

FRIDAY FANFARE - SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

NEWSLETTER

MTSU
*School
of Music*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Will Perkins, Assistant Director - william.perkins@mtsu.edu



Over the past couple of weeks I have had the privilege of participating in open discussions with students and faculty. At our first Donuts with Directors meeting of the semester, students came to share their thoughts about what they feel is working well, what can be improved, and their general impressions about our School of Music. Last week during our weekly recital hour I moderated a panel called Faculty Unplugged where students asked questions in real time of several of our faculty members. No topic was off limits, and I was impressed by the breadth and depth of their curiosity. By the time we concluded, we had covered everything from how to get on the gig circuit to navigating difficulties in your education to concerns about financial stability as a musician. And in a wonderfully lighthearted moment, we discovered that our new professor of theory, Dr. Stoltz, can do a pretty impressive death metal scream.

I am constantly amazed by the caliber of our students. It is readily apparent that they are not here simply to make pretty sounds. They are insightful multi-dimensional thinkers and artists - some fairly established and others just beginning to discover their path. Wherever their roads lead, I see them walking with pride, and that to me is one very important measure of a thriving program. I suspect that a few of our students will land exactly where they intend to, but many others will find themselves in alternate versions of the reality they envisioned. But no matter their final destinations, I cannot help but be inspired by how they are paving the way with intentionality, individuality, and an understanding that great art has its basis in great community. I have no doubt that their contributions will touch countless others, and that makes what we do worth every bit of our investment.

FEATURED FACULTY



Dr. Carol Nies serves as Director of the MTSU Symphony Orchestra, where she works closely with students to develop their skills as orchestral musicians while building meaningful experiences through performance and collaboration. She also directs the Summer Orchestral Institute at MTSU, extending that commitment to the development of young musicians beyond the academic year. An accomplished conductor and orchestral musician, Dr. Nies brings extensive professional experience to her work with MTSU students. Her career has included conducting positions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Curb Youth Symphony, and Nashville Youth Orchestra, along with guest conducting appearances in the United States and internationally. She also serves as Director of the Rome Music Festival in Italy.

Dr. Nies holds a DMA in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and an MM in Double Bass Performance from the Yale School of Music, bringing both conducting and performance perspectives to her teaching and leadership at MTSU.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The MTSU School of Music was pleased to welcome **Timothy Higgins, Principal Trombone of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, to campus today for a masterclass with our Brass Area students. Students had the opportunity to perform, work with Mr. Higgins, and learn from his perspective as one of today's leading orchestral brass musicians.

The visit continued last night, when Higgins joined the MTSU Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Reed Thomas, as featured soloist on his own Concerto for Trombone. The program also included John Cameron Wilson's Ignis Fanfare, featuring guest conductor Dr. Heather Baker, and Gustav Holst's First Suite in E-flat.



Hosted by MTSU Double Reed Faculty
Dr. Keith Sorrels, oboe/English horn
Dr. Staci Spring, bassoon/contrabass



REGISTER HERE!

MTSU Double Reed Day

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2026
WRIGHT MUSIC BUILDING**

Join us for a fun day of workshops, double reed ensemble, performances, and a special double reed version of the Scottish Highland Games!

Featuring special guests!



Dick Hensold & Rosalind Buda

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE MTSU DISTINGUISHED LECTURE FUND & BARTON CANE



FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Nolan Stolz, Lecturer of Music Theory in the MTSU School of Music, recently presented his electroacoustic composition and music-film *Standing Waves* at Click Fest in Columbia, Missouri.

The presentation highlights Dr. Stolz's creative work at the intersection of composition, electronic music, and visual media, bringing his work to audiences beyond MTSU and contributing to the School of Music's growing presence in contemporary and interdisciplinary music.

Photo: Dr. Nolan Stolz introduces his electroacoustic composition and music-film *Standing Waves* at Click Fest in Columbia, Missouri.



