

FRIDAY FANFARE - APRIL 24, 2026

# NEWSLETTER

**MTSU***School  
of Music*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Christopher Dye, Assistant Director - [christopher.dye@mtsu.edu](mailto:christopher.dye@mtsu.edu)

Last weekend featured two performances of Georges Bizet's Carmen by the MTSU Opera in which the musicianship on stage and in the pit was exceptional. The opera production is always one of my favorite events of the spring because it exemplifies the collaborative spirit of the School of Music. As we enter our final week of the semester before finals and juries, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the ways the whole School of Music community benefit from the diversity of inquiry and music making represented across our programs and ensembles.

My primary teaching role in the School of Music is preparing our Instrumental Music Education students. As I visited recently with numerous alumni at the TMEA conference at our exhibit booth and during the alumni reception, I was struck by the wide range of memories each person shared.

In addition to shared experiences in concert ensembles, the Band of Blue, and music education courses, alums shared about their time in Salsa Band, playing for theory-composition major recitals, and taking elective jazz voice. They also talked about how they still lean on a peer network of guest teachers and subject-matter experts drawn from friendships established in early morning music theory and history classes, sometimes decades prior.

The School of Music is comprised of a wide array of successful programs, each with distinguished faculty and students engaged in rigorous coursework and professional experiences. However, the School is more than the sum of those parts; each is enhanced by the ways they allow for the expansion of musical horizons and opportunities for collaboration. I am thankful for the value that each component of the School of Music contributes to our vibrant community and celebrate the student and faculty efforts that make it possible!



## MTSU CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE SPRING SEMESTER CONCERT

DIRECTOR DR. MEI HAN

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

## FEATURED FACULTY: TODD WALDECKER, CLARINET

Dr. Todd Waldecker is Professor of Clarinet at Middle Tennessee State University, where he has taught for more than 25 years. His work spans applied clarinet, chamber music, and pedagogy, and he received the MTSU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award in 2006. He also serves on the faculty of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts.

An active performer, Waldecker has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician across the United States and internationally. He performs regularly with the Nashville Symphony and is Principal Clarinet of the Nashville Opera, while maintaining a busy recording career in film, television, and games.

He directs the MTSU Clarinet Choir, featured at International Clarinet Association events, and leads outreach through the annual High School Honor Clarinet Choir. His students have earned national recognition and built careers across performance, teaching, and the music industry.



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Applications close  
April 30th

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



**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)

SOMSAC AND PMA PRESENT

**SPRING  
FLING**

COME UNWIND  
BEFORE FINALS WITH  
US!

**30 April | 3PM - Dark**

Enjoy food, yard games, music and  
community

**On the SFA Lawn**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The **MTSU Salsa Band** under the direction of professor **Lalo Davila** brought energy, rhythm, and a crowd to their feet on April 18 in downtown Murfreesboro, delivering a vibrant performance as part of the annual Earth Day event. Hosted by the MTSU Center for Energy and Sustainability, the celebration brought the community together around sustainability, connection, and live music. The band turned the afternoon into a shared experience that felt alive and full of movement.



The MTSU School of Music returned to the **Adams Place retirement community** to present a recital on their afternoon concert series this past Friday, April 17, 2026. **The Blue Bones Trombone Quartet** performed a challenging and program of exciting and fun repertoire. A highlight of the program was a new piece written by an MTSU student composer, **Bradley Schwartz**. The Blue Bones Quartet members are Instrumental Education majors **Jocelyn Bullock**, **Rielly Harris** and **Ryan Hungerpiller**, along with **Mitchell Elmore**, a Music Industry major. The group has performed numerous recitals over the past two years and has presented educational clinics and performance tours of several area high schools. **Dr. David Loucky**, Professor of Trombone and Euphonium is their coach and mentor. We're grateful to the Adams Place community for welcoming our students and for supporting live music in Middle Tennessee.



Music Industry student and tuba player **Matty Travis** recently traveled to the WGI Championships as part of his internship with Synced Up Designs, gaining hands-on experience in the marching arts and music production industry. Internships are a key part of the Music Industry Program at MTSU, giving students the chance to work with professional organizations, build industry connections, and apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world settings. Opportunities like this help students explore careers across live production, technology, touring, and the broader music business.

