MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Guest Artist Tuba Recital and Masterclass

Thomas Leleu
tuba

Adam Clark
piano

Sunday, October 18, 2026
2:00 p.m.

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

Concerto I in G minor	George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Concerto No. 1	Alexei Lebedev (1924–1993)
Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix, from *Samson et Dalila*	Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)
Danse bohème, from *Carmen*	Georges Bizet (1838–1875)
Moment Musical No. 5 in D-flat major, from *Moments musicaux*, Op. 16	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Adam Clark, piano

Tango-Étude No. 3 (tuba solo) Oblivion	Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)
Csárdás	Vittorio Monti (1868–1922)

This guest performance and masterclass made possible through the generous support of the MTSU Distinguished Lecture Fund.

Thomas Leleu

French tubist Thomas Leleu has established an international career that crosses the boundaries of classical music, jazz, pop, and world music. In 2012, at the age of 24, he was named Instrumental Soloist of the Year at the Victoires de la Musique, becoming the first tuba player in the history of the awards to receive this distinction.

Praised by France Bleu as "one of the greatest tuba players in the world," Leleu has helped redefine perceptions of the tuba as a solo instrument. His remarkable versatility allows him to move comfortably from concerto performances with symphony orchestras to jazz festivals, chamber music, and large-scale popular music events. His performances and projects have also been featured extensively in French and international media, including TF1, France 2, France 3, France Inter, Arte, ZDF, Bayerischer Rundfunk, RFI, and TSF Jazz.

Leleu graduated with First Prize in Tuba from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and has been a prizewinner at international competitions in Germany, South Korea, and Luxembourg. At just 19, he was appointed solo tubist of the Orchestre Philharmonique de l'Opéra de Marseille. In 2018, he was invited by Rolando Villazón to appear on the ZDF/Arte series *Stars von Morgen*, and in 2019 he received nominations in three categories at Germany's Opus Klassik awards.

As a soloist, Leleu has performed in more than 40 countries at major venues and festivals throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Appearances have included the Konzerthaus Berlin, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Théâtre du Châtelet, Hong Kong City Hall, Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore, Brucknerhaus Linz, National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts in Taiwan, Jazz à Vienne, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, and Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier. He has appeared with ensembles including the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Köln Chamber Orchestra, Tokyo Wind Symphony, Orchestre National d'Île-de-France, and Orchestre Philharmonique de l'Opéra de Marseille.

An active chamber musician and creator of new projects, Leleu has founded several distinctive ensembles since 2011. These include the Thomas Leleu Sextet for tuba and string quintet; tubaVScello for tuba and cello; the TL Trio for tuba, vibraphone, and piano; the jazz, pop, and world music projects Born to Groove and Outsider; and Leleu Brothers, a duo with his brother, trumpeter Romain Leleu.

His collaborators have included Richard Galliano, Vladimir Cosma, Claude Bolling, Jean-François Zygel, Quatuor Arod, Airelle Besson, Guillaume Vincent, Adrien La Marca, Christoph Poppen, Adélaïde Ferrière, Aurélien Pascal, Félicien Brut, and Roland Romanelli.

Leleu's recordings include *In the Mood for Tuba* (2015), *Impressions for Tuba* (2017), and *Stories…* (2019). With *Born to Groove* (2021), he increasingly turned toward his own compositions drawing on jazz and pop influences. In 2024, he founded his own label, Tuba French Touch, and released the album *Outsider*.

In addition to his international performing career, Leleu regularly presents masterclasses at leading conservatories and universities. He has taught at The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, Carnegie Mellon University, New England Conservatory, Universität der Künste Berlin, Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, CNSM de Paris, Tokyo University of the Arts, Korea National University of Arts, and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, among many others.

Leleu is a Melton Meinl Weston Artist and Buffet Crampon endorser. In collaboration with the company, he developed the 2250 TL "French Touch" tuba, the instrument he currently performs on.

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