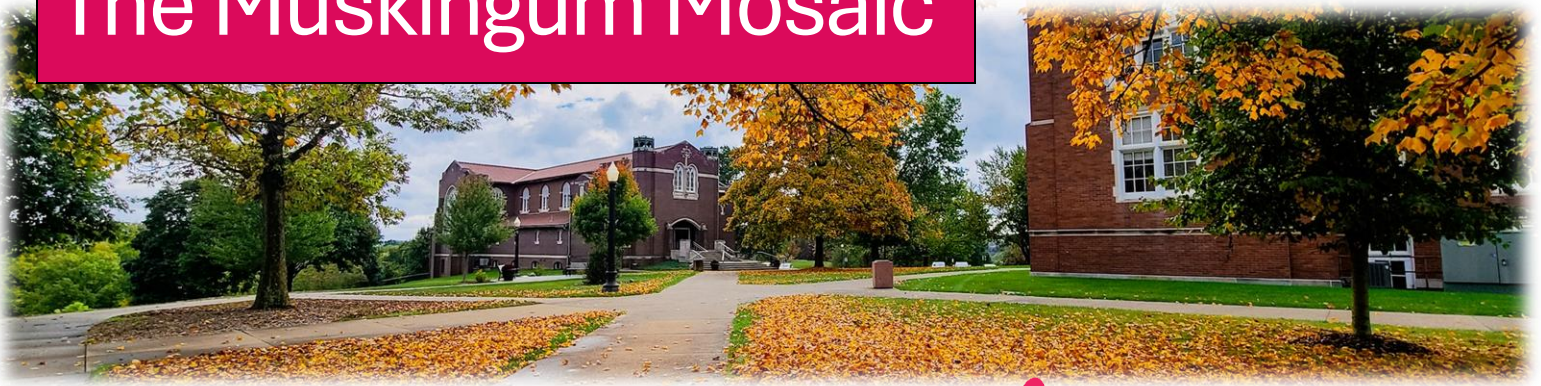


The Muskingum Mosaic

October 2025



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome back to a new semester! It has been a joy to hear Walter Hall filled once again with music. Please enjoy reading through this newsletter to see some of our exciting activities so far this semester, meet fabulous new faculty, and get a preview of upcoming events in Music, Art, and Theatre!

We are already gearing up for a very busy October of performances, with many arts events during Homecoming Weekend. The annual Homecoming Collage Concert on October 10 will highlight the breadth of musical talent at Muskingum, bringing together choirs, instrumental ensembles, and soloists. That same weekend (Oct 11-12) the Theatre department will premiere *The Milkweed Files*, an original play by Muskie students, presented by the first-year class! On October 12, alumni are invited to join the Chamber Singers for the anthem in the Homecoming Chapel Service. Also in October, we celebrate the opening of the new exhibition in Palmer Gallery with a reception on October 13. Then, come out to the Fall Concert on October 17, which will feature Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and the Wind Ensemble. So many ways to enjoy the Arts at Muskingum!

Looking ahead, registration is now open for our Instrumental YouthFest on November 8 and Choral YouthFest on November 15. These day-long events bring talented high school musicians to campus for rehearsals, classes, and a showcase performance in Brown Chapel. We encourage you to spread the word to any high school students who may be interested.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and the Arts at Muskingum. We are grateful for your presence at our concerts and events, and we look forward to sharing more wonderful music with you in the months ahead.

Happy Fall,

Dr. Daniel Strychacz
Chair of Music
Assistant Professor of Music
Director of Choral Activities

MUSKINGUM
UNIVERSITY



Magenta 2025 HOMECOMING

We invite everyone to join us
for the 103rd Magenta
Homecoming October 10-12.

FOLLOW US!

