15 – Dean Williamson Q & A, 12:30 pm (SFA 101)

Thursday, April 16 – Opera Performance, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Friday, April 17 – CNAfME Event, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Saturday, April 18 – Opera Performance, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Sunday, April 19 – Dylan Kubilus Graduate Jazz Recital, 12:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Sunday, April 19 – Jazz Studio Voice Recital, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Sunday, April 19 – MTSU Flute Choir Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

Sunday, April 19 – Chamber Orchestra Concert, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

## PARKING IMPACTS

April 10

- CBAS Advisory Board, 7:30–11:30 am – North Ezell Lot (20 spaces)
- Peck Research, 7:00 am–2:30 pm – ING Lot (25 spaces)
- Tennis, 1:00–7:00 pm – Greenland A Lot

April 10–13

- IPDA Debate National Tournament, 6:00 am–6:00 pm – Cummings Lot (All spaces)

April 11

- Tennis, 5:00–7:00 pm – Greenland A Lot

April 13

- TSSAA Hall of Fame Luncheon, 7:00 am–1:00 pm – STU Lot (All spaces)

April 15

- Softball, 6:00–8:00 pm – Softball Lot

April 17

- Retired Educators Breakfast, 8:30–10:00 am – North Ezell Lot (20 spaces)
- Positive Aging Conference, 7:00 am–3:00 pm – MEC Lot (All spaces)
- Baseball, 11:30 am–6:30 pm Smith Lot (All spaces)
- COE-URP Scholars Meeting, 7:00 am–1:30 pm – Founders Lot (10 spaces)

# 2026 SUMMER ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE AT MTSU (NSOI)

**MAY 26- MAY 28**

Open by audition to  
College Students, Graduate Students, Adults,  
and Students (8-12th Grade)

*featuring*  
The 2026 SOI Concerto Competition, An Intensive  
Orchestral Experience, SOI Fellowships,  
SOI Honors Recital Series, Masterclasses, Section  
Rehearsals, Final Gala Concert and more!

**Apply now! Limited positions available.**

<https://www.mtsu.edu/music/orchestra.php>

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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).