

The Muskingum Mosaic

February 2026



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Happy 2026 from the Arts Programs at Muskingum!

The halls of Caldwell Hall, Walter Hall, Paul Hall, the Palmer Gallery, Brown Chapel, and the Neptune Center are bustling with students creating, performing, composing, designing, and exploring their passions within our programs.

Our Forensics team is competing both in person and virtually in performance and debate as they work toward their state and national competitions. Theatre returned from a successful trip to the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in January and has launched into rehearsals for *The Addams Family*, opening March 26. Music attended the Ohio Music Education Association Conference in early February. Together with the Art & Design and History departments, they are collaborating on *Voices of Change*, a cross-departmental event featuring concerts, gallery exhibitions, and research projects centered on music as a vehicle for social change.

If you believe in the Arts Programs at Muskingum, please join us for Muskingum's Day of Giving on March 18 and 19. You may donate to individual areas or support the Arts as a whole, and every dollar raised will directly fund high-impact experiences for our students.

We hope you will join us for an Arts event soon and enjoy catching up with *The Muskingum Mosaic*!

Cassie King
Chair of Communication,
Media & Theatre
Associate Professor of Theatre
and Technical Director

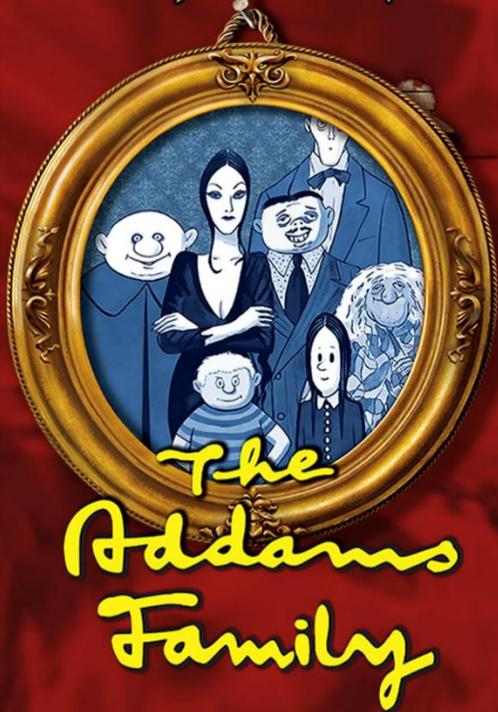
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March 18th-19th is Muskingum's annual Day of Giving, a chance for supporters of programs to donate directly to students. Following a great success last year, Arts at Muskingum are once again a featured "bucket." Supporters can donate any amount of money over \$5 to the Arts in general, or individually to Art & Design, Music, or Theatre. Watch the social media accounts for our programs leading up to that day for memories, alumni and student stories, updates about in person events, and potential "rewards" for meeting donor goals. Every dollar or share helps make a meaningful difference to our programs so thank you in advance for uplifting our students.



Muskingum University Music and Theatre Present:



March
26-28:
7pm

March 29:
2pm

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Thompson Theatre is getting creepy and kooky this semester as rehearsals for *The Addams Family* are underway. *The Addams Family* is a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice. Featuring a cast of 18 Muskies, the show tells the story of Wednesday Addams bringing home a “normal” boy to meet the family. The show is Directed by Dr. Diane Rao, Music Directed by Sheryl Wise, Choreographed by Leanne Bader-Mock, Designed by Cassie King, and Stage Managed by Alyssa Derry and Ali Neff. The show runs March 26-28 at 7pm and March 29 at 2pm, and reservations are recommended. You can reserve your tickets here:

<https://www.muskingum.edu/academics/theatre/production-tickets> .



PROF. DRUBEL: ARTIST TALK

Students and faculty gathered in the Palmer Gallery to attend a lecture by Assistant Professor of Art John Drubel as part of the *Early 20th-Century Art Movements* exhibition. The exhibition featured artworks from Muskingum’s permanent collection, including pieces by well-known artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Klee, and others.

