

THE VAULT

Meaningful Repetition is the name of the game!

You are in rehearsal, things are going well, but then... That didn't sound right! What do you do? GO BACK! It is important that your students are aware that they did something wrong, but how do YOU fix it? **Repetition is the way to go!** Isolating and repeating a part, addressing the issue, and then finally getting it! Now you should move on right? Nope! Repeat it again to make sure the students can execute a part correctly multiple times- not just a one-time deal. It is very easy to read your lesson plan like a script, but sometimes, you need to **improvise!** Not to say that your lesson plan is very well written and specific, but you will never know exactly what's going to happen during your lesson. Always be on your toes! -Xareny Polanco, Violin I Teaching Artist



Teaching Tip!

Meet the students where they are at that given moment. Often times, we get caught up in our lesson plans or having the students learn this rhythm at this tempo by this time. If the students don't get there or if your lesson plan isn't exactly being followed, then it can make you and the students feel negatively. Instead, understand where the students are at and build from there. If you can build them up from where they are, even just a little bit, then it has already been a positive and successful lesson. As important as lesson planning is (yes, it is still important), the students are more important, so if the students don't get to play this rhythm at this tempo by this time, maybe they got it at a much slower tempo, but they got it. This translates beyond the paraxial. Sometimes students will have a bad day or maybe it is the week before Spring Break and the students are excited, it is our job to meet them there and focus that into music. Think of teaching like a funnel. The students pour all of their stuff (feelings and music and such) and then we focus that into music. A funnel like that only works if you take what the students give you. –Brian Celaya, Oboe Teaching Artist

Social Justice-Play it Forward!

Arwen Lyons is an 8th grade tuba player in her second year of MSOE. Earlier this month she took the initiative to organize her entire middle school to participate in the walk-out/rally for school safety. She gathered a team, spoke to her administration, made flyers, and promoted the event. On the day of the walk-out she and over a hundred students from Cache La Poudre Middle School in Laporte walked 5.4 miles to Old Town Square to make their voices heard. Arwen said: "I just thought we should get involved, so I made it happen!" -Kelci Hartz, Tuba Teaching Artist

Social Justice in Our Society Today

The flute section is doing an incredible job with this year's social justice theme! They are diligent and enthusiastic about the chain link activity we are doing, and they come to sectionals with some great examples of random acts of kindness. I wanted to show them the depth of the impact they can have on others through these acts of kindness.

The recent school shooting in Florida and a random video on Facebook gave me the chance to do this. This shooting in particular caused me to realize that school shootings are a very real concern for us as future teachers. After the shooting, our Elementary Methods teacher (Dr. Bonnie Jacobi) talked for twenty-five minutes about how classroom management can become a matter of life and death. In an education class at Boltz Middle School, we talked about the shooting, and then went and observed a teacher team meeting. Our teacher asked them to talk about the Run Hide Fight Training they go through--two of the five teachers in the room cried while talking about this.



After these two moments, I was feeling really sad, scared, and wrapped up in all the negative things that are happening in the world right now. But then I came across this video on Facebook. It showed a group of middle school students revealing to a classmate that they had raised money to buy him a new DS because his had been stolen. This video made me cry, and I knew immediately that I would be showing it to my MSOE students.

The following night, I gathered all of the flutes up around me, told them about the moments I had experienced regarding the shooting (with many, many tears), and showed them the video. I showed it to them because it reminded me that there is still hope in the world. I told them that this is the impact they can have on people. I told them that they can spread hope and light, and that they really can change the world. I don't know if I made an impact on the students that night, but I really hope I did. I truly believe that these students can change the world for the better. I know this because I can see that they are kind and strong. I know this because they remind me every week that there are still wonderful things happening in the world, and that the future is in good hands. –Anna Howell, Flute Teaching Artist

PROPS BOX!

Shout out to euphonium teaching artist Connor Marsh! Connor used meaningful repetition with his euphonium students Jaden and Joe to help them play a tricky passage in 3/4 time with direction and dynamics! Way to stick with it Connor, and great job explaining WHY you were repeating this section! -Heather Ewer

Trivia is my favorite thing!