To learn more about the **Music Industry Program** visit <https://www.mtsu.edu/program/music-music-industry-concentration-b-m/>



## NEXT STEPS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

We're proud to celebrate a group of students whose next steps reflect both dedication and range. These are just a few of the many students doing meaningful work across the School of Music.

- **Justin Averill** (BM, Music Industry, Tuba) will attend the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music on a full assistantship.
- **Will King** (BM, Instrumental Music Education; BM, Performance) will attend the Eastman School of Music to pursue a Master of Music in oboe performance.
- **Abigail Linville** (BS, Textiles, Merchandising and Design, Apparel Design; minors in Entertainment Arts Design and Music Industry) continues to build a creative path that bridges design and music.
- **Emily Olson** (BS, Biochemistry; BS, Physics; minor in Music Industry) will attend Portland State University to pursue a PhD in chemistry.
- **Isaac Swinney** (BM, Performance, Trumpet) will attend Juilliard School to pursue a master's degree in trumpet performance.

We're grateful for the work they've done here and excited to see where they go next.

**MTSU**  
School  
of Music

Where Every  
Note Counts  
*The School of Music Scholarship Campaign*

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**MTSU** MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC





## FACULTY NEWS

Professor of Saxophone **Don Aliquo** is launching a new five-song EP and video series, with a new track expected each week. The first release is now live on YouTube, with video clips also appearing on Instagram and Facebook. Recorded with a stellar rhythm section, the series offers an inside look at the creative process through weekly video releases and performances. Take a listen and follow along as each new track drops.

Listen to the first track here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@donaliquo8730>

MTSU Clarinet Professor **Dr. Todd Waldecker** is helping bring new life to a powerful ensemble tradition.

They recently authored an article on the value of clarinet choir, with practical ideas for starting one in middle and high school band programs. The piece highlights how clarinet choirs build tone, listening skills, and a strong sense of community. Published through VandorenUSA/Dansr's WAVE Newsletter, this work reflects a commitment to both teaching and the future of music education.

Read the article:

<https://www.dansr.com/resources/clarinet-choir-rocks-building-sound-skills-and-community>

Learn more about Clarinet Studies at MTSU:

<https://music.mtsu.edu/clarinetstudies/>



## 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

## An American Sampler

MTSU SOAL and TEBA Chorales



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, April 26 – Isaac Swinney 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)
- Monday, April 27 – Commercial Music Ensemble Concert, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Tuesday, April 28 – Horn Studio Recital, 2:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Tuesday, April 28 – Concert Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Wednesday, April 29 – Jillian Dillehay Senior Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Wednesday, April 29 – Alana Greene Senior Composition Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Wednesday, April 29 – MTSU Bass Studio Recital, 8:00 pm (SFA 101)
- Friday, May 1 – Juries and Final Exams, All Day (Hinton Music Hall)
- Saturday, May 2 – Juries and Final Exams, All Day (Hinton Music Hall)
- Sunday, May 3 – Middle Tennessee Choral Society, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)

## CAMPUS PARKING & EVENT IMPACTS

- Apr 24 | 4–10 pm – Experience Church Worship Night
- Greenland & Livestock Lots (Faulkinberry Dr.) – all spaces reserved
- Apr 29 | 5–10 pm – MTSU Signature Event Student Concert
- Greenland & Livestock Lots – all spaces reserved
- Apr 29–30 | 9 am–10 pm – Raider's Choice Awards
- Champion roadway (front of Tucker) + Faulkinberry side spaces
- Apr 30 – 4–9 pm Choral Society Rehearsal (Midget Lot) | 6–8 pm Softball (Softball Lot)
- May 1 – 4–6 pm Softball (Softball Lot) | 7 am–11 pm VIP Talent (Champion Lot, front of Tucker – all spaces) | 11:30 am–9 pm Baseball (Smith Lot – all spaces)
- May 2 | 12–2 pm – Softball | Softball Lot
- May 3 | 8 am–4 pm – Choral Society Concert | Midget Lot + Nursing

# 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](mailto: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](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).