Professor Drubel provided historical context about world events during the artists’ lifetimes, as well as insight into the rapidly evolving artistic styles of the period. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on why these artists made specific creative choices and to consider the sources of their inspiration.

He also shared personal reflections on what has inspired him throughout his own artistic journey. In closing, he encouraged the audience to seek out their own motivations, drawing connections to the inherently creative nature of humanity and our desire to express ourselves through art, music, theatre, storytelling, poetry, and dance.



VALENTINE'S DAY BOX DECORATING CONTEST

The Art & Design Club gathered over two weeks to design and decorate Valentine's Day card boxes, turning a simple tradition into a creative celebration. Students brought a variety of boxes and containers and transformed them into imaginative works of art, each reflecting their own unique style and personality. Using an assortment of materials, colors, and textures, participants showcased both their creativity and craftsmanship.

The event concluded with a friendly contest, as students cast votes for their favorite designs and helped select this year's winning creation. It was a fun, festive way to celebrate Valentine's Day while highlighting the incredible talent within our club.



FORENSICS COMPETES IN OHIO'S PRESIDENT'S DIVISION SWEEPSTAKES

The Muskingum Novice Forensics Team (Speech & Debate) took Third Place in Ohio's President's Division Sweepstakes on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at Ohio University. Individual Scorers were-- Thomas Johnson 3rd place in Novice Prose Interpretation, Andreas Bieringer 4th place in Novice International Parliamentary Debate (IPDA), and Tasqeen Dhaliwal 3rd place in IPDA at the Varsity Tournament "OU 1804." The team will compete next at Cedarville University February 19-21.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to August Niner who was awarded first place and student choice in Projections Design at the American College Theatre Festival. Auggie's work from *A Christmas Carol* will advance to the national festival along with the other winners from regions around the nation. Auggie is our fifth Muskie to advance to the national festival since 2021. Congrats Auggie!



Andreas Bieringer, Tasqeen Dhaliwal, Jared Young, Thomas Johnson



MUSKIES ATTEND THE AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL



Seven Muskingum Students attended the American College Theatre Festival Region 2 Conference from January 13-17th, in Columbia, Md. Desiré Correa and Cayden Nicholson Participated in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition, Ady Baesmann, and Katelinn Kinsey participated in the Music Theatre Intensive Competition, August Niner and River Berger presented their designs as part of the Design-Tech-Management Expo, and Alex Dillon participated in the Institute for Theatre Journalism and Advocacy program. Additionally, Desiré was selected to perform one of the National Playwriting Program's selected one acts, and August and Katelinn presented as part of the ASPIRE Arts Leadership Program, currently lead by class of '24 Muskie, Kailyn Shalosky. The students participated in workshops in all areas of theatre, saw performances, and networked with their peers across the eight-state region. Associate Professor of Theatre Cassie King currently chairs the region.



Global Stage: Dr. Erin Torres Represents Muskingum in



Dr. Erin Torres, Asst. Professor of Music, recently returned from an extraordinary international residency in Brazil, where she performed and taught at the Universidade de São Paulo as part of the Festival Ecano de Música da Universidade de São Paulo.

Dr. Torres toured with her husband, Dr. Michael Torres, as the *Tower Duo*, spending the week immersed in performance, teaching, and artistic collaboration. During their residency, the duo presented two concerts to enthusiastic audiences and worked closely with a number of exceptionally talented students. In addition to their own performances, they attended concerts and observed classes, gaining inspiration from the deeply artistic work of both students and colleagues.

While in Brazil, Dr. Torres and her husband were also able to explore São Paulo, one of the world's most dynamic cultural centers. A highlight of the trip was experiencing the world-renowned São Paulo Carnivale. Described as life-altering, the celebration was filled with music, dancing, joy, and an overwhelming sense of community. From singing with their new Brazilian friends to embracing the vibrant energy that lasted into the early morning hours, the experience left them both deeply grateful.