Facebook

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

Instagram

- @muskingummusic
- @muskingumart
- @muskietheatre

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Thinking about attending Muskingum University? We'd love to have you join us! In the arts, we offer inspiring facilities, a contemporary and diverse curriculum, and a welcoming community that meets you where you are and provides opportunities to participate in our programs across the entire campus community. We also offer scholarships for all levels of participation. Learn more online and schedule a time to visit campus and experience our close-knit community for yourself!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY IN ART, MUSIC & CMT!

Muskingum University is pleased to welcome three outstanding professionals to our full-time faculty this year in Art, Music, and CMT. Each brings fresh energy, expertise, and a passion for mentoring students in their fields.

John Drubel – Assistant Professor of Art

The Art & Design Department is excited to welcome John Drubel as Assistant Professor of Art. A proud Muskingum alumnus (Class of '09), John returns to campus with both professional and educational experience that uniquely position him to mentor the next generation of student artists. Based in Paul Hall, he will be teaching courses in studio art, drawing, and design at both the foundational and advanced levels. His appointment strengthens the department's offerings and brings valuable perspective as both a practicing artist and former Muskie.

Dr. Erin Helgeson Torres – Assistant Professor of Music

The Music Department is thrilled to welcome Dr. Erin Helgeson Torres, a flutist highly regarded as an educator, soloist, and chamber and orchestral musician. She has performed and taught across the United States and internationally in Cuba, Europe, Asia, and Canada. At Muskingum, Dr. Torres teaches courses in music history, theory, technology, jazz, and world music, while also mentoring flute students in applied study.

Dr. Torres serves as Principal Flutist with both the Lima Symphony Orchestra and the Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra, and she regularly performs with ensembles including the West Virginia, Louisville, and Columbus Symphonies. She is also a founding member of the Tower Duo, a flute/saxophone duet with her husband, whose debut album CROSSWIND was released on the Ravello label. With her passion for teaching and performance, Dr. Torres brings a dynamic and inspiring presence to Muskingum's music program.

Amy Powelson – Broadcast Engineer & Program Director, Orbit Media

The Communication, Media, and Theatre Department is delighted to have Amy Powelson joining as the new Broadcast Engineer and Program Director for Orbit Media. Relocating most recently from Philadelphia, Amy also brings experience from her time at Ithaca College. She will oversee technical operations, programming strategy, and student training for both radio and television platforms. With her extensive background in broadcast and audio engineering, Amy will play a vital role in guiding Orbit Media into its next era of innovation and expanding hands-on opportunities for students.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

CHOIR RETREAT

The Concert Choir gathered on September 13 for a full-day retreat filled with music, laughter, and community. Students spent the day rehearsing repertoire, playing games, and even performing lighthearted skits inspired by the music. The retreat was a wonderful opportunity to build friendships while making great music together.



STRATFORD FESTIVAL

Eight Muskingum Students attended the Stratford Festival trip in August. This trip, sponsored by John and Therese Gardner, gives students interested in theatre (regardless of major) a highly interactive experience. Students saw 11 productions, toured backstage and props/ costume storage, watched two set changeovers, and were able to meet and talk with a production stage manager, as well as the Festival's Executive Director. Applications are now open for the 2026 trip, August 10-17th.



URBAN IMPACT

On Sept 7th, theatre welcomed Urban Impact of Pittsburgh who brought their production of *As You Like It* to Thompson Theatre. Urban Impact is directed by Muskingum Alumnus, Eric Anderson '08. For more information on their programming visit their [website](#).



PALMER GALLERY'S FIRST EXHIBITION OF THE SEMESTER: EASTERN OHIO ARTISTS EXHIBITION



Muskingum University opened the fall semester with the Eastern Ohio Artists Exhibition at the Louis O. Palmer Gallery. Running from September 10 through October 1, 2025, the show highlighted a diverse collection of paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works by regional artists.

The exhibition began with an opening reception on September 10 and featured an art talk by Julie Keirle on September 17, offering visitors insight into her creative process.

This exhibition marked a strong start to the Palmer Gallery's 2025–2026 season of celebrating the arts.

