

FRIDAY FANFARE - SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

NEWSLETTER

MTSU
School of Music

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, Director - jennifer.snodgrass@mtsu.edu



At least once or twice a day, I walk every floor of Wright and Saunders just to get a pulse on the School of Music. I have no particular destination, class, or faculty member I need to see. I just find it inspiring to be immersed in an environment that can only be found in a music building.

Tuesday and Wednesday were two of my favorite walks of the week:

- I sat down in the Saunders lobby and talked with the vocalists about some plans we have for the choral area and told my famous Cheezit story.
- I observed clarinet duets during studio class after being invited into the classroom to listen to student performances.
- I clapped and stomped along to a demonstration of Little Miss Muffet in Elementary Methods.
- I ventured outside to watch the Band of Blue rehearsal and marveled at their resilience and positive attitudes in this heat.

And for much of the time on these walks, I just listen.

I hear students practicing and mastering their craft. I hear students having impromptu tutoring sessions on theory homework. I hear faculty teaching and engaging with their classrooms and ensembles.

In all these walks, I hear energy and commitment. How fortunate am I to be surrounded by these sounds and these people each day.



» **CLA Transfer Student Scholarship**

» **Howard and Carolyn (Jump) Slatton
Endowed Scholarship**

» **Friends of Liberal Arts Endowed
Scholarship**

<https://liberalarts.mtsu.edu/scholarships/>



*Scan QR Code
To Apply*

**FALL SEMESTER
SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN**

Applications Due: Oct. 1

Congratulations to Professor **Don Aliquo**, whose jazz series at Rudy's Jazz Room in Nashville is featured in an extensive new review from Music City Review. Writer **Joseph Morgan** highlights a recent performance featuring Aliquo and Marc Payne, exploring the musical connection between generations and the artistry at the heart of Nashville's jazz community.

Read the full feature, "Don Aliquo and Marc Payne Bridge Generations at Rudy's Jazz Room" here:

<https://www.musiccityreview.com/2026/09/15/don-aliquo-and-marc-payne-bridge-generations-at-rudys-jazz-room>



MTSU Jazz Ensembles I & II



Monday, September 21st Free Big Band Jazz,
8:00 PM — Hinton Hall, Latin & Funk!
Wright Music Bldg

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Graduate Teaching Assistantships for the Master of Music Degree

For full consideration for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA), your application for admission and your GTA application must be completed by **March 1, 2027**. Full GTAs are awarded a tuition waiver and a stipend. Half GTAs are awarded half of a tuition waiver (with the remaining paid at in-state rates) and half of a stipend. Financial aid is available through the College of Graduate Studies.



Scan to apply for Graduate Studies at MTSU:



mtsu.edu/graduate/apply

THE MTSU REGIONAL SCHOLARS program allows non-Tennessee applicants who qualify to enroll at a greatly reduced cost. This includes students from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia and parts of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and South Carolina. International graduate applicants with completed files are automatically considered for International Merit Scholarships, which range from \$4,000 to \$16,000. (Info: intered.mtsu.edu/grad_students)

For more financial aid information, visit: mtsu.edu/graduate/funding

MTSU awards the Master of Music with the following specializations:

- Collaborative Piano
- Conducting (orchestral, wind, or choral)
- Jazz Studies
- Music Composition
- Music Education (online degree)
- Musicology
- Performance

For more information, contact:

Dr. Jamila L. McWhirter
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MTSU School of Music
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY.

I AM **true BLUE**

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MTSU Box 47
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
615-898-2469
music.mtsu.edu



