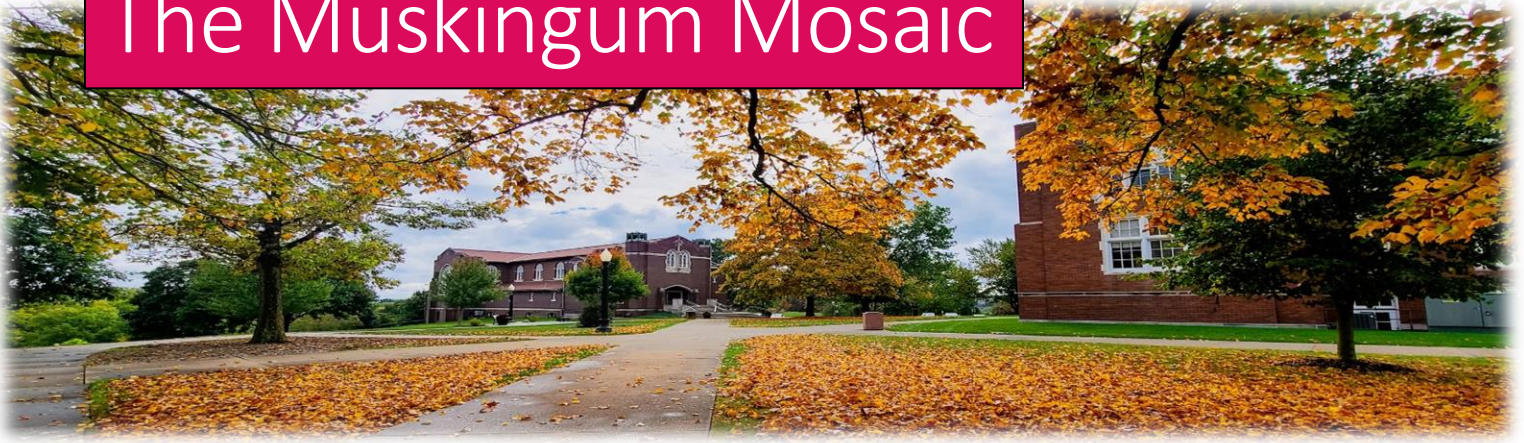


October 2023

# The Muskingum Mosaic



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

We've been enjoying a whirlwind of activity in the arts on campus and are looking forward to even more events coming throughout the next month and beyond, as well as the beauty of campus in the changing leaves and cooling temperatures. During September, the art department curated a thought-provoking exhibition of contemporary artists from Columbus, alongside fascinating conversations with the artists about their work and processes. For October, we're excited to present an additional exhibit, now with contemporary artists from Pittsburgh. Meanwhile, the music department presented a faculty piano recital and performance and masterclass by the New York-based Abe Ovadia Jazz Trio, in addition to an insightful music therapy masterclass and an inspiring musical tribute to a longtime community leader in the arts, Len Thomas. For October, we welcome string students to campus for the annual String Fling, present the annual Collage Concert and Alumni Band performances during Homecoming weekend, and present opening concerts by our semi-professional ensembles on campus, the Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds and the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra. We're also excited to announce new, upcoming opportunities for high school musicians throughout the region: Choral YouthFest, Instrumental YouthFest, and the inaugural Muskingum Valley Youth Wind Ensemble. Finally, the theatre department hosted a presentation from a successful alumnus on his career in arts management, traveled to Cleveland for a Spanish-language production of *Los Soles Truncos*, and put on a packed performance of *The Funky Fresh, Totally Righteous, Uptown Countdown Showdown!* For October, we're hard at work preparing for the production of *Arden of Feversham*, an Elizabethan play performed with puppets! Registration for the spring semester starts in October, and we're excited to offer a number of arts classes both within our majors and minors and as part of our general education curriculum. Meanwhile, my time on campus will be interrupted soon with an expected addition to my family, due in early November. I'm grateful to the talented faculty, staff, and students who will keep everything running smoothly in the arts in my (physical) absence!

With warm regards,

Dr. Erin Bauer, Chair of Art and Music,  
Associate Professor of Musicology



## Follow Us!

*Stay in the loop about  
everything happening in the  
ARTS on campus!*

### Facebook

- Music at Muskingum
- Art at Muskingum
- Muskingum University Theatre

### Instagram

- @muskingummusic
- @muskingumart
- @muskietheatre



# SEPTEMBER RECAP



The art department hosted a successful gallery exhibition, *Columbus Dreaming*, complete with opening reception and talks by two presenting artists: Britny Wainwright and Miranda Holmes.



Prof. Harsha Abeyaratne presented a fantastic piano recital in Brown Chapel.