Welcome to the trivia column of the MSOE 2018 Vault! Each week, there will be at least two questions. Sometimes they will be multiple choice! Submit your answers to heather.ewer@colostate.edu, and correct answers will earn you a raffle slip in the hat for a prize! Drawings will be held during our Wednesday night meetings!

Trivia Week #6:

- 1. What is something you watched or listened to over spring break to give you a boost of musical inspiration?**
- 2. Name a way that helps you remember the 7 modes.**
- 3. What musician won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016? (Hint: This person was blowin' in the wind....)**

Why Music?

Is music truly about music? Music is so much more than what is on the page or the nuances we envision. Music is more than notes, rhythms, dynamics, etc. Not every student in band, orchestra, or choir is going to live and breathe music. Students come into music because they connect with it in one way or another.

For some students, it is an escape from reality and for others, it is the only way that they

feel that they can truly express themselves. Each student is different.

There is a reason that each of you decided to go into music.

Why? What made you passionate about music and what drives you forward? We tend to focus a lot on paraxial learning and what the students can technically do. Think on the other side, **why are the students here and what brought them to music?** Sometimes the students don't even know yet. But this is why referential and contextual learning is important. While I do care about the students' capability to play their instrument, I care more about the students themselves. At the end of the day, I would rather see a student learn how to be a good person and learn about themselves through music rather than being able to play Stravinsky.

Focus on teaching students what the point is. Teach them **why they should care**, how the piece of music can drive them forward, and how to connect to the music in their own way because music is not just notes and rhythms. There is a humanity to music and that is what we are teaching. Notes, rhythms, dynamics—those can be put into Finale and played back technically perfect, but that is never what we want. If it is, then why play music?

Teach the students the referential and contextual side of music and the paraxial will come. To answer: is music truly about music? No, music is so much more.

—Brian Celaya, Social Justice Coordinator



Music and Messages that Inspire!

<https://youtu.be/cl48BI6kQRQ> Infra - Max Richter -This is an album I have absolutely fallen in love with. I especially love Infra 8. Whenever I listen to it, I feel this overwhelming wave of hope. –Xareny Polanco, Violin Teaching Artist

<https://youtu.be/Uintr2QX-TU> I always watch this video to remind myself of how I was inspired to teach in the first place. Children are the keepers of the world's fate. They must have the opportunity to blossom into amazing humans, and that can be done through the power of music. Music helps connect a variety of personalities, but it can also break barriers, eliminate stereotypes and teach kindness through collaboration and unity. This program inspires me every day to keep this spirit alive, and to hopefully inspire those I teach and collaborate with to keep this spirit alive too. –Xareny Polanco

<https://youtu.be/tu5XohUR3Pg> The piece is called “Butterfly Lovers Concerto,” performed on an Erhu in an orchestral setting, except, aside from it being in an "orchestral" setting, the instrumentation is made up heavily by traditional Chinese Folk instruments. The Erhu is my most beloved instrument. The sound, timbre, and emotion that it can portray is just the epitome of why I love music. –Tony Swope, Violin Teaching Artist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G4NKzmfC-Q>—Smetana’s “Moldau” -If you do not know this piece, listen and fall in love! - Gavin Milburn, Tuba Teaching Artist

Letter from the Editor-

HAPPY SPRING BREAK!!! Take this time and relax and refresh! Play something on your instrument that you love BECAUSE you love it, not because you “have to.” Reach out to friends and family. Celebrate your successes thus far! For some of you, you have almost made it through your first year of college– no easy feat! No matter what year you are, know that you are working towards something truly rewarding– a career teaching music. Stay strong, and enjoy your break! Thank you for all of your work so far!

Stay excellent everyone!

-Heather Ewer, Associate Program Director



Contact Us-

Please send submissions via the Google Form found in the MSOE Ecosystem! Questions?

Email-
heather.ewer@colostate.edu