THE MTSU SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS A

FACULTY RECITAL

Todd Waldecker
CLARINET

Adam Clark
PIANO

Bryan Hayslett
CELLO

PROGRAM:

Aaron Copland
Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Peter Schickele
Duo Sonata

Paquito D'Rivera
Three Pieces

Robert Muczynski
Fantasy Trio

Thursday,
September 17, 2026
7 pm

HINTON HALL
MTSU CAMPUS

ADMISSION FREE

A Faculty Recital: *Premieres of three works by* **Paul Osterfield**



Monday, September 14, 2026
8:00 P.M.
Hinton Hall, Middle Tennessee State University

With performers:

MTSU faculty: Andrea Dawson, Bryan Hayslett, Brian Mueller, Keith Sorrels
Belmont University faculty: Kristian Klefstad
Nashville Symphony Orchestra members: John Maple, Clare Yang

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 11 – SOM Game Night, 5:00 pm (SFA 207)

Sunday, September 13 – Smith, Nadgir, & Sorrells Faculty Recital, 3:00 pm

Monday, September 14 – Paul Osterfield Composition Recital, 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 16 – School of Music Karaoke Night, 6:00 pm (SFA 117)

Thursday, September 17 – Waldecker and Clark Faculty Recital, 7:00 pm

Friday, September 18 – CNAfME Meeting, 4:00 pm



SCOTT BORCHETTA COLLEGE OF
MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT
AND

TOM T. HALL WRITERS SERIES

PRESENTS

A CONVERSATION WITH KRISTIAN AND BRANDON BUSH



TOM T. HALL
WRITERS SERIES



KRISTIAN BUSH

CO-FOUNDER OF THE COUNTRY
MUSIC DUO SUGARLAND AND
PRODUCER FOR MEGAN MORONEY



BAS STATE FARM ROOM (S102)
September 17, 2026
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm



BRANDON BUSH

MUSICIAN FOR SUGARLAND,
TRAIN, JOHN MAYER AND
MORE

9/25/26
SFA 303
3:00PM

Jazz Jam

ALL ARE
WELCOME!



**J.A.M.
Presents**

@MTSU_JAM



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FEATURING MTSU STUDENTS



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
6:30-8PM**

**MTSU STUDENTS:
FLASH YOUR STUDENT ID &
GET 20% OFF YOUR ORDER!**

(EXCLUDES HAPPY HOUR, ALCOHOL, TAX AND GRATUITY.)



SCAN FOR MORE INFO!

2026 MTSU HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

NOVEMBER 13-14

Apply now! Limited positions available!

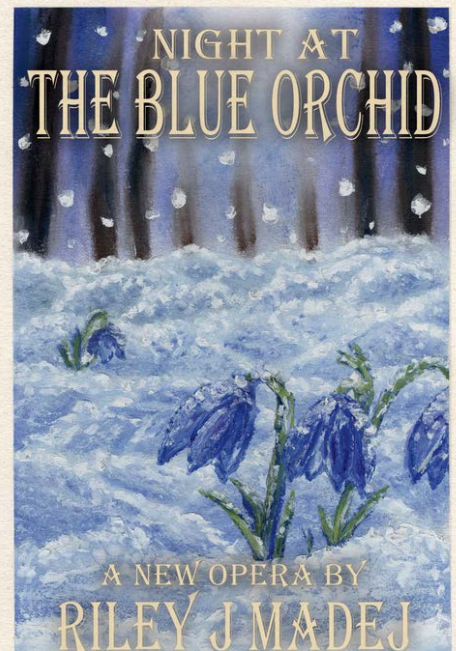
Open by Audition to
Students in the 8-12th grades

For Information and the On-Line Application

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



For more information contact:
Dr. Carol Nies, Director of Orchestras
MTSU School of Music
carol.nies@mtsu.edu



A NEW OPERA BY
RILEY J MADEJ

Lipton Reynolds

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.

MUSIC.MTSU.EDU