ZEPHYR CHAMBER WINDS PERFORMANCE

The Zephyr Chamber Winds performed on Saturday, September 20 for an enthusiastic audience in Brown Chapel. The Zephyr Chamber Winds includes Muskingum Artist Affiliates Austin Spillman, saxophone, and Kaleigh Simmons, clarinet. Other members include Meagan Gaskill, flute; Michael Rueda, oboe; and Dustin Gourley, bassoon. Their performance included works from a range of historical periods and for varying instrumentation, including solos, duos, trios, and the full quintet.



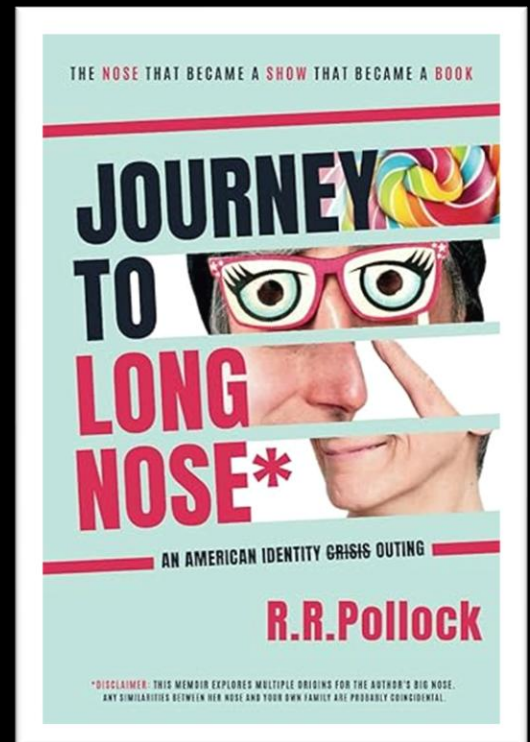
OCMEA KICKS OFF SCHOOL YEAR

Our OCMEA (Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association) chapter kicked off the year with their annual fall ice cream social. At this organizational meeting, the chapter began making plans for fall and spring activities, including advocacy events, fundraisers, guest speakers, and the OMEA conference. The 2025-2026 officers are Heather Dawson, president; Cassidy Brown, vice-president; Keeley Carter, secretary; and Macy Morgan, treasurer.



JOURNEY TO LONG NOSE

Assistant Professor of Communication Rachel Pollock released *Journey to Long Nose: An American Identity Outing* based on her one-woman show of the same title. When DNA tests and family tales collide, identity gets complicated. In this refreshingly original memoir, Rachel takes readers on a humorous and heartfelt journey through her fractured cultural identity—shaped by shifting family narratives and society's growing obsession with ancestry DNA. The results, as she puts it, are "as plain as the nose on my face." You can purchase the print or e-book on Amazon.



Art in Action Highlights



President Sue Hasseler shares a special moment with Professor John Drubel, showing him a print of a drawing he created as a Muskingum student, now proudly displayed in her office. A true full-circle story!



Students in Dr. Tom German's Visual Communication class learned about depth cues by looking at anaglyph images, which were used to make 3D movies as far back as 1922.



Art & Design club is back! Here, club President Ryleigh Lawhorne watches on as a prospective club member adds to the collaborative canvas during Muskingum's Involvement Fair. Art Club has already begun to engage in art outside the classroom with meetings and activities.



Professor Tom German speaks to students attending the Cookies and Canvases event on August 28.



Opening Reception of Eastern Ohio Artists Exhibition in Palmer Gallery September 10.

HOOKED ON THE ARTS

On September 18, Muskingum University's Art, Music, and Theatre departments came together to host Hooked on the Arts, a day designed to connect high school students with the creative opportunities available on campus.

The event began with "speed-friend" sessions, where students met professors and current majors from across the arts, gaining insight into programs and career paths. Music participants then dove into an innovative improvisation-based composition workshop, collaborating to create and perform original music together. Art participants had the opportunity to make pinch pots in the Neptune Center, while Theatre participants experimented with improvisational acting skills.