Voices OF Change ²⁰²⁶

An interdisciplinary collaboration with the departments of Music, History, and Art & Design that explores music's role in social issues.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 3:00 PM, BROWN CHAPEL
 Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds & Muskingum Wind Ensemble Concert
 4:00 PM, PALMER GALLERY
 Student Presentations & Reception

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
 3:30 PM, PALMER GALLERY
 Safe Spaces, Strong Voices:
 How underrepresented communities can claim their place at the table.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 7:00 PM, PALMER GALLERY
 Two by Two Concert:
 Giving new life to traditional folk & gospel music as well as their own originals.





VOICES OF CHANGE

Muskingum University invites the campus and surrounding community to take part in *Voices of Change*, a four-event series highlighting music and meaningful dialogue around transformative people and ideas throughout history.

Sunday, February 22 begins with the Muskingum Wind Ensemble & Muskingum Valley Symphonic Winds presenting *Voices of Change* at 3 p.m. in Brown Chapel. This inspiring concert pays tribute to individuals and movements that have shaped our world. The program reflects on democracy, courage, equality, and the ongoing pursuit of justice through the power of music.

Following the concert at 4 p.m., the *Voices of Change* Student Presentations and Reception will take place in Palmer Gallery. Research from students enrolled in HIST 360 will be on display, offering thoughtful historical perspectives that deepen the themes explored in the performance.

On **Monday, February 23** at 3:30 p.m. in Palmer Gallery, *Safe Spaces, Strong Voices: How Underrepresented Communities Can Claim Their Place at the Table* will celebrate diversity and foster inclusion, particularly in support of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Organized entirely by a passionate group of students, the event will feature LGBTQ+ trivia, an identity quilt activity, face painting, giveaways, music, and refreshments in a welcoming and affirming space.

The series concludes on **Wednesday, February 25** at 7 p.m. in Palmer Gallery with *Two by Two* in Concert, a Central Ohio based duo known for bringing new life to traditional folk and gospel music. Refreshments will be served.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RESCHEDULED
NEW DATE ANNOUNCED

Third time's the charm! After delays due to illness and winter weather, Dr. Harsha Abeyaratne is set to present his long-awaited piano recital on **Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Brown Chapel.**

Join us for a beautiful evening dedicated to music, talent, and the hard work of our incredible **Dr. Harsha Abeyaratne!**



MUSKINGUM UNIVERSITY

DR. HARSHA ABEYARATNE
PIANO RECITAL
 Thursday, March 19 | 7:00 PM | Brown Chapel

MUSIC STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT OMEA CONFERENCE

A wonderful time was had by all at the Muskingum Alumni Reception during the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Conference on Friday, January 30, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

It was a joy to reconnect with so many of our talented alumni, hear updates about their careers and classrooms, and celebrate the meaningful work they are doing. Just as special was watching our alumni connect with one another sharing memories, exchanging ideas, and strengthening the professional and personal bonds that began during their time at Muskingum University.

One of the highlights of the evening was seeing our current students engage with graduates who once stood exactly where they are now. Conversations about teaching, graduate school, auditions, and life after Muskingum served as powerful reminders of the supportive and enduring network that defines our program.

The Long Magenta Line runs very deep. Events like this beautifully reflect the strength of our Muskingum music family past, present, and future. We are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening such a meaningful celebration of connection, mentorship, and Muskie pride.





MUSIC GRAD: ADDIE YOUNG

We are proud to congratulate December music graduate Addie Young on her new position at Morgan Local Schools! Addie is now serving as the music teacher at East Elementary School, where she is already making a positive impact on her students and school community.

Addie's dedication and passion for teaching were evident throughout her time at Muskingum, and we are thrilled to see her begin this exciting new chapter. Her students are fortunate to have an educator who brings such energy, creativity, and heart to the classroom.

Congratulations, Addie! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all the wonderful things you will accomplish.

SCHOLARSHIP PORTFOLIOS, APPLICATIONS, AUDITIONS

Have you already applied and been accepted to attend Muskingum? You're eligible to apply for scholarships in the arts! Login to your admission account for more details or contact Prof. Cassie King (Theatre), Prof. Daniel Strychacz (Music) or Prof. Tom German (Art & Design).

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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!



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 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/cZYkwv08K4>.

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