The MSSU Music Department has a long and storied tradition of providing the community entertaining concerts with diverse repertoire in a variety of performance venues on the MSSU campus and around Joplin. We are thrilled to continue this tradition with a spring calendar that is full of incredibly artistic and musically exciting performances.

We offer a wide variety of musical and educational opportunities to students planning to pursue a career or embrace an interest in music. We offer baccalaureate degrees in applied music (performance), music education (vocal or instrumental) and music industry. All interested student musicians have the opportunity to participate in our performing groups regardless of major or minor, or just participate in music at MSSU. Our faculty is committed to the growth and development of students both personally and professionally.

MSSU students and ensembles have performed on many international stages – such as Italy, China, Serbia, France, Drum Corps International Finals, Winter Guard International Finals, 2012 MLB All-Star Game, 2014 World Series, Wichita Thunder, as well as venues in Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and Los Angeles.

No matter what your musical taste may be, our talented students and virtuosic faculty have something for everyone! This spring, audiences will have the opportunity to hear the landmark work “Requiem” by Johannes Brahms with the Southern Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra (April 12), tap their toes with the Jazz Combos (April 15,17) and Jazz Orchestra (April 23), hear the finest wind band repertoire with the Wind Ensemble (April 20), feel the infectious primal beats of the Percussion Ensemble featuring the Steel Pan Lions (April 21), enjoy a night with the Southern Symphony Orchestra (April 24) performing with acclaimed artist Roger Wright or enjoy the MSSU Concert Chorale, Chamber Singers and Jazz Unlimited’s Spring Choral Concert (May 1). There are so many talented students and so much great music to showcase this semester. We hope to see you in the audience!
Wednesday
January 21
Pioneers of Negro League Baseball Presentation
CAB Event
1 - 2 p.m. & 7 - 8 p.m.
Corley Auditorium

For more than 30 years author, Phil S. Dixon has recorded African-American sports topics with a vast array of in-depth skill and historical accuracy. He has authored nine baseball books and won the prestigious Casey Award for the Best Basebook Book of 1992. He received a SABR MacMillan Award for his excellence in historical research, and is widely regarded for his expertise on baseball history.

Dixon is a co-founder of the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City and formerly worked in the Public Relations office of the American League Kansas City Royals. He is completing his 10th book (“Tommy Campbell, A Boxing Bout with the Mob”), his first inside look into the unethical relationship of boxing and organized crime in the lightweight division during the 1940s and 1950s. He is also an expert speaker on the topic of Jack Johnson, the first African-American heavyweight boxing champion.

His presentation, “The Unsung Pioneers of Negro League Baseball,” will be about players and teams of the early years (1865-the early 1900s). He will discuss specifically how the small towns in Missouri and Kansas played an integral role in the integration of baseball both at the university level and professionally.

Tuesday - Saturday
January 27 - 31
Crimes of the Heart
By Beth Henley | Directed by Ann G. Lile
Southern Theatre Production
7:30 p.m.
Bud Walton Theatre
Rated M

“Crimes of the Heart” won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Initially presented by the Actors Theatre of Louisville, then off Broadway, then on Broadway, it established playwright Beth Henley as a major voice in theatre. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their emotions.

January 12 - February 12
Natalia Zubko and Jen Waters Art Exhibition
Art Exhibit
Artist talk: February 12 • 4 - 5 p.m.
Reception: February 12 • 5 - 7 p.m.

New York-based artists Natalia Zubko and Jen Waters will showcase their artwork during their monthlong exhibition on campus. Waters’ paintings and Zubko’s sculptures/installation artwork will be on display at the Spiva Art Gallery. Those interested in their work will have an opportunity to hear the artists discuss their creative process and the meaning behind their work during the artist talk on February 12.
February 16 - 27
K-12 Art Show
Art Exhibit
Reception: February 21 • 12 - 2 p.m. & 2 - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by District 9 of the Missouri Art Education Association, the 4th Annual K-12 Art Show will feature artwork created by students from throughout Southwest Missouri. This non-competitive exhibit will be arranged by grade level in order to show creative development by grade. It will include a variety of 2D and 3D works including paintings, clay sculptures, cardboard constructions and works made from found objects.

