

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate  
Degree Programs

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC



**Focused**  
*on the*  
**future!**

Do you see yourself working as a professional musician?

Middle Tennessee State University School of Music provides a wealth of degree programs to prepare you for a career in the music world. MTSU graduates enjoy careers as performers, music educators, composers, music industry professionals, and innovative entrepreneurs.

MTSU School of Music is FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE! Our undergraduate programs offer knowledge and skills to help you prepare for YOUR future.



[www.mtsumusic.com](http://www.mtsumusic.com)

*School of Music*

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

(615) 898-2469 • 1301 E. Main Street, Box 47, Murfreesboro, TN 37132



# Music Performance

## (B.M., Instrumental or Voice Performance Concentration)

Music Performance students at MTSU come from around the world and study with a faculty of renowned artists/educators. You may concentrate in voice, piano, guitar, string, woodwind, brass, or percussion. Applied study culminates with two public solo recitals presented in the junior and senior years. Performance opportunities include orchestra, band, chorus, musical theater, jazz, opera, chamber music, commercial ensembles, and percussion groups. Student ensembles have recently performed concert tours of China, Korea, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, and Italy.

Close to Nashville, Music City U.S.A., you will have easy access and exposure to a thriving live music scene. The Nashville Symphony, Nashville Opera, and Music Row recording studios provide a first-hand look at what it takes to be a professional performing musician.

Guest artists frequently visit MTSU to share their performing, coaching, and mentoring talents with students. Recent guests include performers with the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Opera, and renowned artists from the stage and internationally prestigious music schools.

### Jazz Studies

Jazz Studies is a vital facet of the MTSU School of Music. Students may pursue a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in Instrumental or Vocal Performance or a Master of Music degree while specializing in Jazz Studies and taking advantage of our expanding jazz curriculum. You will study privately with outstanding faculty who are also renowned practitioners regionally and internationally. You may elect a minor in Music Industry, Entrepreneurship, or

Recording Industry to add career-building options. Our jazz students frequently collaborate with Recording Industry majors in exciting projects. Jazz courses include arranging/composition, improvisation, jazz history, jazz pedagogy, and jazz theory. Performing opportunities include two jazz ensembles, six combos, two commercial music ensembles, salsa band, steel band, and the MTSU Singers (a vocal jazz ensemble). All ensembles pursue an active performance schedule on and off campus each year. MTSU students frequently form their own groups to pursue professional experience. The annual MTSU Jazz Artist Series and the MTSU Jazz Festival bring outstanding guests to campus to perform and mentor our students. At MTSU you will have the opportunity to work with artists such as Bill Cunliffe, Jimmy Heath, Bill Holman, Dave Liebman, and Scott Wendholt. MTSU's proximity to Nashville will give you many opportunities to hear great musicians at the Nashville Jazz Workshop, Third and Lindsley, and other noted venues.

### Music Performance Career Paths

Successful Music Performance students pursue performance opportunities, explore graduate music study, engage in studio teaching, or enter other music-related professions.

Career possibilities include the following:

- Actor
- Arts/talent manager
- Band director/leader
- Church musician/worship leader
- College/university professor
- Composer/arranger/orchestrator
- Choral or orchestral conductor
- Instrument salesperson/repair technician
- Multigenre instrumentalist or singer (jazz, classical, pop)
- Music critic/journalist

- Music editor and publisher
- Music theater director
- Musicologist
- Private studio teacher
- Recording studio musician or executive
- Songwriter

### Employers of MTSU Music Performance Alumni

Graduates of MTSU's Music Performance program are employed by or have appeared with the following:

- Aspen Music Festival
- Broadway musicals (such as Disney's *Newsies* and *Aladdin*)
- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Deutsche Oper Berlin
- Duffy Jackson Orchestra
- Fort Worth Opera
- Island Wren
- Kennedy Center
- Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
- Kirk Whalum
- Knoxville Jazz Orchestra
- Knoxville Symphony
- Ke\$ha
- Lake George Opera
- Las Vegas show bands
- Los Angeles Philharmonic
- Metropolitan Opera, New York
- Nashville Jazz Orchestra
- Nashville Opera
- Nashville recording studios
- Nashville Symphony Orchestra
- Opera Cleveland
- Seattle Opera
- Sixpence None the Richer
- Sugarland
- United States military bands



# Instrumental Music Education Concentration (B.M.)

# Vocal/General Music Education Concentration (B.M.)



If you're interested in teaching band, choir, orchestra, or K-12 general music, MTSU's Music Education programs offer the knowledge and skills needed to achieve your goal. Our award-winning faculty members have extensive experience as public school teachers, conductors, and researchers, and they bring the art of teaching music alive in the classroom. You will begin your training as a future music educator with hands-on experiences in public schools during your first year, and your program will culminate with two intensive semesters of student teaching.

