

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Ensemble Performance Opportunities

SCHOOL OF MUSIC



The Middle Tennessee State University School of Music provides a wide array of outstanding instrumental and vocal ensembles in a variety of styles including classical, jazz, world music, and pop. From the 300-member MTSU Band of Blue to string quartets and opera, our ensembles give all MTSU students many opportunities to improve their skills and enjoy performing great music with their peers. All our ensembles perform each year on campus and throughout the area. Several groups have been invited to perform at regional and national music conferences. Renowned guest performers, conductors, and composers frequently appear with our ensembles, further enhancing the educational experience. In recent years several MTSU ensembles have performed in China, Costa Rica, England, South Korea, Panama, Mexico, and Italy.

Students from all areas of academic study, undergraduate through doctoral students, are welcomed to participate in our ensembles. Auditions are held at the beginning of each semester, and information is posted on the school's website or available from specific ensemble directors. Prospective MTSU students are urged to contact specific directors to arrange for course registration or attendance at rehearsals. All are welcome to attend our mostly free performances, which are listed on our website. To hear recordings by the ensembles and to gain more information, visit www.mtsumusic.com.

Welcome to Middle Tennessee State University—we are focused on the future of music and invite you to join us in the joy of making music together!

Be involved in

- Band of Blue
- Wind Ensemble
- Chamber Winds
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Basketball Pep Band
- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
- Concert Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble I
- Jazz Ensemble II
- Jazz Combos
- MTSU Singers
- Commercial Music Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Salsa Band
- Steel Band
- Concert Chorale
- Meistersingers
- Opera Theater
- Schola Cantorum
- University Chorus
- Women's Chorale
- Chamber Music Ensembles
- Chinese Music Ensemble

MIDDLE
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MTSU Bands

Band of Blue

The marching band at MTSU, the Band of Blue, directed by Craig Cornish, associate director of bands, presents original halftime shows



at all home football games and selected out-of-town games. Membership is open to any University student who can display good marching techniques and a fundamental proficiency on an instrument used in the marching band. Guard, majorette, and dance team members are accepted by audition. Two semesters of marching band may be substituted for two courses of General Studies physical activity credit, but this substitution does not meet teacher licensure requirements. (Prof. Craig Cornish, craig.cornish@mtsu.edu)

Wind Ensemble

Conducted by Dr. Reed Thomas, the MTSU Wind Ensemble is the premier performing ensemble for wind, brass, and percussion students at the University. Members are selected through audition each semester and comprise the best musicians at MTSU. The ensemble explores the vast range of the wind repertoire by using a flexible instrumentation approach by which the repertoire dictates the number of players for each piece. The ensemble is dedicated to performing outstanding and challenging works of diverse musical styles while furthering wind music of artistic and historical significance. Performing three to five concerts each semester, the ensemble tours extensively throughout the region and overseas. The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding university ensembles nationally and abroad, and has performed tours of South Korea, China, Costa Rica, and Panama. Membership is open to all MTSU students and is based upon successful audition. (Dr. Reed Thomas, reed.thomas@mtsu.edu)

Chamber Winds

The MTSU Chamber Winds, conducted by Dr. Reed Thomas, is a highly select group of musicians within the School of Music

dedicated to the study and performance of wind literature from the Renaissance to the present day. The ensemble was founded in 2003 as an outgrowth of the MTSU Wind Ensemble and performs three to five concerts each semester. Seating is rotated from piece-to-piece, and instrumentation varies, giving each composition a realization best representing each composer's intent. Membership is open to all MTSU students and is based upon successful audition. (Dr. Reed Thomas, reed.thomas@mtsu.edu)

Symphonic Band

The MTSU Symphonic Band fosters the highest performance standards while offering its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. The ensemble seeks to broaden performance and pedagogical skills through the programming of exemplary wind band literature while fostering an interest in the band as an integral part of the American musical scene. Membership is open to all University students through audition. The conductor is Craig Cornish, associate director of bands. (Prof. Craig Cornish, craig.cornish@mtsu.edu)

Concert Band

The MTSU Concert Band is designed for students who want to continue to enhance their musical experiences without having the pressures of a rigorous concert schedule or audition process. The ensemble meets only during the spring semester on Monday evenings and performs one concert at the end of the semester. Participation does not require an audition. Membership includes students from across campus as well as instrumental music education majors who are interested in playing secondary instruments. The Concert Band has the distinction of being conducted by all the band program conductors including graduate students who are in the M.A. in Music program, specializing in conducting. (Dr. Denny Hawkins, dennis.hawkins@mtsu.edu)

Basketball Pep Band

Basketball games at MTSU would not be the same without the Pep Band. The band plays at every home game for both men's and women's teams and selected members travel if teams are selected for postseason tournaments. Staying current with the times, the Pep Band has expanded its literature in the last couple of years. New tunes such as