The day also featured a forum for the arts, a campus tour, and lunch, giving visitors a well-rounded introduction to the Muskingum experience.

Hooked on the Arts highlighted the power of collaboration across artistic disciplines while showcasing Muskingum's supportive community.



Student Recognition

HEATHER DAWSON

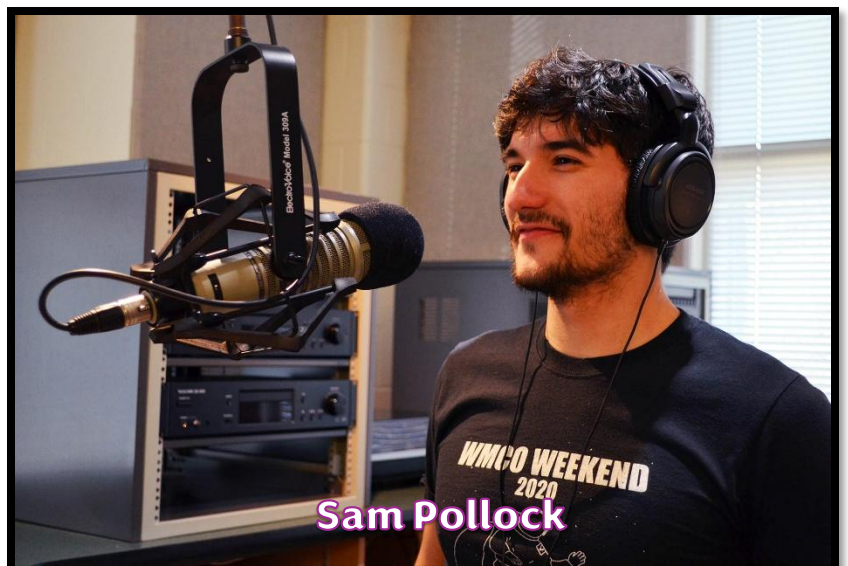
AWARDED SUMMER MUSKIE FELLOW

Senior music education major Heather Dawson was awarded a Summer Muskie Fellow for the summer of 2024 to work with Dr. Turrill on research of local composer, Harry P. Guy (1870-1950). Guy was a Zanesville native who composed several ragtime piano pieces and was an influential musician in the Detroit jazz scene in the early 1900s. Heather worked with Dr. Turrill to transcribe "Echoes of the Snowball Club," a delightful jazz waltz, for concert band. This brand-new transcription will be premiered during this school year. More details to follow!



COLLEGE BROADCASTERS INC. AWARDS:

Two Muskingum students were recognized for their Journalism and Film work through College Broadcasters Inc. (CBI). JW Dennison (May '25) was nominated for Best Short Form Documentary for *Ohio is Home* and Sam Pollock (Dec '25) was nominated for Best Long Form Fiction Film for *Scout: Siege from Within*. Both nominations put the students in the top four projects in the nation, and the winners will be announced at the CBI conference in late October. Congratulations Sam and JW!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