*The Funky Fresh, Totally Righteous, Uptown Countdown Showdown!* featured the work of 17 first-year theatre students and 4 upper-class students.



In collaboration with the university Special Events Committee, the music department hosted the Abe Ovadia Jazz Trio for a concert and subsequent masterclass with students.



David Briggs '79 spoke to students about his productive career in arts management.

The Louis O. Palmer Gallery Presents

# Seeking Ourselves In Each Other

Andrew Allison  
Carolina Alamilla  
Centa Schumacher  
Paul Peng  
Peter Barbor  
Sidney Mullis

Opening Reception October 11th

## GALLERY EXHIBITION

The Louis O. Palmer Gallery is excited to present *Seeking Ourselves In Each Other*, a group exhibition running from October 11th to November 1st. Featuring six remarkable Pittsburgh-based artists working across diverse media, this exhibition celebrates their unique journey of forging a vibrant collective by consistently convening for conversations and critical feedback. There is an often-elusive quest for artistic community beyond the confines of academia, and while post-university life can be isolating, these artists illuminate the path to authentic camaraderie and creative support. Their diverse practices, from sculpture to ceramics, photography to installation, collectively demonstrate how they've masterfully bridged the gap between solitude and solidarity. The gallery offers open hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-4 pm.

## CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL YOUTHFESTS

The Department of Music is excited to host two YouthFest events on campus this year: Choral YouthFest on Saturday, November 4, followed by Instrumental YouthFest on Saturday, November 18. These opportunities allow regional high school musicians to participate in a day of clinics, workshops, masterclasses, rehearsals, and combined performances. High school music directors can nominate students; contact Daniel Strychacz (choir) at [dstrycha@muskingum.edu](mailto:dstrycha@muskingum.edu) or David Turrill (band) at [dturrill@muskingum.edu](mailto:dturrill@muskingum.edu) for nominations and more information. Don't miss these valuable opportunities to collaborate, learn, and play with high school musicians from across the region!



MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY  
**2023**  
YOUTHFEST

**REGISTER TODAY!**

- ⇒ YOUTHFEST HONOR CHOIR
- ⇒ YOUTHFEST HONOR BAND
- ⇒ STUDENT WORKSHOPS & REHEARSALS

CHORAL YOUTHFEST ⇒ Nov. 4	INSTRUMENTAL YOUTHFEST ⇒ Nov. 18
---------------------------------	--

8:00 am  
**9:00 am — 5:00 pm**  
5:00 pm

Registration Opens  
**YouthFest!**  
Showcase Performance

## COLLAGE CONCERT

## HOMECOMING COLLAGE CONCERT

Don't miss the upcoming Collage Concert, presented annually as part of Homecoming festivities on campus! This year's concert will take place on Friday, October 13, at 8 pm in Brown Chapel and will feature a fast-paced "collage" of student and faculty soloists and ensembles. Representing the entire music department, this year's performance will feature the Muskingum Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, String Ensemble, and Muskie Rocks, as well as smaller works for voice, jazz guitar, clarinet, and piano. Free and open to the public with no tickets required.

# LEN THOMAS MEMORIAL CONCERT

On October 1, the music department hosted a memorial concert to celebrate the life and legacy of Len Thomas '52 (1931-2023), a Muskingum alumnus who performed with Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians and taught and played with the music groups at Muskingum beginning in the early 2000s. Celebrating a musician who had a tremendous impact on our entire community, the performance featured Muskingum students and faculty, community musicians, family members, and the Cardinal Chorale. Those wishing to contribute to the Leonard Thomas '52 Scholarship Fund can visit <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/4797/donations/new> (or via the QR code below) or mail a check to Muskingum University Office of Institutional Advancement, 260 Stadium Drive, New Concord, OH 43762 (or drop it off with the music department on campus). Please indicate "Len Thomas Scholarship" in any communication.

## SPRING CLASSES

Students, check out the many exciting opportunities to take classes in the arts as majors and minors, but also as part of the general education curriculum! For the spring semester, these include classes like Three-Dimensional Design (art), A History of Film (theatre), Music and Politics (music), and many more! Studio art classes, music lessons and ensembles, and theatre productions are also open to students from across the university, regardless of major. Spring registration begins (for seniors) on October 23. We hope to see you throughout our programs!

