



Welcome Home & Welcome Back Music Jayhawks!

Graduate Student Meeting & Orientation

August 18, 2026

School of Music Leadership



Dr. Chris Johnson
Interim Dean



Dr. Colin Roust
Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs



Dr. Melissa Grady
Associate Dean for
Student Affairs



Margaret Marco
Associate Dean
for Performance



Matt Smith
Associate Dean for
Faculty Affairs



Stephen Leisring
Associate Dean for
Global Engagement

Area Faculty Coordinators

Band (Wind) Conducting – Dr. Matt Smith

Brass – Dr. Michael Davidson

Choral Conducting – Dr. Eduardo Garcia-Novelli

Jazz – Dan Gailey

Music Education – Dr. Melissa Grady

Music Composition – Dr. Ingrid Stolzel

Music Therapy – Dr. Cindy Colwell

Music Theory – Dr. Brad Osborn

Musicology – Dr. Ketty Wong

Orchestral Conducting – Creston Herron

Organ & Church Music – Dr. James Higdon

Percussion – Dr. Garrett Arney

Piano – Ellen Sommer

Strings – Creston Herron

Opera & Voice– Dr. Stella Markou

Woodwinds – Dr. Daniel Velasco

<https://music.ku.edu/contact>

School of Music Staff

Student Services

- Graduate – **Anna Paradis**, 446 Murphy
- Undergraduate – **Rita Riley**, 460 Murphy & **Ethan Bryant**, 400 Murphy

Scheduling Officer

Holly Tompkins, 460 Murphy

Communications & Event Services

Laura McCorkill & Fally Afani, 460 Murphy

Band Office & Scholarships

Leslie O'Neil & Dr. Melissa Sawyer, 124 Murphy

Recording

Wesley Rhodes, 132 Murphy & **Peter Brewer**, 570 Murphy

Dean's Office

Terri Morris & Suzanne Stoupakis, 446 Murphy

Computer Information & Tech Support

Sarah Odle, 146 Murphy

Undergrad Recruitment

Asher Suski, 452 Murphy

Custodial Staff

TBD (floors 1&2), Jamie (3rd floor), and John (floors 4&5)



Lawrence, Kansas

- A Thriving Community
 - Population over 96,367
 - 45 minutes from Kansas City (KC)
- Things to check out while you're here
 - Downtown Mass St.
 - Shopping, food, great atmosphere!
 - Clinton & Perry Lake
 - Hiking trails, boat rentals, and more!
 - Lawrence Arts Center
 - Lied Center (Lawrence) & Kauffman Center (KC)
 - Lawrence Public Library
 - Final Fridays Arts Scene
 - Festivals, live music, and more

A photograph of a man in a dark blue sweater standing on the left, looking towards three students sitting on the ground and playing acoustic guitars. The students are outdoors, with trees and a building in the background. The text 'Welcome to the School of Music' is overlaid in white serif font.

Welcome to the School of Music

Dr. Melissa Grady

Associate Deans for Student Affairs

Milestones

- Diagnostic Exams
- Research Bibliography Course & Waiver Options
- Qualifying Exams (doctoral/music only) & Waiver Options
- Licensure Requirements (MEMT only)
- Oral Comprehensive Exam (doctoral only) & Final Exams

*See the Graduate Handbook for more specific details about your milestones and degree requirements.



Graduate Student Services Information

Anna Paradis

Director of Graduate Academic
Services

School of Music Dean's Office

446 Murphy Hall

School of Music Graduate Student Services

Academic Policies
& Procedures

Official Student
Records

Graduation Audit

Travel Funding

Troubleshooting

Important Events,
Deadlines, & Dates

Enrollment Holds, Resources & Requirements



WATKINS
HEALTH
SERVICES



FINANCIAL AID



PARKING &
TRANSIT



GRADUATE
STUDIES -
TRANSCRIPTS



PLAN OF STUDY
ADVISING



NEW GTA
TRAINING



RESIDENCY



UNIVERSITY
OMBUDS

Professional Development

- Capital Graduate Research Summit
- Three-Minute Thesis
- Networking & Community Events
- Performance & Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Lecture Recitals & Theses/DMA Defenses
- Graduate Certificates

<https://music.ku.edu/calendar>

Frequently Asked Questions

Advising & Enrollment

Funding (Scholarships/Fellowships,
GTA/GRA/GA)

Billing & Emergency Funding Needs

University Structure – Helpful
Links

Conflict Management

Health & Safety

New Policies

Resources

- Graduate Studies – Welcome Guide & Info Hub
- Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center
 - Fitness Classes
 - Outdoor Pursuits
 - Intramural Sports
 - Sports Clubs
- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Watkins Health Services
- University Career Center
- Legal Services for Students
- Student Money Management
- Writing Center
- Accessibility KU
- Jayhawk Finances
- International Support Services (ISS)
- Military-Affiliated Student Center
- Rock Chalk Central (Student Orgs)
- University Ombuds
- Office of Civil Rights & Title IX (official reporting)
- Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center (SAPEC)