UPCOMING THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

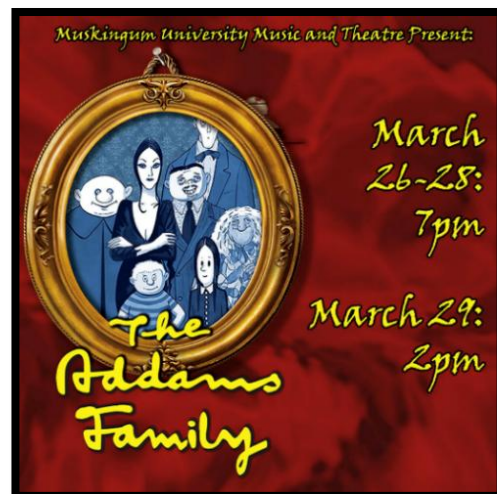
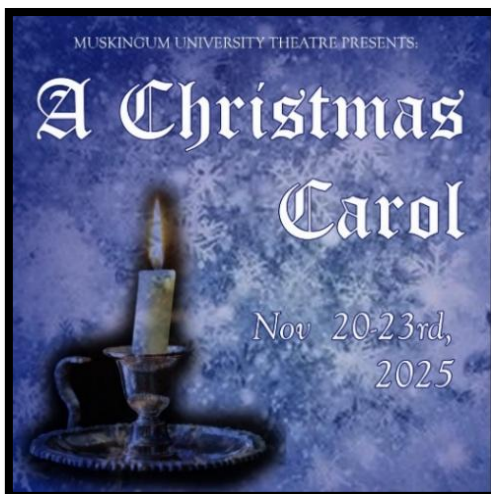
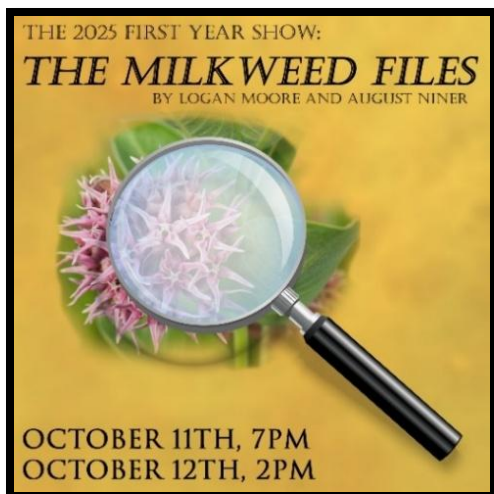
Muskingum University's Theatre Department is thrilled to announce its 2025–2026 season, showcasing an engaging mix of original student work, a beloved holiday classic, and a crowd-pleasing musical.

The season opens **October 11–12** with *The Milkweed Files*, an original play by Muskingum students August Niner and Logan Moore. Featuring 23 first-year students and 6 upperclassmen, this supernatural mystery follows investigators Row and McBride as they search for the missing Dr. Egan, a renowned research scientist. Along the way, they encounter a cast of eccentric characters who may hold the key to solving the case.

Next, the holiday spirit comes alive **November 20–23** with *A Christmas Carol*, the timeless story of redemption and generosity that continues to inspire audiences year after year.

The season wraps up **March 23–26** with the delightfully spooky and hilarious musical *The Addams Family*, bringing everyone's favorite macabre family to the stage in a production full of wit, charm, and toe-tapping tunes.

Tickets for all productions are available now at muskingum.edu/academics/theatre/production-tickets



palmer gallery



NEXT EXHIBITION: THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND SCIENCE

Artworks by Eastern Ohio High Schools including John Glenn, Meadowbrook, Indian Valley, West Muskingum, and Zanesville

Show dates: **October 13--November 13**

Gallery Opening Reception: **October 13, 4pm-6pm**

Gallery Hours:

Monday and Tuesday: 3pm-5pm

Wednesday and Thursday: 5pm-7pm

Or by appointment by contacting Hannah Winland.

Save the dates!

Instrumental YouthFest - **Saturday, November 8**

Choral YouthFest - **Saturday, November 15**

These annual, day-long events welcome regional high school musicians for a schedule of clinics, workshops, masterclasses, rehearsals, and combined performances. The showcase concert will be in Brown Chapel at 5 pm. Directed by Dr. Daniel Strychacz (choir) and Dr. David Turrill (band).

Students may register through the following links:

Instrumental: <https://admission.muskingum.edu/register/25-instrumental-youthfest>

Choral: <https://admission.muskingum.edu/register/25-choral-youthfest>

MUSKINGUM
UNIVERSITY

Concert Choir &
Wind Ensemble
Concert

Friday, 10/17
7 pm
Brown Chapel

Dr. David Turrill, director

Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds
Sunday, November 2, 2025
3:00 PM | Brown Chapel

Senior Recital
HEATHER DAWSON
11/22/25
7 PM
BROWN CHAPEL

YOUTH FEST 2025