

Middle School Outreach Ensemble proudly presents....

# THE VAULT

MSOE Weekly Newsletter-Dr. Erik Johnson, Director Heather Ewer- Editor

March 21st, 2018

## Process!

Have a sense of urgency and excitement! Think about teaching students the **process** of musicianship, rather than the product of it.



### But Ms. Hedrick, what is “Process”?

Process is teaching students how to ask the questions they need to know about a piece of music. It is the journey of how the piece is being performed and expressed along the way. Focus on the product-making the ensemble sound great without including students in the artistic choices, is not focusing enough on the process.

Students are teachers and teachers are students. Highlight the strengths of each other's musical ideas and abilities, students and teachers alike.

–Katrina Hedrick, Assistant to the Program Director

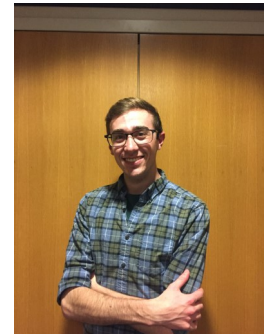
### Social Justice-Play it Forward!

“What makes you feel hopeful when you listen to *A Song of Hope* by James Swearingen?”

I feel love and community when listening to *A Song of Hope*. How can everyone help each other and generate hope through actions? -Gavin Milburn, Conductor

*Song of Hope* makes me feel hopeful that the negative aspects of life are just a stepping stone into something greater. It makes me feel as though perseverance is one of the most admirable qualities you can have. –Nicky Tisdall, Trumpet Teaching Artist

### Composer’s Corner



Eric Lagegren, CSU composition senior, wrote *Why They Fight* for the MSOE Orchestra. Here are his thoughts on what it is like to compose for a middle school ensemble:

“Writing music for middle schoolers is by far one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. There is such a diverse range of skill levels present within middle school ensembles. What is easy for some students is nearly impossible for others. I have to keep this in mind while writing so as to make a piece that encourages personal growth on each student's instrument while simultaneously making music a fun endeavor for young kids to enjoy.”- Eric Lagegren

## Believe!

Think positively about yourself! As soon as you start letting a teaching insecurity get in the way, things will start going down hill. Students can sense your fear! The motto "fake it 'till you make it" is my biggest motivator for getting over my own insecurities right now.



## Song of Hope Continued....

To me, *A Song of Hope* is a wonderful example of Playing-it-forward because the melancholy theme reminds me that we are never alone, especially when we are facing our greatest obstacles. -Katrina Hedrick

## Interviewing our heroes...

While interviewing my band director, he told me that one of the most important parts of teaching music is score study. You should record the ensemble and compare it to the score. It made me realize how important and applicable our music theory and aural skills classes will be to our future teaching.

## Feedback...

Should be specific comments that are constructive and will thus help students improve.

-Katie Knutson, Clarinet Teaching Artist

*Song of Hope* is a beautiful piece that really captures a feeling of push and pull that we all feel in our daily lives. I feel hopeful about what is coming next, waiting in excited anticipation for every measure to come, and the beauty of each instrumental voice that enters makes me look forward to events to come in life. I look forward to the new harmonies and experiences that both this piece and my life journey will bring. -Sam Boies, Trombone Teaching Artist



Associate Director Sebastian Adams gets the MSOE band pumped up and ready for rehearsal!

### Props Box!

Heather is my hero because she pursues life with ferocity and with a well-balanced diet. -Katrina Hedrick

### Props Box!

Sarah Chicoine and Laurel Ladzinski had extremely high expectations for their viola section's intonation tonight! Bravo!-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](mailto: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 #7:

- 1. Name two composers that write awesome middle school orchestra literature!**
  - 2. Name two composers that write excellent middle school band literature!**
  - 3. How many counts is a whole note, plus a dotted half note, plus two quarter notes, plus eight eighth notes?**
- A. 13**
- B. Math?**
- C. 17**
- D. 18**

## Have No Fear!

We live in a society that is characterized and marginalized by fear. Whether it be a fear of acceptance, a fear of the unordinary, or a fear of failure, anxiety



finds a way into the minds and lives of people everywhere. Being nervous as a teacher is completely normal. Being afraid means that you care about your students and the quality of education that they receive. It is also important to remember that your students may be just as afraid or nervous as you are. Creating a safe learning environment by building rapport can help ease the nerves of everyone in the room. Your fears can be portrayed in a positive light and can be used to motivate you. It is fine to have fears; however, we must not become our fears. In the end, it is important to remember that education is a team effort between teachers and students. Do not be afraid to take risks. Your students will benefit from your willingness and determination to improve every day. The positive example that you set will encourage them to take risks as well. If a teaching technique does not work out the way you wanted it to, that is okay! Every teaching moment can be used as a learning experience. In other words, do not be afraid to fail. Failure can actually lead to success. Students have many different learning styles that you strive to accommodate, and this can require new and innovative ways of teaching. Be yourself. Be creative. Be bold.

–Sydney Brown, Trumpet Teaching Artist

**Feedback that helps me grow is.....**

Sometimes it is something I do not want to hear. But I needed to hear it.-Katrina Hedrick

# Letter from the Editor-

Going into Unit 3, think about your teaching from a new lens! There is a rhythm that your section is just not getting....think of a new way to teach it! Truly what works for ten students may not work for the other three. While it seems tedious, our job as teachers is to find more ways of explaining a concept so that it makes sense to those three students. You need to get creative! And trust me, that is the fun of teaching middle school band! Be strong– continue to build relationships with every student in your section. You can do this!

Stay excellent everyone!

-Heather Ewer, Associate Program Director



## Contact Us-

Please send us submissions! We would love you hear from you!

[Vault Submission Form](#)

Questions?

Email-  
heather.ewer@colostate.edu

Go MSOE!!!!!!