

FRIDAY FANFARE - APRIL 17, 2026

NEWSLETTER

MTSU*School
of Music*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Chris Combest, Assistant Director - chris.combest@mtsu.edu

This week offered several meaningful reminders of the momentum and community that continue to shape the MTSU School of Music.

On Tuesday evening, we launched the **"Where Every Note Counts" scholarship campaign** with an inspiring night of music. Our ensembles and the Band of Blue filled the hall with remarkable performances that reflected the dedication and artistry of our students.

What made the evening especially powerful were the stories shared by students, and faculty about the impact of scholarship support. For many of our students, scholarships open doors that make it possible to pursue their musical goals while fully engaging in the life of the School of Music. This campaign is an important step toward expanding those opportunities and ensuring that more students can thrive here.

If you would like to learn more about the campaign or consider supporting our students, you can visit: <https://development.mtsu.edu/music-campaign/>

Last week, the School of Music was also well represented at the **Tennessee Music Educators Association Conference (TMEA)**. Our faculty enjoyed connecting with music educators from across the state, welcoming prospective students, and reconnecting with many of our alumni who continue to make an impact in classrooms and communities throughout Tennessee. It was also wonderful to see such a strong turnout at the MTSU School of Music Alumni Reception during the conference. Gatherings like this are a reminder that the MTSU music community extends far beyond campus, and that the relationships formed here continue to shape lives and careers long after graduation.

Moments like these reflect what makes this school so special. They show the strength of our community, the dedication of our faculty, and the promise of the students we serve every day. Thank you for being part of the MTSU School of Music.

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

MTSU Chamber Orchestra

and selected String Chamber groups

Works by:

Johann Stamitz
Jean Sibelius
Jack Jarrett
Zoltan Kodaly
Grazyna Bacewicz
Christopher Lowry

Directors:

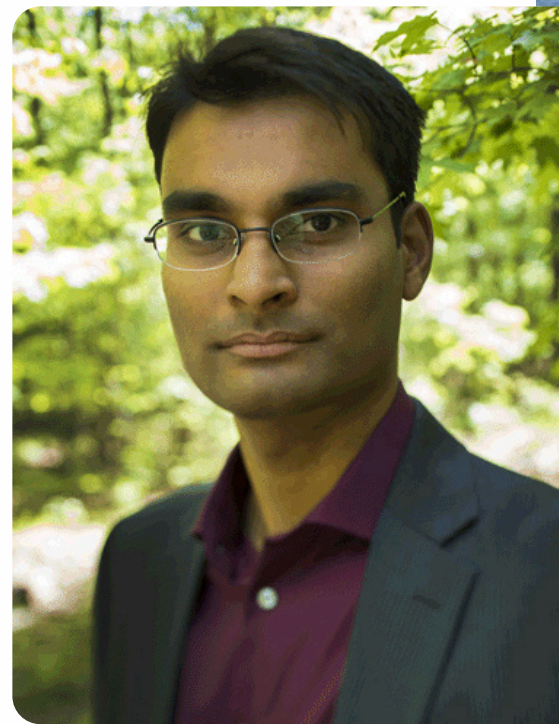
*Andrea Dawson
and
Bryan Hayslett*

and more!

Sunday April 19, 8:00 p.m. MTSU Hinton Music Hall

FEATURED FACULTY: ARUNESH NADGIR, PIANO

Dr. Arunesh Nadgir is praised for his passionate, sensitive, and thoughtful musicianship as a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed throughout the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia, appearing at venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre, and Jordan Hall. He has also participated in international festivals including the Millennium International Piano Festival, the Moulin d'Ande Festival, and the Kneisel Hall Summer Music Festival, and has been featured on live broadcasts for Nashville Public Radio and WNYC. Dr. Nadgir is Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. In 2025, he received the Tennessee Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year Award. An active teacher and clinician, he maintains a private piano studio and serves on the faculty of the Kinhaven Music School in Vermont. His students regularly earn top prizes in competitions and gain admission to leading music festivals and collegiate programs.



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



SYMPHONIC BAND

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

BAND of BLUE ALUMNI CLUB

2026 Hall of Fame Induction

MTSU
School
of Music

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



MTSU CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE SPRING SEMESTER CONCERT

DIRECTOR DR. MEI HAN

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This past weekend, the **Omicron Tau Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia at MTSU** welcomed brothers from across the region for a powerful weekend of music, learning, and fellowship. Students and members joined us from Murray State University, Tennessee State University, the University of Memphis, Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Western Kentucky University for a province workshop focused on brotherhood, shared purpose, and musical growth. The weekend included discussions, collaboration, and an inspiring keynote address from a member of the Phi Mu Alpha National Executive Committee. The workshop concluded with an American Music Recital, where each chapter presented a performance. The evening closed with a province-wide performance of brother Clifton Williams' *The Sinfonians* featuring both instrumentalists and chorus. Moments like this remind us how music builds community across campuses, traditions, and generations.