Funding Resources

***Be sure to complete the [FASFA](#) or [ISNAW](#) annually.**

Apply for Funding

- [Graduate Student Travel Funding](#) – Graduate Studies – Apply Prior to Travel
- [Military-Affiliated Scholarships](#) – Multiple Award opportunities / Various Deadlines
- [Dwight Eisenhower/Clifford Roberts Graduate Fellowship](#) – Deadline: February
- [University Women's Club Scholarship](#) – Deadline: January
- [Doctoral Student Research Fund](#) – Deadline: September

Faculty Nomination – Scholarships, Fellowships, & Awards

- [Summer Research Scholarship](#) - Nomination Deadline: February
- [Argersinger Dissertation Award](#) – Deadline: February
- [Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Service](#) – Deadline: November
- [Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards](#) – Nomination Deadline: October
- [MAGS Distinguished Thesis Award](#) – Deadline: September

School of Music Funding Resources

- Area Funding
- [Student Opportunity Fund](#)
- [Community Fellows Program](#)
- [Music Therapy Entrance
Scholarship](#)

*Most of these resources are listed in the [Resources](#) section of the School of Music website (under Graduate Students > Funding Resources).

Health & Wellness



Stop by Watkins Health Center to explore options for medical and mental health resources

Mental Health Resources

[KU Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

CAPS Personal Counseling Services can help students with issues related to adjusting to college and other psychological, interpersonal, and family problems. Individual sessions, group sessions and psychiatric services are available.

[TELUS Health](#)

CAPS partners with the Telus Student Support Program to connect students to in-the-moment support from Masters-level counselors. Students receive the help they need in their native language (150+ languages supported) at home, on campus, or abroad. 24/7 & 365 and 100% FREE!

[Self Management Resources](#)

Find resources and information that may help you or a friend through a difficult time or prepare for success with resources to address time management, study skills, procrastination, test anxiety and more.

Concerned About Someone...

Submit a CARE REPORT.

Provide as much information as you are comfortable. Care reporting is designed to encourage early identification of individuals who may be experiencing difficulty coping with their environment or a life circumstance. You are not required to diagnose a student or worry that you will get the student in trouble. Care reporting is assigned to the Student Care Referral Team (SCRT). Together Student Support and Case Management and SCRT assist University of Kansas students, staff, faculty, and family members who have concerns about a specific student's behaviors and/or well-being and do not know where to turn.

Hope@CAPS

HOPE@CAPS is a program through KU's Counseling and Psychological Services in which graduate students are trained to provide Mental Health Peer Education to other Jayhawks. Our Peer Educators are trained and accredited to provide supportive listening, assist in brain storming solutions, and to assist in locating resources for their peers. Our Peer Educators are accredited through NASPA, The Association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Kansas Memorial Union
4th floor, room 452

New Peer Community Space

Enjoy games, coloring, fidget toys, and community with your fellow Jayhawks. Our Community Space is staffed by multiple NASPA certified Mental Health Peer Educators. You can get support and resources or hang out and have someone to talk to.

University Ombuds

An Ombuds is...An **expert** in conflict management that complements other parts of the university by acting as a **confidential, independent, informal, and impartial** resource for **all members** of the university and by providing periodic **feedback** to the university about trends.

Contact: ombuds@ku.edu

What does the KU Ombuds Office offer?

- > Provides a space to have an “off the record” conversation
- > Offers confidentiality
- > Space to explore options, understand policy, connect to experts on campus
- > Not a “mandatory reporter” of discrimination
- > When you are not sure where to go, or how to get help with a situation AND you need a confidential, “off the record” conversation.

Brief: How do you find us?

- <https://ombuds.ku.edu>
- You can email, ombuds@ku.edu
- You can fill out a “request to meet” form, <https://ombuds.ku.edu/ombuds-intake-form>
- We work to respond within 24 business hours



Report Concerns or Issues

reportit.ku.edu

Take Action to Build Inclusive
Communities & Recognize
Outstanding Faculty or Staff

Provide Feedback

Graduate Students Get Involved!