Tuesday
February 24
Joel Ward; Magician
CAB Event
7 p.m.
Corley Auditorium

Joel became interested in magic when he was 6 years old. Since then, he has taken his magic very seriously. By age 15, he became a world champion teen magician after placing 1st at the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the world’s largest magic organization. Joel was also featured on “Lance Burton - Young Magicians Showcase,” filmed at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

In 2007, Joel performed over 500 shows at the Horizon Casino & Resort in South Lake Tahoe. In 2009, he performed on NBC’s “The Bonnie Hunt Show,” and was part of the “Masters of Illusion” on My Network TV. That same year Joel headlined the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus show, “Boom A Ring,” which toured the East Coast and Puerto Rico. Joel has been seen on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” and on Comedy Central’s “Tosh.0.”

Friday
February 6
Nick Guerra; Comedian
CAB Event
7 p.m.
Corley Auditorium

Nick Guerra - aka “The Little Long-Haired Comic” - has blasted onto the comic scene and quickly become one of the most memorable comedians you will ever see. Originally from Texas, Nick can be seen all over the country touring with Jo Koy, Michael Yo and Pablo Francisco.

Nick recently appeared on fellow comic Gabriel Iglesias’ hit Comedy Central series “Stand Up Revolution,” and blew the crowd away with his comedic approach to relationships, current events and personal experiences. He was a writer and actor on rapper Pitbull’s Mun2 show “La Esquina” and the in-house comic on Jo Koy’s “Raw.”

Missouri Southern is now offering two new Master’s Degrees

Master of Accountancy
mssu.edu/mac

Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction
mssu.edu/mse
MARCH

March 2 - 28
Dreadful 7
Art Exhibit
Reception: TBA

This 3D art show will feature three-dimensional artwork inside the Spiva Art Gallery. Included among the showcase will be original works by art faculty members. During the exhibition, a reception will be held to celebrate the artists whose work will be on display.

Saturday & Sunday
March 7 & 8
Straw into Gold: The Classic Tale of Rumpelstiltskin
Adapted by Sally Netzel | Directed by Sam Claussen
Children’s Theatre Production
2:30 p.m.
Taylor Auditorium
Rated G

This is the story of the original “He who must not be named” – Rumpelstiltskin, the evil troll who can

Wednesday
March 11
MOSO Talent Show - Featuring Emcee Paul Varghese
CAB Event
7 - 9:30 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

The Missouri Southern State University Student Activities Office is thrilled to announce that comedian Paul Varghese will be serving as the host for the 2015 MOSO Talent Show. Details for how to compete in the 2015 Talent Show are forthcoming.

Paul Varghese has been seen on NBC’s “Last Comic Standing,” Showtime’s “Russell Peters Presents,” Comedy Central’s “Live at Gotham” and “Stand-up Revolution.” He opened for Dave Chapelle in his mini-tour through Texas in 2012 and is a previous winner of the Funniest Comic in Texas Competition and the Laughing Skull Comedy Competition. He also has an album out on iTunes called “Paul and Oates.”

Friday
March 27
The Found Footage Festival
CAB Event
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Corley Auditorium

The Found Footage Festival is a one-of-a-kind comedy show featuring odd and hilarious clips from videotapes found at thrift stores and garage sales across the country. Curators Joe Pickett and Nick Prueher, whose credits include “The Onion” and the “Late Show with David Letterman,” host each screening in person and provide their unique observations and commentary on these found video obscurities. From the curiously-produced industrial training video to the forsaken home movie donated to Goodwill, the Found Footage Festival resurrects these forgotten treasures and serves them up in a lively celebration of all things found.

The Found Footage Festival was founded in New York in 2004 and has gone on to sell out hundreds of shows across the U.S. and Canada, including the HBO Comedy Festival at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas and the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal. The festival has been featured on National Public Radio, ABC World News, “Jimmy Kimmel Live” and G4 TV’s “Attack of the Show,” and has been named a Critic’s Pick in dozens of publications, including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle and The Chicago Tribune.
March 30 - April 17

37 Prime
Art Exhibit
Reception: March 31 • 4 - 6 p.m.

37 Prime, an exhibit presented by the Focal Point Student Art Club, will display an array of high-quality undergraduate artwork from universities across Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The exhibition is built to be competitive in order to challenge and inspire the young artists of the Four-State region.