As an Instrumental Music Education student you may perform in the Band of Blue, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, Symphonic Band, Chamber Orchestra, Pep Bands, Chamber Ensembles, Salsa Band, or Percussion Ensembles.

As a Vocal/General Music Education student you may perform with the Concert Chorale, Women's Chorale, Schola Cantorum, University Chorus, Opera Workshop, Meistersingers, or the University Singers vocal jazz ensemble.

## Music Education Career Paths

MTSU has a near-100-percent job placement rate for students entering the field of music education. Graduates generally elect to begin teaching in private or public schools, but you may want to

enter professions that support and assist music educators or pursue graduate study in conducting, performance, music education, administration, or another area.

Career possibilities include the following:

- Band director (jazz, concert, marching)
- Choral or orchestral conductor
- Church musician/community chorus director
- Composer/arranger/orchestrator
- Educational specialist/consultant
- General music teacher
- Instrument salesperson/repair technician
- Music critic/journalist
- Music theater director
- Musicologist
- School administrator
- Songwriter
- Studio/private teacher
- University professor
- Vocal-instrumental performer
- Music critic/journalist
- Music editor and publisher
- Music librarian
- Record company executive
- Recording studio musician or owner
- Songwriter
- Special events coordinator
- Studio/private teacher
- Talent agent/manager
- Tour manager

## Employers of MTSU Music Education Alumni

Graduates of MTSU's Music Education program serve the teaching profession throughout Tennessee and the nation. Our graduates are shaping the next generation of young musicians at the primary, elementary, secondary, and collegiate levels.

## Music Industry Career Paths

Music-related careers, especially with the opportunities found in nearby Nashville, are many and varied. The Music Industry program prepares students for entry- and middle-level positions for virtually all phases of the music industry from performance to teaching private lessons to working in music stores or publishing companies to working in sales for music businesses to the marketing of recordings.

Career possibilities include the following:

- Artistic director
- Arts administrator/manager
- Conductor
- Composer/arranger/orchestrator
- Concert promoter
- Copyright specialist
- Film music director/editor
- Entertainment lawyer
- Marketer/publicist
- Multigenre instrumental or vocal performer
- Music critic/journalist
- Music editor and publisher
- Music librarian
- Record company executive
- Recording studio musician or owner
- Songwriter
- Special events coordinator
- Studio/private teacher
- Talent agent/manager
- Tour manager

## Employers of MTSU Music Industry Alumni

- Altissimo Recordings
- ASCAP
- Bravo Voice Studios
- Buffet Crampon
- Deep Fried Entertainment
- Def Kat Music
- Embassy Music
- Gospel Music Association
- Greg Oliver Agency
- Guitar Center
- Guitar Shark Music
- Hinchey Music Services
- Hummingbird Productions
- J. Schreppe Promotions
- Levosia Entertainment
- Nashville Jazz Orchestra
- Nashville Opera
- NAXOS Inc.
- New Vision Church
- Pearl Corporation
- Songwriters Guild of America
- Ten Ten Music Group
- Turner's Music
- Vandoren Inc.
- Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities (YEAH!)

# Music Industry (B.M., Music Industry Concentration)



Music Industry is one of the leading concentrations in MTSU's School of Music for vocalists and instrumentalists both jazz and classical. As a Music Industry student, you will complete the core music courses, perform in a variety of ensembles, and present a recital in your senior year. In addition, there are required business, entrepreneurship, and management courses, with minors available in Entrepreneurship or Recording Industry. An extremely important component of the Music Industry program is the internship. Because MTSU is close to Nashville, there are many internship opportunities that can increase your knowledge and provide the kind of experience that will help you start your career after college.