**CELEBRATING LEN THOMAS**

Teacher, conductor, arranger, performer, accompanist, encourager, friend, and believer.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 3:00 PM**

**Brown Chapel, Muskingum University**

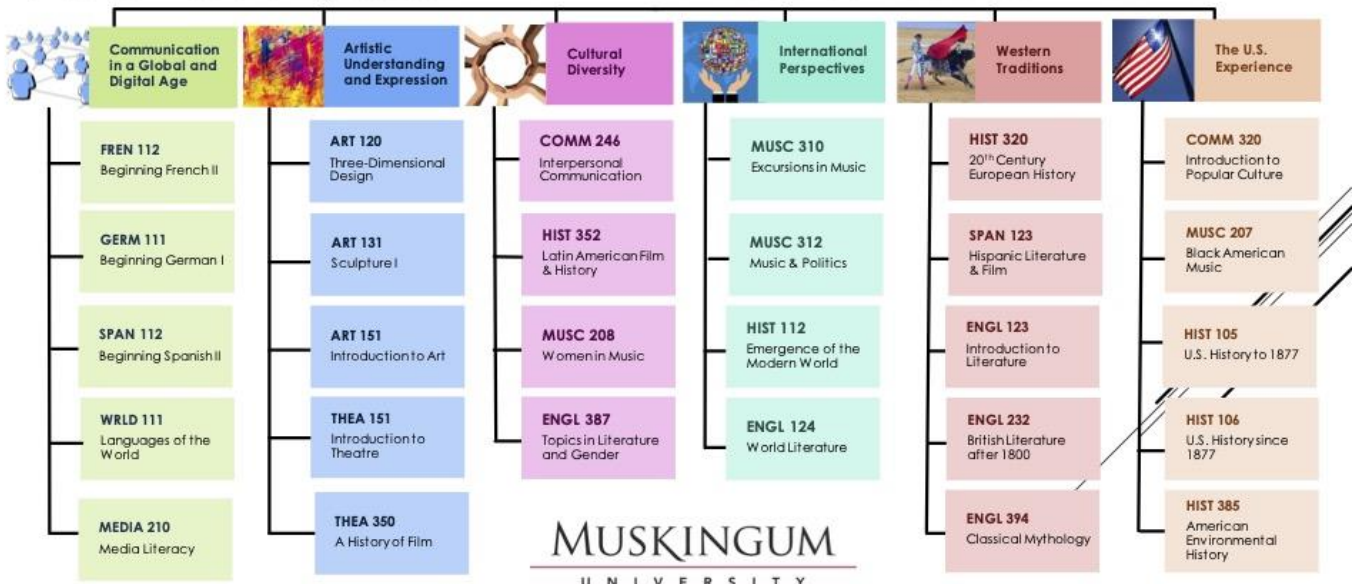
MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY

## SPRING 2024

Check out these exciting classes!

## Arts and Humanities

Select Gen Ed Courses



# STRING FLING

On Wednesday, October 11, the music department will host John Glenn High School (New Concord) and the Cleveland School of the Arts for a day-long series of clinics, adjudication, rehearsal, and combined performance. Students will work with Muskingum Instructor of Violin/Viola, Eric Kline, who also serves as the Jim & Ida Copenhaver Ginter Chair in Violin for the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in Columbus, as well as Muskingum Professor and Director of Strings, Laura Schumann. The combined performance will feature "A Solitary Wish," written by contemporary composer Brian Balmages and depicting the holiday season as seen through the perspective of a person experiencing homelessness.



# MUSIC THERAPY MASTERCLASS

On September 15, Sarah McCullough, a licensed music therapist in Zanesville, spoke with music students about her career in music therapy. Students learned about the field and participated in a representative music-making session. Ms. McCullough holds a bachelor's degree in Music with a focus on Music Therapy from Immaculata University and a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health and Counseling from Capella University. She uses music to support clients struggling with trauma and thoughts of self-harm, focusing on self-acceptance, self-care, and courage to manage difficult situations.



# MUSKINGUM VALLEY YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

After almost a year of planning, the Department of Music is excited to announce the inaugural Muskingum Valley Youth Wind Ensemble (MVYWE). The MVYWE will begin in January 2024, and will provide high school wind players and percussionists opportunities to further develop their musical skills. Students will work with Muskingum faculty and students, and the MVYWE will perform on a shared concert with the Muskingum Bands in April. High school directors can nominate students at <https://tinyurl.com/r4k5n6m5> (or the QR code below). Contact David Turrill at [dturrill@muskingum.edu](mailto:dturrill@muskingum.edu) for more information. Please help us spread the word about this exciting new opportunity!



Scan Code to Nominate Students

A promotional poster for the Muskingum Valley Youth Wind Ensemble. The text is arranged in a dynamic, angled layout. It includes details about rehearsals, the start date, and a concert. There is a QR code and a silhouette of a saxophone on the right side.

**MUSKINGUM VALLEY  
YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE**

High school wind players and percussionists looking for additional performing opportunities. Come make great music with students from other high schools!