Tuesday
March 31
Gockel International Symposium
International Studies Event
9:30 a.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

The Harry and Berniece Gockel International Symposium moves to the spring semester with a special program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I. Christopher Capozzola, an associate professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), will speak on how Americans responded (or didn’t respond) to the raging Great War in Europe. Capozzola is the author of “Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen.” He was the featured speaker for the 19th annual Jeans Lecture in History at MSSU in April 2013.

World War I, a conflict which cost more than 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians their lives, shaped the world we know today. How did rational people plummet themselves into the irrationalism and chaos that tore apart the continent of Europe along with the rest of the world while sowing the seeds of much of the 20th Century’s subsequent horrors? Capozzola will examine why World War I is often overlooked – in comparison to the Civil War and World War II – in shaping American national identity.

He is also a co-curator of “The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I,” a historical exhibition commemorating the centennial of the First World War that will be featured at the National World War 1 Museum in Kansas City in 2016.

Tuesday
March 31
Gockel International Symposium
International Studies Event
11 a.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

Brian Grubbs, project manager for “Missouri Over There,” will speak about the legacy of World War I in Missouri and the state’s efforts for centennial commemoration.

“Missouri Over There” seeks to investigate the state’s involvement in World War I and serve as a precursor to the statewide collaborative digitization project, “Over There: Missouri and the Great War.” The project will develop a single digital collection consisting of documents, photographs, artifacts and other media in preparation for the centennial remembrance.

Tuesday
April 7
Zach Sherwin; Comedian
CAB Event
7 - 8 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

Zach Sherwin is a comedian and rapper whose unique act incorporates both hip-hop music and stand-up comedy. Born in Ohio, raised in Missouri, and educated in Boston, he currently lives in Los Angeles, where he spends his time writing raps, shooting music videos and beefing up his resume. He also tours all over the country, showcasing regularly at NACA conferences and performing widely on the college circuit.

Zach’s music videos have been viewed millions of times online, and he has also performed in several episodes of the blockbuster YouTube series “Epic Rap Battles of History,” playing such characters as Albert Einstein, Sherlock Holmes and Ebenezer Scrooge. Zach’s television credits include “The Pete Holmes Show” (TBS), “Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell” (FX), and appearances on MTV, E! and VH1. His album is currently available on Comedy Central Records.
Saturday
April 11
World Music & Cuisine Festival
International Studies Event
5 - 8:30 p.m.
Connor Ballroom, Billingsly Student Center

Presented by the MSSU Institute of International Studies and the International Club, the 2nd Annual World Music & Cuisine Festival will feature performances by local and regional groups and a variety of food prepared by international students, faculty, staff, and local restaurants.

“It’s a twofold event – to showcase the musical talent both on campus and elsewhere, and to let people sample food from around the world,” said Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies. “We think there will be some synergy. Some people will come for the music and find the food; others will come for the food and discover the music.”

The MSSU Steel Pan Lions, a steel drum ensemble, will headline the music portion of the April 11 festival. They will be joined by a steel drum ensemble from Bartlesville (Okla.) High School.

Admission is free, but food servings will be sold via tickets priced at $1 each. For more information, visit http://www.mssu.edu/international-studies/world-festival/.

Sunday
April 12
The Southern Symphonic Chorus & Orchestra presents Johannes Brahms’ “Requiem”
Music Performance
3 p.m.
Central Christian Center

The Southern Symphonic Chorus (Dr. David L. Sharlow, conductor) is open for all community singers to join the MSSU Concert Chorale in presenting a choral/orchestral work every spring.

This year the chorus will perform Johannes Brahms’ iconic work, which has been featured in numerous movies. Its a visceral intensity work full of rhythmic vigor, engaging tenacity and audience appeal. Professional soloists include Stacey Stofferahn, soprano, and returning to the stage Robert McNichols, baritone. Combined with the Missouri Southern Symphonic Orchestra, the Southern Symphonic Chorus’ presentation of Brahms’ “Requiem” is a performance you won’t want to miss!