"Flashlight" and "Give Up the Funk" together with "Livin' La Vida Loca" and "Mambo #5" are true crowd pleasers. Membership is open to all MTSU students through audition. (Dr. Denny Hawkins, dennis.hawkins@mtsu.edu)



MTSU Orchestras

Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra is the premier orchestral ensemble in the School of Music. Repertoire is selected from masterpieces of the standard orchestral literature and outstanding contemporary compositions. The symphony is open to all MTSU students by audition, regardless of major. Music director of the Symphony Orchestra is Dr. Carol Nies. (carol.nies@mtsu.edu)

Chamber Orchestra

The Chamber Orchestra is composed of the leading members of the Symphony Orchestra. Repertoire is selected from all periods of the literature. The orchestra is open to all MTSU students by audition, regardless of major. (Dr. Carol Nies, carol.nies@mtsu.edu)

Concert Orchestra

The Concert Orchestra offers all MTSU students, faculty, and staff the chance to play in an orchestral ensemble. No audition is required to participate in this group. Repertoire is selected from all periods of orchestral literature. Music Education and Performance majors may audition to serve as assistant conductors. (Dr. Carol Nies, carol.nies@mtsu.edu)

MTSU Chinese Ensemble

The MTSU Chinese Ensemble provides opportunities for students to learn and perform Chinese instrumental music, on traditional



Chinese instruments, which are provided. This course will teach Chinese music through private and small group lessons culminating in an ensemble performance. A variety of traditional and contemporary music is performed, prior experience with Chinese music is not required, while prior musical experience is highly recommended. Participation is open to MTSU students with permission of the instructor, Dr. Mei Han, mei.han@mtsu.edu.

MTSU Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Ensemble I

MTSU Jazz Ensemble I features the most experienced student players and concentrates on cutting-edge literature and masterworks from the big band repertoire. This



ensemble has toured throughout the region and appeared at collegiate festivals. A highlight is the ensemble's annual performance at the MTSU Jazz Festival, where the group performs with an internationally acclaimed jazz artist. Past guests have included Phil Woods, Rufus Reid, Benny Golson, Lee Konitz, Bob Mintzer, Arturo Sandoval, Bobby Shew, and Peter Erskine. All students with jazz experience may audition for the ensemble. (Prof. Jamey Simmons, james.simmons@mtsu.edu)

Jazz Ensemble II

MTSU Jazz Ensemble II focuses on providing students with performance experience in the big band jazz idiom. Performing works by major artists from all significant periods of jazz, this ensemble also focuses on the basics of improvisation. Membership is selected by auditions open to all students. (Prof. Don Aliquo, don.aliquo@mtsu.edu)

Jazz Combos

MTSU Jazz Combos are directed by faculty and graduate teaching assistants. These small ensembles provide students with opportunities to improve performing skills, master standard literature, strengthen improvisational ability, and explore original compositions and arrangements. Placement in combos is

by audition, and the groups range from beginning to advanced. The combos perform both on and off campus. For audition information, email Prof. Jamey Simmons. (james.simmons@mtsu.edu)

MTSU Singers

MTSU Singers is an audition-only select vocal jazz ensemble of no more than sixteen singers and rhythm section. The ensemble performs jazz standards and jazz-style arrangements of American popular music and includes choral jazz and vocal improvisation. (Dr. Cedric Dent, cedric.dent@mtsu.edu)

Commercial Music Ensemble

The Commercial Music Ensemble gives students the experience of choosing songs, working with arrangements, rehearsing with the band, and bringing it all together as a cohesive performance. The ensemble draws its material from any style of music that has achieved popularity in the music industry. The group has a rhythm section and a small section of vocalists who perform lead and background vocals. Horn players are often recruited for performances. The ensemble performs at the School of Music and in various on-campus venues and has produced recordings in collaboration with the Recording Industry Department. (Prof. Matt Lund, mattlundmusic@comcast.net)

MTSU Percussion Ensembles

Percussion Ensemble

MTSU is the home of two percussion ensembles that perform music written specifically for percussion from the early 20th century onward. Typically, these ensembles require 9–13 performers. The ensembles have presented works by many notable composers including Mark Ford, Kevin Erickson, James Campbell, and David Holsinger. There are also several student-led chamber groups that perform similar music written for 4–6 performers. The percussion ensembles have performed and/or competed at the Tennessee Music Educators Association, the National Orff Convention, and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. (Prof. Lalo Davila, lalo.davila@mtsu.edu)

Salsa Band

The MTSU Salsa Band is an ensemble dedicated to the study and performance of Afro-Cuban salsa music. The group includes a horn section, percussion section, bass, and piano. The percussion section generally includes congas, timbales, bongos, and a drum set; the horn section includes trumpets, saxophones, and trombone. The group is open to students through audition. Ensemble members study the style, form, and history of Afro-Cuban music and are encouraged to write or arrange tunes in salsa style. Under the direction of Lalo Davila, the group performs on and off campus. (Prof. Lalo Davila, lalo.davila@mtsu.edu)

Steel Band



MTSU takes great pride in its steel drum bands, which add an enhanced flavor to an arsenal of percussion sounds. These smaller, 8–10 member groups

present professional and student arrangements of modern popular music, performing regularly on and off campus and at a formal concert each semester. The Steel Bands have had the honor of performing twice with the Nashville Symphony. (Prof. Lalo Davila, lalo.davila@mtsu.edu)

MTSU Vocal Ensembles

Concert Chorale

The MTSU Concert Chorale is designed primarily for music majors with advanced vocal skills and choral experience.