University Student Senate

- [Apply to become a Senator](#)

Committee on Graduate Studies in Music (COGSIM)

- 2 Graduate Student Representatives (Music & MEMT)
- Contact musicgrad@ku.edu if interested

Inclusion, & Belonging Committee

- Student Representatives Needed (Undergrad & Grad)
- Contact [Anna Paradis](#) if interested

University Graduate Student Advisory Board

- 1 Graduate Student Representative Appointed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Music
- Contact [Dr. Colin Roust](#) if interested

GTA & Job Resources

- Center for Teaching Excellence ([CTE](#)) - Teaching Resources
 - Mandatory Training Required
 - [Student & Campus Resources](#)
 - Verification of Spoken English Worksheet
- Payroll Calendar – Sent by Email
- KU Employment – 3G Positions & Student Hourly
 - [Office Assistant for KU Band Office](#)
 - [Student Hourly Positions](#)
 - Recital Monitors
 - Recording Monitors
 - Office Assistant
 - Class Graders
 - [Graduate Research Assistant](#) – Center for Teaching Excellence
 - [Graduate Testing Assistant](#) – Student Access Center
 - [Student Event Staff](#) – Dept of Theatre & Dance
 - [Student Circulation Assistant](#) – Anschutz Library

Area Breakout Sessions

**Music Performance, Musicology,
Music Theory & Composition**

- DMA/PhD – Swarthout
- MM – 402 Murphy Hall

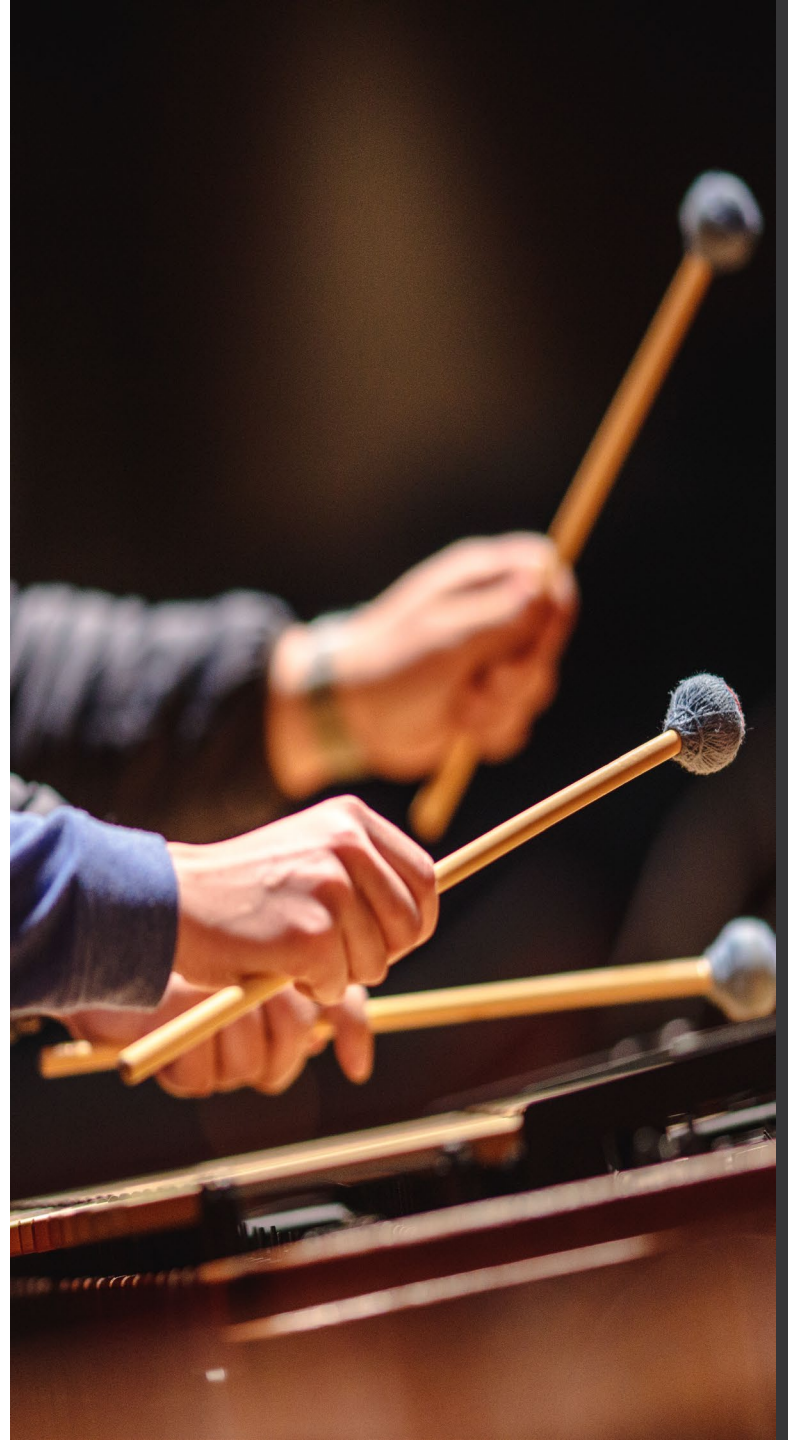
**Music Education & Music
Therapy (MME & PhD)**

Cindy Colwell

- 575 Murphy Hall

WBP GTA Meeting @ 3:30PM

Find Dr. Matt Smith



Thank you for joining us!

