

FRIDAY FANFARE - APRIL 3, 2026

# NEWSLETTER

**MTSU***School  
of Music*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

We are looking forward to connecting with many of our alumni next week at the TMEA Conference! We are hosting a reception from 5:30-7:30pm on Saturday, April 11 at the conference and will have a number of students and faculty present and eager to connect, including our recently announced Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Matthew Taylor. Make plans to attend and celebrate the School of Music!

I want to thank the many alumni who have responded to our alumni survey. It is not too late to participate; use the link in your email from the alumni office or email me at [Christopher.dye@mtsu.edu](mailto:Christopher.dye@mtsu.edu) for an access link. We will also have a link available at the MTSU booth in the exhibit hall at TMEA. In addition to letting us know about how you have used your degree and providing feedback to help us continue to innovate our curriculum, the survey includes the opportunity to share feedback about the School of Music and shout-out particular faculty members. Here are a few recent submissions:

"I appreciate that my time at MTSU started me on the path and that you continue to train the music educators of the future" (BM, 1973).

"**Dr. Brian Mueller** is one of the most transformative professors I have had; the consummate professional" (MM, 2019).

"**Dr. Todd Waldecker** and **Professor Craig Cornish's** encouragement and support changed my entire life for the better" (BM, 2009).

We look forward to hearing from more alums and sharing the affirmations with faculty, staff, and the whole community!

**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: JAMILA L. MCWHIRTER, MUSIC ED. AND GRAD. STUDIES

Dr. Jamila L. McWhirter is Professor of Music Education and Director of Graduate Studies at the Middle Tennessee State University School of Music. She previously served as Coordinator of Music Education for more than a decade and helped launch the university's Master of Arts in Liberal Arts program. Nationally, she served eight years as Chair of the American Choral Directors Association Standing Committee on Education and Communication and has been a member of the Music Educators Journal Editorial Advisory Board. She is the author of *A Creative Duet: Mentoring Strategies for Emerging Music Educators* (Oxford University Press), with research published in leading music education journals and presented at national conferences. Dr. McWhirter is an active guest conductor, clinician, presenter, and adjudicator across the United States. She recently conducted a national festival chorus in Carnegie Hall as part of Mid-America Productions' 40th Anniversary Concert Series and has been invited to return as guest conductor in 2026. She is currently in her 36th year of teaching.



**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 SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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I AM true BLUE

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

Scholar's Week at MTSU featured a strong showing from our student musicians. **The 006 Trombone Quartet** was selected to perform as part of this year's event, sharing their work with the campus community and representing the creativity and scholarship happening in the School of Music. Opportunities like Scholar's Week highlight how performance and research come together. Our students continue to show that musical artistry is also a form of inquiry, collaboration, and discovery. Congratulations to the members of the 006 Trombone Quartet for representing the School of Music so well. **THANK YOU!**



The music was swinging all day at the **MTSU Illinois Jacquet Jazz Festival** on March 28. Seven visiting bands joined four MTSU jazz combos, with performances from faculty and appearances by Jazz Ensembles 1 and 2. The energy built throughout the day and carried straight into the evening capstone concert. The highlight of the night came from guest artist and MTSU alumnus Jesús Santandreu, whose original compositions and powerhouse tenor saxophone playing brought the house down. Missed the finale?

Watch the capstone concert livestream here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhj4pFe94Yc&t=6937s>

## FACULTY NEWS

Singers from Robbinsdale Cooper High School in New Hope, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis, visited the MTSU School of Music during their recent tour of Nashville. The singers from several of the RCHS choirs under the direction of Jennifer Rowan enjoyed a two-hour choral clinic with **Dr. Jamila McWhirter**, Professor of Choral Music Education. Dr. McWhirter instructed them on techniques they can incorporate into their upcoming performance of their tour octavos.



★★★★★ ETHAN ASSAD      ★★★★★ CECIL JOH      ★★★★★ STACI SPRING      ★★★★★ MARIO PUENTES      ★★★★★ CHRISTINE WHELCHEL

"THIS IS THE WAY" AJ WAGNER      "IT'S ALL SO FAMILIAR YET I KNOW I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE. I FEEL SO AT HOME" SEAN YARNELL      "YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE... SO SEE THE BLUESOONS TWICE!" ANDREJS JANSONS

"BASSOONS, UH, FIND A WAY" AUSTIN MILLS      "HERE'S TO THE BASSOONS WHO DREAM" JAMES ORME      "AN OFFER YOU CANT REFUSE" CADENCE RUSSELL

"A DAY MAY COME WHEN THE COURAGE OF THE BASSOONS FAIL... BUT IT IS NOT THIS DAY!" CHARLIE MILLER      "THEY'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN IT'S ILLEGAL" IAN HAND

# LIGHTS, CAMERA, BASSOON!

A MTSU BLUESOONS PRODUCTION

3 SETUPS. 10 BASSOONS. 150 MILLION NOTES.  
1 CHANCE TO PULL IT OFF.  
ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU OUT?

**COMING SOON TO HINTON HALL**  
**April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

MUSIC.MTSU.EDU



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

# 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.



JOSEPH WALKER, PIANO

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

FEATURING WORKS BY:

DONIZETTI  
BEETHOVEN  
SCHUMANN

SCHUBERT  
WEILL  
VIARDOT



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, April 6 – Concert Band Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Tuesday, April 7 – Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Wednesday, April 8 – Bassoon Studio Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Wednesday, April 8 – Donovan Hamlett Graduate Trumpet Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Thursday, April 9 – Daniel Mazur Senior Jazz Guitar Recital, 6:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Thursday, April 9 – MTSU Guitar Ensemble Recital, 8:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Saturday, April 11 – Issac Ivy Graduate Percussion Recital, 1:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Saturday, April 11 – Jordan Russell BA Capstone, 3:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Saturday, April 11 – Kaite Beatty Senior Flute Recital, 5:00 pm (Hinton Music Hall)
- Sunday, April 12 – Matty Travis Junior Tuba Recital, 7:00 pm (SFA 117)

## PARKING IMPACTS

- Apr 3 | 4–6 PM – Softball, Softball Lot
- Apr 4 | 12–2 PM – Softball, Softball Lot
- Apr 5 | 8 AM–12 PM – Bethel Church Easter Service, Greenland Lot
- Apr 6 | 11 AM–2 PM – Ben Austin Social Science Symposium, Faulkinberry Dr (6 spaces)
- Apr 7 | 11:30 AM–6:30 PM – Baseball, Smith Lot (all spaces)
- Apr 8–11 AM – Womack Commons Groundbreaking, Rec Lot (all spaces)
- 7 AM–3:30 PM – TN Public Health Association Meeting, KOM / Jackson / Alma Mater Lots (85 spaces)
- 7 AM–4 PM – TN Deans & Directors Meeting, Smith Lot (25 spaces)
- Apr 9 | 7 AM–4 PM – TN Deans & Directors Meeting, Smith Lot (75 spaces)
- Apr 10 AM–2:30 PM – Peck Research, ING Lot (25 spaces)
- 1–7 PM – Tennis, Greenland A Lot
- Apr 10–13 | 6 AM–6 PM – IPDA Debate National Tournament, Cummings Lot (all spaces)
- Apr 11 | 5–7 PM – Tennis, Greenland A Lot

**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

MTSU School of Music

Music Middle

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).