Nonmajors with significant choral experience are urged to audition. Repertory includes choral works from the Renaissance to the present. Participation is by audition only. This group is also a touring ensemble for MTSU and presents regional concerts and biennial European concert tours. Formal concert attire is required. (Dr. Raphael Bundage, raphael.bundage@mtsu.edu)

Meistersingers

This auditioned ensemble comprises men from the Concert Chorale. The repertoire of this group reflects literature for men's voices from all historical style periods to the present including Broadway and popular styles. (Dr. Raphael Bundage, raphael.bundage@mtsu.edu)

Opera Theater

The MTSU Opera Theater is devoted to the preparation, staging, and performance of opera and/or musical theater, either a complete work or a program of scenes from various works. The type of staged production performed in any given semester is contingent upon the skills of the students enrolled in the Opera Theater. Technical (use of stage make-up, etc.) and performing aspects of opera and musical theater productions are studied. Attention is paid to helping students develop acting as well as musical skills as they relate to performing opera and/or musical theater. Admission to Opera Theater is by audition only. (Dr. Will Perkins, william.perkins@mtsu.edu)

Schola Cantorum

This ensemble is designed primarily for upper-division vocal majors and graduate students. Repertory includes major choral works from the Renaissance to the present. This group is also a touring choral ensemble. Formal concert

attire is required. Participation in Schola Cantorum is by audition only. (Dr. Raphael Bundage, raphael.bundage@mtsu.edu)

Women's Chorale

The MTSU Women's Chorale comprises some of the University's most talented female voices. Usually half the singers are music majors, and others represent academic disciplines from psychology to horse science. The chorale presents a variety of styles from major works for treble voices to folk songs and Broadway selections. The chorale regularly appears with other MTSU choirs for performances of oratorios with orchestra. The members of the Women's Chorale enjoy each other's company, too: there are a number of social events planned each semester. (Prof. Angela Tipps, angela.tipps@mtsu.edu)

MTSU Singers

Please see listing under jazz ensembles.

MTSU Chamber Music Ensembles

All MTSU students are encouraged and given the opportunity to gain chamber music experience through the formation of small chamber groups, trios, quartets, quintets, etc. Faculty members coach the ensembles, and performing venues are available on and off campus. Auditions are held at the beginning of each semester. For more information, contact the appropriate area coordinator below.

Brass: horn ensemble, trombone ensemble, trumpet ensemble, tuba-euphonium ensemble, brass choir, brass quartets and quintets. (Dr. David Loucky, david.loucky@mtsu.edu)

Woodwinds: clarinet choir, double reed ensemble, flute choir, saxophone quartets, mixed wind trios, quartets and quintets. (Dr. Todd Waldecker, todd.waldecker@mtsu.edu; Dr. Deanna Little, deanna.little@mtsu.edu)

Strings: guitar ensemble, string quartets, piano trios, and mixed chamber ensembles (Guitar: Dr. William Yelverton, William.yelverton@mtsu.edu; Strings: Dr. Christine Kim, christine.kim@mtsu.edu)

Pianos: for piano/4 hands or two pianists/4 or 8 hands (Dr. Arun Nadgir, arunesh.nadgir@mtsu.edu)

MTSU School of Music ensembles by area, director's name, and email address:

MTSU Bands

Dr. Reed Thomas, director of bands, reed.thomas@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2993

Prof. Craig Cornish, director, Band of Blue, craig.cornish@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2993

MTSU Orchestras

Dr. Carol Nies, director of orchestras, carol.nies@mtsu.edu; (615) 898-5318

MTSU Jazz Ensembles

Prof. Jamey Simmons, james.simmons@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2724

MTSU Percussion Ensembles

Prof. Lalo Davila, lalo.davila@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2803

MTSU Opera Theater

Dr. Will Perkins, william.perkins@mtsu.edu, (615) 904-8395

MTSU Choirs

Dr. Raphael Bundage, raphael.bundage@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-2849

Prof. Angela Tipps, angela.tipps@mtsu.edu, (615) 904-8354

Dr. Cedric Dent, cedric.dent@mtsu.edu, (615) 904-8361

MTSU Chinese Ensemble

Dr. Mei Han, mei.han@mtsu.edu, (615) 898-5718