**Rehearsals**  
Two rehearsals each month,  
on Sunday afternoons  
**STARTS JANUARY 7, 2024**  
at Muskingum University

**Concert**  
**APRIL 28, 7:00PM**  
**BROWN CHAPEL**

Directors, scan the QR code to nominate students.  
Students, for more information,  
contact David Turrill at  
[dturrill@muskingum.edu](mailto:dturrill@muskingum.edu)

**MUSKINGUM**  
UNIVERSITY

# THEATRE PRODUCTION: ARDEN OF FEVERSHAM

This month, the theatre department presents a classic Elizabethan play, now with puppets! This production depicts the real-life murder of Thomas Arden by his wife Alice Arden and her lover, including their subsequent discovery and punishment. Students are hard at work building sets, rehearsing, and preparing to participate in the stage crew for the production, which runs from October 26-29 in the Sandra Wolfe Thompson Theatre in Caldwell Hall. Tickets are \$5 or free with a Muskingum ID and available at the door or online at <https://www.muskingum.edu/academics/theatre/production-tickets>. Don't miss it!



# LATINUS THEATRE: LOS SOLES TRUNCOS

On October 1, theatre students traveled to the LatinUs Theatre in Cleveland to watch a Spanish-language production of *Los Soles Truncos*. Written in 1958 by Puerto Rican playwright and novelist René Marqués (1919-1979), the play details the lives of three sisters who, in the wake of the U.S. American invasion of Puerto Rico in the 1940s, lose everything and lock themselves in a decaying mansion in San Juan.

# SOUTHEASTERN OHIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MUSKINGUM VALLEY SYMPHONIC WINDS

In addition to our core, non-auditioned student ensembles and specialized groups like Jazz Ensemble, Music Theatre Ensemble, and Muskie Rocks, the music department at Muskingum offers unique opportunities for advanced student musicians to perform with faculty, accomplished community musicians, and professional and semi-professional musicians from across the region through participation in the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra, directed by Professor of Music, Laura Schumann, and Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds, directed by Associate Professor of Music, David Turrill. Don't miss these talented ensembles' first concerts of the year, both coming up at the end of October!

The Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra will open its 2023-2024 season with a performance on Sunday, October 22, at 7 pm in Brown Chapel. The concert is free for children (when accompanied by an adult), students (with a student ID), and for Muskingum students, faculty, and staff. Otherwise, individual tickets are \$20 at the door, or a season membership is \$45. The Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds will perform its season opener, "Living Music," on Sunday, October 29, at 3 pm in Brown Chapel. The program will include works by living composers Brian Balmages, Julie Giroux, Kevin Day, John Mackey, and Andrew Boysen, Jr. Free and open to the public with no tickets required. Donations accepted at the door!

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Calling all ARTS alumni! We'd love to hear what you've been up to since leaving Muskingum. Send a brief update to [music@muskingum.edu](mailto:music@muskingum.edu) for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.**

**Did you participate in theatre at Muskingum? All majors, minors, or participants of Muskingum Theatre are invited to take this short survey to let us know what you are up to these days: <https://forms.office.com/r/cZYkww08K4>.**

**Skyler Lawler '20 (Theatre):** Currently works for Kings Island Amusement Park's Live Entertainment Team, starting in the Costume Department (2020) and subsequently working as a Props Master (Off The Rails, Summer 2022), and International Street Feature Creature Actor (Halloween Haunt 2022). Lawler has also worked on continuing their passion for costume building and wardrobe through countless projects, whether making Stilt Walker costumes or dressing actors for the many shows Kings Island offers.

**Vivan Sumdit '06 (Music):** Works as a music producer, singer-songwriter, and independent artist. Currently based out of India, Sumdit has released two EP albums and numerous singles in the genres of EDM, Pop, Lofi EDM, and Hip Hop. He has had tracks signed by the Seal Network in Germany and Fab India cafes and releases new music each month on all major streaming platforms. Check out his music on Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Seeking Ourselves In Each Other* Gallery Opening: Wednesday, **October 11**, from 3-5 pm in the Louis O. Palmer Gallery (free)
- Homecoming Collage Concert: Friday, **October 13**, at 8 pm in Brown Chapel (free)
- Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra: Sunday, **October 22**, at 7 pm in Brown Chapel (free for children, students, and with a Muskingum ID; otherwise, \$20 at the door)

*Arden of Feversham*: **October 26-29** in Thompson Theatre, Caldwell Hall (tickets \$5 or free with a Muskingum ID; available at the door or online at <https://www.muskingum.edu/academics/theatre/production-tickets>)

- Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds, "Living Music": Sunday, **October 29**, at 3 pm in Brown Chapel (free)