

MTSU School of Music student, **Katiana Nicholson**, has been awarded the **2018 President's Award**. The President's Award is the most prestigious award given to a student of Middle Tennessee State University. The student who wins this award must exemplify superior character and honor and have made achievements that, ideally, all students should strive to meet. The student must be recognized as a campus leader and have made significant contributions to the University community. Recipients are nominated and complete a rigorous application and interview process.

Katie Nicholson is a senior instrumental music education major and Buchanan Scholar at Middle Tennessee State University. She is graduating on May 5, 2018. Katie is a member of the MTSU Clarinet Studio and has performed in the School of Music with the *MTSU Wind Ensemble* under guest clinicians



such as David Maslanka and Linda Moorehouse.

She has also been a member of the *MTSU Clarinet Choir* and *MTSU Chamber Winds*, as well as the award-winning Independent World Indoor Winds group, *Rhythm X Winds*, based in Dayton, Ohio.

Katie has also pursued certification in vocal/general music education and has performed in a variety of styles including jazz and classical with the *MTSU Women's Chorale* and the *MTSU Singers*.

Passionate about the marching arts, Katie has been Drum Major for *MTSU's Band of Blue* for the last four years, as well as one summer season as Drum Major for *Nashville's Music City Drum and Bugle Corps*.

Through her dedication and leadership in MTSU's largest spirit organization, Katie has been awarded the Joseph T. Smith Music Education Award (2016) and the Linda L. Mitchell Leadership Award (2017).

Katie has worked with numerous schools and music programs throughout Middle Tennessee teaching

band camps and private lessons, such as Siegel High School, Siegel Middle School, Fred J. Page High School, Oakland High School, and Coffee County High School. In Summers 2015 and 2016, she was a music counselor for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. In the Spring of 2017, Katie, under the guidance of Dr. Todd Waldecker and Professor Allen Kennedy, completed her Honors Thesis creative project with an arrangement of Eric Whitacre's "*Five Hebrew Love Songs for Clarinet Choir and Percussion*", where she invited middle and high school clarinet students to perform with the MTSU Clarinet Choir at the world premiere held in April. Katie is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association, Delta Omicron Professional Music Fraternity, and the Institute of Leadership Excellence. She was a student teacher at Hume-Fogg Academic High School under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Ripani and at Lascassas Elementary under the mentorship of Mrs. Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry. Katie is currently the new Assistant Band Director at Brentwood High School.