# Music Theory-Composition

## (B.M., Theory-Composition Concentration)

MTSU's School of Music offers an outstanding concentration in Theory-Composition based on historical traditions that implement contemporary practices. The curriculum offers you training in the content and construction of music, combining compositional craft with creative writing projects in a number of styles and genres. You will study the languages of music, traditional through experimental, and the characteristics of various styles. You will have opportunities to hear your compositions and arrangements rehearsed, performed, and recorded by MTSU's ensembles, and you will present a senior recital of your music. Contemporary music is a key element of life at MTSU, with distinguished performers and composers visiting campus each year, working directly with our students. With award-winning, highly skilled, and caring instructors, the Theory-Composition program offers solid training and personal guidance to help you succeed as a composer, arranger, songwriter, music editor or in other aspects of the music profession.

## Music Composition Career Paths

Successful Theory-Composition graduates are prepared for professional music careers or to pursue advanced degrees at premier schools of music. Several alumni have continued their studies for vocations outside of music.

Career possibilities include the following:

- Band director/leader
- Composer/arranger/orchestrator
- Conductor (instrumental or choral)
- Copyright specialist
- Film music composer/director/editor
- Instrumental/vocal performer
- Music critic/journalist
- Music editor and publisher
- Music educator
- Music librarian
- Music software programmer
- Music theater director
- Musicologist
- Orchestra librarian
- Recording producer, technician or engineer
- Songwriter
- Studio musician

- Studio/private teacher
- University professor

## Employers hiring and graduate schools accepting Theory-Composition alumni

MTSU student and alumni composers have had their works performed at the Czech-American Summer Music Institute in Prague, at Society of Composers regional and national conferences, on WLPN's *Live in Studio C*, and at New York's Fringe Festival. Several MTSU alumni are in demand for commercial arranging/composing sessions in Nashville recording studios. Others work in the publishing and recording industries: examples include a classical music editor for Hal Leonard Publishers and a digital services manager for NAXOS of America. Several of our graduates have composed music for independent films. Many of our alumni have continued their studies at the following distinguished music schools:

- Boston Conservatory
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Louisville
- University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina–Greensboro
- University of South Florida
- University of Texas–Austin

## Notable Alumni of the MTSU School of Music

Mark Blakeman–Chief Operating Officer, Nashville Symphony Orchestra

Preston Bailey–Trumpet, Nashville Symphony Orchestra

Karen Blooding–Elementary music teacher, 2005 Tennessee State Teacher of the Year

Rosemary Brumbelow–Clarinet professor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Seth Carico–Opera singer, Deutsch Oper Berlin

Scott Gerow–Film and TV composer, Battery Lane Music owner

Silviu Ciulei–International classical guitar soloist

George S. Clinton–Film composer for *Austin Powers* and *Mortal Kombat*; Film Scoring Department chair, Berklee College of Music, Boston

Jonathan Copeland–Founder and owner, Clarinets by Copeland

Sean Donovan–Horn, Knoxville Symphony

Marcus Finnie–Drums, touring and recording artist

Socrates Garcia–Jazz faculty, University of Northern Colorado

Linda Gilbert–Superintendent, Murfreesboro City Schools

Reggie Grisham–Trumpet player on The Who's 2012–13 Quadrophenia Tour

Holli Harrison–Opera singer, Metropolitan Opera, New York

Oliver Henderson–Voice faculty, Central Michigan University

Matt Jordan–Concert percussion marketing manager for Pearl Corporation/Adams Musical Instruments

Steven Malone–Assistant music director and keyboard player for Disney's Tony-award winning *Newsies* and Disney's *Aladdin* on Broadway

Jackie McIlwain–Clarinet professor, University of Southern Mississippi

Ryan Middagh–Jazz Studies coordinator, Vanderbilt University

Ben McIlwain–Trombone professor, University of Southern Mississippi

Chris Munson–Jazz Faculty, University of Louisiana–Lafayette

Matt Palmer–Award-winning guitarist, author

Sarah Schneider–Flute professor, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

Lisa Schroeder–Flutist, Los Angeles-based Noteworthy Duo

Mara Snowman–Euphonium, United States Army Band of Japan Soldier of the Year 2013

Martin Villanueva–Violinist on Grammy-nominated recording with Mariachi Los Arrieros del Valle

Claire Whitcomb–Viola, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra

Jim White–Associate professor of jazz (drums), University of Northern Colorado

Yifei Zhong–Violin faculty, Hangzhou Normal University, China

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