

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

STATE UNIVERSITY®

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

A Faculty Jazz Recital

The Jamey Simmons Sextet

Thursday, October 1, 2026
8:00 p.m.

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

The Jamey Simmons Sextet

Don Aliquo, tenor and alto saxophones
Jamey Simmons, trumpet and flugelhorn
Desmond Ng, trombone
Pat Coil, piano
Jack Aylor, bass
Josh Cook, drums

Find Joy

Jamey Simmons
(b. 1970)

Wayne Shorter Medley

Wayne Shorter
(1933–2023)
arr. Simmons

1. Adam's Apple
2. Infant Eyes
3. Wildflower

Three Parables

Jamey Simmons

1. The Sower
2. The Hope of Healing
3. Beef Barbecue Time

Smokin'

Hank Mobley
(1930–1986)
arr. Simmons

These selections are very special to me for a variety of reasons, but they all have one thing in common: I enjoy them as vehicles for expression.

Wayne Shorter has been a great inspiration to me as an artist because of his knack for composing sophisticated tunes that are deeply fulfilling for the improviser. In his music, there is always a balance of graceful melodies with rhythmic, melodic, and formal elements that are unexpected. Just like a twist in a great novel that we never saw coming, Wayne could surprise his listeners and then weave his way back to a beautiful resolution.

I also believe that his tunes work especially well with a six-piece group because of his tenure with one of the greatest jazz sextets of all time, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, for whom he served as music director. His hard-bop compatriot Hank Mobley penned the fast blues “Smokin’” in the style of the Blue Note recordings of the early 1960s. I look forward to arranging more music by the player whom Leonard Feather called the “middleweight champion of the tenor.”

The “**Three Parables**” are inspired by three biblical parables of Jesus. Jesus used these simple stories to communicate profound truths, speaking to his humble followers while deliberately concealing their meaning from the proud people who opposed him. Here are a few thoughts about the pieces:

The Sower

In this parable, the music attempts to capture the image of seed—the Word of God—falling on different kinds of soil, representing human hearts. Some hearts are prepared for the seed, while others are not. The fertile soil bears fruit because they “heard the word with a noble and good heart.”

The initial motif repeats several times as the seed falls in different places. In the end, listen for the upward/reversed motion of the original motif as it grows toward the sun.

The Hope of Healing

This heartfelt ballad attempts to communicate a moment of healing brought about by a Samaritan who helps a man who has been mercilessly beaten and robbed on the highway. He pours oil on his wounds, bandages him, and pays a substantial amount of money to provide for his recuperation at an inn.

This well-known story is Jesus’ answer to the religious authorities’ question, “Who is my neighbor?” In the parable he expands the notion of love for neighbor past usual social boundaries, with the ultimate fulfillment coming through Christ’s death for all nations, tribes, and tongues.

Beef Barbecue Time

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is one of the most beloved parables in the Bible. It tells of two sons who are both lost, but in very different ways. One leaves his family with his share of the inheritance, travels to a distant land, lives in complete revelry, and eventually becomes destitute. The other remains at home, living a rigorous life of morality and serving his father on the family farm.

Ironically, both sons are equally lost and, in different ways, are primarily interested in getting “their fair share” of the estate.

When the prodigal son finally returns, the father runs to meet him and throws a great feast filled with music and celebration. This is music to accompany a barbecue!

It is truly a privilege to write and play music with my colleagues, friends, and fellow artists. I am so grateful for their hard work, dedication, and willing spirit in preparing this music. And thank you, the audience, for being with us for the performance.

Jamey

Middle Tennessee State University

School of Music

Dr. Leah Lyons, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, Director
Dr. Chris Combest, Associate Director
Dr. Will Perkins, Assistant Director
Dr. Jamila McWhirter, Graduate Studies Director
Mr. Mark Britt, Piano Technician

All concerts are open to the public.

Visit music.mtsu.edu/calendar for the most up-to-date list of upcoming performances.

Visit mtsu.edu/musiclivestream to watch live or recorded concerts.

Support the MTSU School of Music

The School of Music has a proud history of providing an outstanding education to thousands of students who have gone on to successful careers. We are passionate about music and excited to be at the forefront of educating musicians for our state and beyond. We invite you to make a tax-deductible gift to support the School of Music. Your donation will have a significant impact on current and future MTSU students as they become the next generation of composers, conductors, educators, historians, industry specialists, performers, and music theorists. For more information, contact Meredith Kerr, College of Liberal Arts development officer, at 615-898-5223 or meredith.kerr@mtsu.edu.

Please join us in thanking
Ascend Federal Credit Union
for supporting
15 seasons of MTSU Arts.



PROUDLY
PRESENTS

MTSU Arts
ART • DANCE • MUSIC • THEATRE

**ENRICH
YOUR LIFE**
showcase your skills
College of Liberal Arts



I AM *true*
BLUE