



MTSU School of Music  
Wright Music Building  
MTSU Box 47  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
(615) 898-2469, 898-5924  
[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com)

Dear MTSU School of Music Alumni & Friends:

Autumn Greetings from your Alma Mater. I hope that my message finds each of you doing well professionally and personally. I am honored to provide this update to you on important activities in the School of Music.

**FACULTY & FACILITIES NEWS:** This is a very exciting time at MTSU, with new faculty and staff **Hari Bernstein**, viola, **Chris Combest**, tuba/music theory, **Rebecca Van de Ven**, oboe, and **Mark Britt**, piano technician. The **MTSU Wind Ensemble** directed by **Reed Thomas** has recorded two new discs for international release with works by Nigel Clarke and David Maslanka. Faculty issuing new recordings include **Don Aliquo**, **Michael Linton**, **Paul Osterfield** and **Greg Reish**. Flute professor **Deanna Little** will soon release "The Dolly Project," an album of works by six composers based on stories of Dolly Parton. **Jamila McWhirter**, Music Education, and **Joseph Morgan**, Music History, have two new texts in publication, *A Creative Duet* and *Exploring Von Weber*. **Christopher Dye's** research project, "Descriptive Profile & Survey of Alternatively Certified Texas Music Educators," has been published by the Journal of Music Teacher Education. The **MTSU Jazztet** (Mike Parkinson, trumpet, Don Aliquo, tenor saxophone, Matt Endahl, piano, Jonathan Wires, bass, and Brian Mueller, drums), toured China this fall, with Mei Han, zheng, director of our Center for Chinese Music & Culture. Saunders Fine Arts Building has received a new HVAC system, as well as windows and other much needed improvements. We welcomed a record number of new majors this fall, many from out-of-state. Our new building proposal has been accepted and is on the "A" list for consideration. While a timeline has yet to be established for the project to move forward, this is great news! We are also launching new partnerships with the Rutherford County Boys & Girls Clubs and the Salvation Army to provide instruction for children.

**WOMEN'S CHORALE HONORS:** We are very excited about the 60-member **MTSU Women's Chorale** being selected for their first performance at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Saturday, February 24, followed by the Tennessee Music Educators Association conference in Nashville in April. Directed by alumna **Angela Tipps**, the Chorale provides women from across the university in a variety of majors with a wonderful opportunity to sing. The Chorale performs at least two major concerts each semester, with repertoire from Baroque to Broadway. In 2017, the ensemble collaborated with musicians from MTSU's Center for Chinese Music and Culture.



**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!** Rarely is the ACDA conference closer to Murfreesboro than Louisville and we need your help for the Women's Chorale members to get there. We are asking School of Music alumni to consider making a donation to

help underwrite travel expenses for the ACDA tour, which amounts to \$250 per student. **An anonymous MTSU donor has generously agreed to match each gift made to the Women's Chorale.** Therefore, your tax- deductible donation will help additional students attend this prestigious concert. Please consider donating and investing in the next generation of students at MTSU in the School of Music! Gifts can be made online at: [www.mtsu.edu/give](http://www.mtsu.edu/give) - include "Women's Chorale in the other/giving preference box or by check payable to the MTSU Foundation, indicating the MTSU Women's Chorale, Please mail all contributions to the MTSU Foundation Attn: Meredith Kerr, MTSU, Box 109 Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Regardless of the amount, all donations will be graciously accepted and acknowledged.

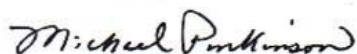
**ALUMNI NEWS:** Congratulations to: **Mike Casteel** and **Jeff Phillips** on being named Distinguished Alumni at the 2017 Spring Honors Assembly. **Tanner Antonetti** won the 2<sup>nd</sup> trombone position in the Virginia Symphony Orchestra with JoAnn Falleta, conductor; **Mark Blakeman** is the founding director of the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University; **Katie Kelly** is the new marketing director for the Fort Worth Symphony. **Scott Reif** has been named as the Southeast Regional Manager for Buffet Instruments. **Brad Rogers**, Band Director at Oldham Co. High School, is the Kentucky Music Educators Association 2017 High School Teacher of the Year. **Jennifer Vannatta-Hall** has received promotion and tenure as Associate Professor of Music Education at MTSU. Thanks to **Dave Davidson** and **Tim Tackett** for coordinating the highly successful **Phi Mu Alpha Stage Band** 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion last April. Please send information on your activities to me via Email, [Michael.Parkinson@mtsu.edu](mailto:Michael.Parkinson@mtsu.edu). For more alumni/faculty/student news: [http://mtsu.edu/music/pdf/HonorsAssembly\\_Spring2017withinsert.pdf](http://mtsu.edu/music/pdf/HonorsAssembly_Spring2017withinsert.pdf)

**ALUMNI & FRIENDS GATHERINGS:** Please join us at the Steinway Piano Gallery, 4285 Sidco Drive, Nashville, for two upcoming events: Tuesday, November 21, 7pm, for a recital by faculty artist **Arunesh Nadgir** performing works by Chopin, Debussy, Liszt and Messiaen. Friday, February 9, faculty artist **Adam Clark** will perform. We will host a School of Music Alumni & Friends gathering at the TMEA conference in April in Nashville, details will be announced in March.

**FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE:** Recruiting for the 2018-19 academic year is underway as we seek to identify and invite highly talented students to audition at MTSU. We would greatly appreciate your sharing information on the audition process with your students and friends: <http://mtsu.edu/music/scholarships.php>. Built upon the success of our outstanding alumni, we are ***focused on the future***, working to ensure the success of the next generation of musicians for Tennessee and beyond.

We have a number of great concerts scheduled: <http://mtsu.edu/music/calendar.php>. If you are planning a campus visit, please let me know so that we have the opportunity to meet, Email: [Michael.Parkinson@mtsu.edu](mailto:Michael.Parkinson@mtsu.edu); telephone 615.898.5924. Thanks you for exemplifying the **TRUE BLUE** spirit and for your continuing support of the MTSU School of Music.

Sincerely,



Michael Parkinson, DMA  
Director, School of Music