"WHERE EVERY NOTE COUNTS"

What a night! Last night we kicked off the "Where Every Note Counts" scholarship campaign with an evening of powerful performances from our School of Music ensembles and the Band of Blue. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students and celebrate the impact of music at MTSU. Students, alumni, and faculty shared how scholarship support opens doors and helps our students stay focused on what matters most. This campaign will expand those opportunities and support more students across campus.

To find out more about the campaign and how you can help, visit <https://development.mtsu.edu/music-campaign/>





OUTSTANDING STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to **Cam Wilson** and **Jocelyn Bullock**, who were recognized with Outstanding Student Awards at the College of Liberal Arts Awards ceremony this past Thursday, April 9. Both students represent the very best of the MTSU School of Music through their dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence. We are proud to see their work celebrated at the college level and grateful for the energy and talent they bring to our community. Please join us in congratulating Cam and Jocelyn on this well-deserved recognition.

FACULTY NEWS

Last Thursday, our School of Music community gathered for Recital Hour to honor **Dr. John Duke**, former Professor of Clarinet, Jazz, and Music Industry at the MTSU School of Music (1970-1996). Students, faculty, and friends came together to celebrate Dr. Duke's lasting influence as a teacher, performer, and mentor. During the event, we also recognized him as a 2025–2026 MTSU Arts Hall of Fame Inductee, a well-deserved honor that reflects the impact he has made on generations of musicians. The celebration began with cupcakes and a meet and greet in the lobby, giving many of Dr. Duke's former students and colleagues a chance to reconnect and share memories before the recital hour program. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate a legacy that continues to shape our musical community.



Last week, the MTSU School of Music connected with educators, alumni, and future students at the **Tennessee Music Educators Association (TMEA) Conference**. Faculty and alumni welcomed visitors at the MTSU booth, shared updates about programs and opportunities at Middle Tennessee State University, and reconnected with colleagues from across the state. The weekend also included the **MTSU School of Music Alumni Reception**, where alumni and faculty gathered to celebrate the MTSU music community and enjoy time together.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

MTSU School of Music alumnus Jerran Ahaz Armstrong continues to make an impact with new creative work. His first cross-cultural composition for sheng (Chinese mouth organ) and bassoon was recently premiered at The International Duo Symposium at the University of Costa Rica in San José. The performance featured two outstanding artists: Aaron Pergram, internationally acclaimed bassoon professor at Miami University, and Alexander Strader, acclaimed clarinetist and sheng performer from Texas. We are proud to see Jerran's music reaching international stages and bringing together instruments and traditions from different parts of the world.



Saturday evening also featured the **MTSU Music Alumni Reception at TMEA**, where alumni and friends gathered to reconnect and celebrate the MTSU music community. The event included a lively performance by the **MTSU Salsa Band**, directed by **Professor Lalo Davila**, whose energetic set brought alumni, students, and guests together for a memorable evening of music and fellowship.



Middle Tennessee State University

Commercial Music Ensembles

Monday, April 27, 8:00 pm
Hinton Music Hall
Wright Music Building

Betsy Adair
Theshiona Fleming
Isaac Garcia
Leo Garcia
Quintin Lanham
Meredith Moody
Nick Sizelove
Jack Travis

Directed by
Matt Lund

Patricio Argumedo
Jack Campbell
Max Donohue
Will Jordan
Lawson Santema
Paige Schaffranek
Chandler Schell
Danae Tolliver

JOIN

SOMSAC
BECOME A
SENATOR!

APPLY NOW

Applications close
April 30th

Email keb8m@mtmail.mtsu.edu
with questions.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, April 20 – Andrew Davis Senior Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Monday, April 20 – Schola Cantorum Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Tuesday, April 21 – Chamber Winds/Symphonic Bands Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Wednesday, April 22 – Salsa Band Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Thursday, April 23 – Chinese Music Ensemble Concert, 7:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Friday, April 24 – Jayna Powell Graduate Cello Recital, 4:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Friday, April 24 – Oboe Studio Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Friday, April 24 – Desmond Arias Senior Recital, 7:00 pm (SFA 101)
Friday, April 24 – Clark Ko Piano Studio Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Saturday, April 25 – Dustin Bloom Graduate Guitar Recital, 11:30 am (Hinton Music Hall)
Saturday, April 25 – Hazel Crossler Graduate Guitar Recital, 1:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Saturday, April 25 – Norah Wells Senior Guitar Recital, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Saturday, April 25 – Sully Sullivan Graduate Clarinet Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Saturday, April 25 – Yassin Adams Senior Clarinet Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Sunday, April 26 – Issac Sweeney Senior Trumpet Recital, 1:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Sunday, April 26 – SOAL/TEBA Choirs Concert, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Sunday, April 26 – Flute Studio Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
Sunday, April 26 – Brass Chamber Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)



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>

Carol.Nies@mtsu.edu



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.