Wednesday & Friday
April 15 & 17
Jazz Combos
Music Performance
Wed. - 7:30 p.m.  Corley Auditorium
Fri. - 6-8 p.m.  Gusano’s

The MSSU Jazz Combos, under the direction of Dr. Phil Wise, provide two incredible opportunities to hear jazz in configurations of combos from trios to sextets. Whether you come to the concert on the MSSU campus on April 15 or you decide to take in more of the club atmosphere on the 17th at Gusano’s, you will enjoy everything from standards to contemporary repertoire in the jazz idiom.

Monday
April 20
Wind Ensemble/ Symphonic Band
Music Performance
7:30 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

Under the direction of Director of Bands Dr. Rick Espinosa, the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will perform literature from the baroque, classical and romantic periods as well as the 20th century contemporary music. The Wind Ensemble is the premiere performing instrumental ensemble at MSSU, providing a world class concert experience for audiences of all ages.

Monday - Friday
April 20 - 24
Senior Exhibition
Art Exhibit
Reception: April 25 • 12 - 2 p.m.

A group of MSSU senior art majors will showcase their original works through a variety of creative mediums inside the Spiva Art Gallery during this exhibition. As a conclusion to the display, a reception will be held on April 25, where the senior artists will appear beside their artwork to discuss their pieces with interested viewers.

Tuesday
April 21
Steel Pan Lions/ Percussion Ensemble
Music Performance
7:30 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

The Steel Pan Lions, now a full year into existence, have been in high demand on campus and throughout the region. Come hear some traditional island tunes and pop tunes in an island setting along with the MSSU Percussion Ensemble live in concert for an exhilarating concert experience. The first half of the concert will feature the MSSU Percussion Ensemble with high-intensity contemporary percussion ensemble works as well as beautiful mallet ensemble works. The entire second half will feature the Steel Pan Lions.
Thursday
April 23
Jazz Orchestra Concert
Music Performance
7:30 p.m.
Corley Auditorium

The Southern Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Phil Wise, will perform jazz standards, contemporary literature as well as progressive repertoire in an intimate concert environment. The sights and sounds are sure to have you tapping your toes.

Friday
April 24
Southern Symphony Orchestra
Music Performance
7:30 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

The Southern Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Macomber, will perform a concert featuring the anticipated return engagement of pianist Roger Wright. The concert repertoire will include Rachmaninoff’s “Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor,” Ravel’s “Mother Goose Suite” and “The Alcotts,” from “The Concord Sonata by Ives/Boyd.

Monday - Friday
April 27 - May 1
Senior Exhibition
Art Exhibit
Reception: May 2 • 12 - 2 p.m.

A group of MSSU senior art majors will showcase their original works through a variety of creative mediums inside Spiva Art Gallery during this exhibition. As a conclusion to the display, a reception will be held on May 2, where the senior artists will appear beside their artwork to discuss their pieces with interested viewers.

Monday - Saturday
April 27 - May 2
Festival of New Drama
Southern Theatre Production
7:30 p.m.
Bud Walton Theatre
Rated M

Southern Theatre student directors (who also serve as playwrights!) will take center stage with this eclectic program of their original works. You’ll enjoy this evening of one-act plays featuring great local talent.

Friday
May 1
Spring Choral Concert
Music Performance
7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church - 501 W. Fourth St., Joplin, MO

This concert is the final concert of the year for the Choral Program and Music Department. Come listen to the MSSU Concert Chorale, MSSU Chamber Singers and MSSU Jazz Unlimited, under the direction of Dr. David Sharlow, perform works from the medieval to contemporary genres.
JANUARY

January 12 - February 12
Natalia Zubko and Jen Waters Art Exhibition
Artist talk: February 12 • 4 - 5 p.m.
Reception: February 12 • 5 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday
January 21
Pioneers of Negro League Baseball Presentation
1 - 2 p.m. & 7 - 8 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

Tuesday - Saturday
January 27 - 31
Crimes of the Heart
7:30 p.m. | Bud Walton Theatre

FEBRUARY

Friday
February 6
Nick Guerra; Comedian
7 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

February 16 - 27
K-12 Art Show
Reception: February 21 • 12 - 2 p.m. & 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday
February 24
Joel Ward; Magician
7 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

MARCH

March 2 - 28
Dreadful 7
Reception: TBA

Saturday & Sunday
March 7 & 8
Straw into Gold: The Classic Tale of Rumpelstiltskin
2:30 p.m. | Taylor Auditorium