Stones River Chamber Players

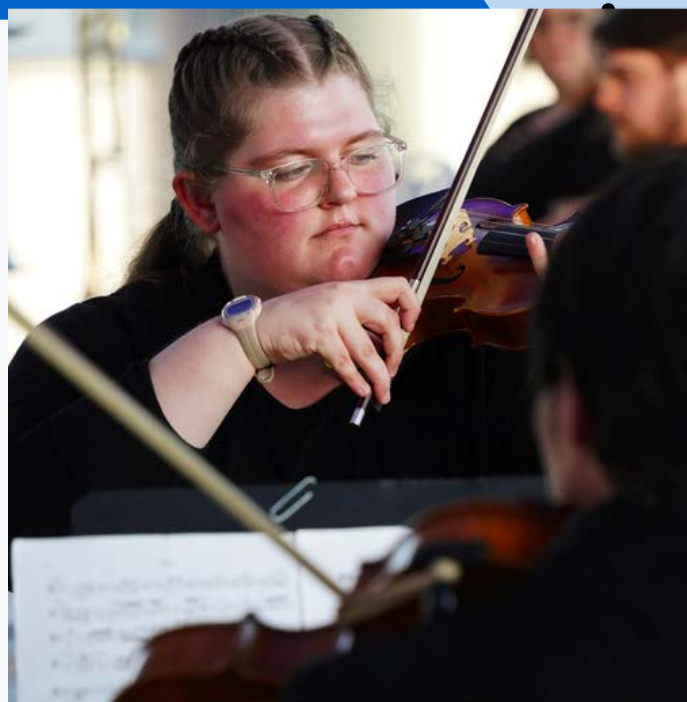
7:00pm, Monday, September 28
Hinton Music Hall
6:30 Pre-concert talk with Dr. Bedford

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

What does it mean to study music at MTSU? It means joining a community where creativity, performance, scholarship, and collaboration are part of everyday life. With more than 30 ensembles, over 200 music events each year, competitive scholarships, nationally accredited programs, and opportunities spanning performance, education, scholarship, and the music industry, our students have countless ways to discover where music can take them.

Most importantly, they do it together, learning from accomplished faculty, performing alongside their peers, and building connections that extend well beyond graduation. Take a look inside the MTSU School of Music and see what makes our community special.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4plfm1oqYM>



Where Every Note Counts

The School of Music Scholarship Campaign

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Make an impact today!

give.mtsu.edu/pages/music-campaign



MIDDLE TENNESSEE
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SCHOOL OF MUSIC



MTSU Undergraduates

APPLY
FOR
FREE
SEPT.
21-27

I AM trueBLUE



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

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Last Thursday's School of Music Recital Hour brought generations of Blue Raiders together for a special alumni Q&A. Our students heard stories, career insights, and practical advice from four MTSU music alumni whose work spans music education and professional performance:

Brenda Gregory, '75, '82

Retired Rutherford County choral director

Mark Garey, '84, '91

Retired Williamson County band director and founding board member of Music City Drum Corps

Mike Aymett, '98, '05

Band director at Riverdale High School in Rutherford County

Preston Bailey, '07

Freelance session trumpet player and substitute musician with the Nashville Symphony

We are grateful to these alumni for returning to MTSU and sharing their experiences so openly. Their conversation offered a meaningful reminder that a music degree can lead in many directions, and that the Blue Raider music community continues long after graduation.



MTSU music students, wanna here more live music this year?

The **Nashville Symphony's** SoundCheck program is now University Club, offering college students access to concerts at some incredible prices:

- Classical concerts: \$10 tickets
- Other Nashville Symphony concerts: \$20 tickets

That's an outstanding opportunity to experience one of the country's leading orchestras right here in Middle Tennessee. Whether you're studying performance, music education, music industry, or simply want to hear great music, take advantage of it! Learn more and sign up:

<https://www.nashvillesymphony.org/tickets/university-club/>

Photo credit: Chris Lee



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 18 – CNAfME Meeting, 4:00 pm
Monday, September 21 – Jazz Ensembles I and II Concert, 8:00 pm
Friday, September 25 – School of Music Game Night, 5:00 pm (SFA 207)
Saturday, September 26 – Matt Lund Faculty Guitar Concert, 6:00 pm
Sunday, September 27 – Double Reed Day, 12:00 pm
Sunday, September 27 – Double Reed Day Finale Concert, 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 27 – Double Reed Day Concert, 7:00 pm
Monday, September 28 – Stones River Chamber Players Concert, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 30 – John Lane Guest Flute Recital, 8:00 pm
Thursday, October 1 – Jamey Simmons Jazz Sextet Concert, 8:00 pm
Friday, October 2 – Riley Madej Senior Composition Recital, 6:00 pm



MTSU School of Music

WHERE EVERY NOTE COUNTS



9/25/26
SFA 303
3:00PM

Jazz Jam

ALL ARE
WELCOME!



J.A.M.
Presents

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MTSU RHYTHM

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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 New, Director of Orchestras
MTSU School of Music
carol.new@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 [SOM 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