Wednesday
March 11
MOSO Talent Show
7 - 9:30 p.m.
Taylor Performing Arts Center

Friday
March 27
The Found Footage Festival
7 - 8:30 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

APRIL

Tuesday
April 7
Zach Sherwin; Comedian
7 - 8 p.m. | Taylor Performing Arts Center

Saturday
April 11
World Music & Cuisine Festival
5 - 8:30 p.m. | Connor Ballroom, Billingsly Student Center

Sunday
April 12
The Southern Symphonic Chorus & Orchestra presents Johannes Brahms’ “Requiem”
3 p.m. | Central Christian Center

Wednesday
April 15
Jazz Combs
7:30 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

Friday
April 17
Jazz Combs
6 - 8 p.m. | Gusano’s

Monday
April 20
Wind Ensemble/ Symphonic Band
7:30 p.m. | Taylor Performing Arts Center

MAY

Friday
May 1
Spring Choral Concert
7:30 p.m. | First United Methodist Church

Tuesday
April 21
Steel Pan Lions/ Percussion Ensemble
7:30 p.m. | Taylor Performing Arts Center

Thursday
April 23
Jazz Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m. | Corley Auditorium

Monday - Friday
April 27 - May 1
Senior Exhibition
Reception: May 2 • 12 - 2 p.m.

Monday - Saturday
April 27 - May 2
Festival of New Drama
7:30 p.m. | Bud Walton Theatre

140 great programs
to choose from.
Thousands of
amazing new friends.
Coming soon to a campus near you

The Spain Semester

Due to popular demand at Missouri Southern State University, España has been selected as the themed semester country for the fall of 2015. Faculty who have a particular interest in all things Spanish are now planning a comprehensive schedule of activities to kick off in August.

Here are eight reasons why Spain is vitally important and is the featured country at MSSU for 2015:

1. According to RandomHistory.com, the most enduring contribution of Spain to the world is its language, which was imported to the Americas with the expansion of the Spanish Empire in the 16th century. Today, there are some 500 million Spanish speakers worldwide, including an estimated 38 million in the United States.

2. Spain is the second-largest country in Western Europe (behind France) and the world’s 52nd largest country. It is slightly larger than the state of California.

3. With a population of nearly 48 million, Spain is the 29th most populous country in the world. Madrid and Barcelona are the two major urban areas.

4. Spain has the 14th largest economy in the world. According to the Guardian, Spain was one of the worst hit by the eurozone crisis, suffering a housing market crash which brought its banking system to the brink of collapse. It is now outperforming some of its bigger eurozone peers, including Germany and France. Spain, for good measure, produces 45% of the planet’s olive oil.

5. Famous Spaniards include Juan Ponce de León, Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Plácido Domingo, Julio Iglesias, Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz, Steve Ballesteros (golf) and Rafael Nadal (tennis).

6. Of the world’s most visited tourism destinations, Spain (with 61 million arrivals) ranks No. 3 (behind France and the United States). The Running of the Bulls, held every year from July 6-14 in Pamplona, is one of the country’s top draws. Spain has the third highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world, with a total of 44.

7. Spain brings us flamenco - singing, dancing and guitar playing from the Andalusia region in southern Spain. Characterized by colorful costumes, stamping of the feet, and clapping of the hands, flamenco is now an international phenomenon. “In my experience, there is nothing as deeply moving and exciting as real flamenco, especially when the dance and music are both there together,” says Dr. Joy Dworkin, chair of MSSU’s English and philosophy department.

8. Speaking of Andalusia, the largest city and capital is Seville, which is the fourth largest city in Spain. The Country Club Plaza in Kansas City is modeled after Spanish architecture found in Seville. Kansas City and Seville have had a “sister city” relationship since 1966.

The upcoming Spain Semester will feature guest speakers addressing major topics, films, readings, a food tasting, and yes, a flamenco concert. Southern Theatre will stage a play from España, and the Southern Symphony Orchestra will feature Robert Gruca, a classical guitarist who will perform the popular “Concierto de Aranjuez” by Joaquim Rodrigo on Nov. 6. As always, the themed semester promises something for everyone.