

Middle School Outreach Ensemble proudly presents....

THE VAULT

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

April 21st, 2018

The Final Vault of 2018!

After a phenomenal concert on Saturday April 21st, the 2018 MSOE season has officially come to a close! The concert featured both the orchestra and the band playing four pieces each. Throughout the evening, a packed house had the chance to hear representative speakers from every aspect of the program. Perhaps the most touching speeches were presented by the middle school students and high school teaching artists from each ensemble. Hearing about how MSOE helped shape their lives was truly remarkable. Please enjoy this final Vault of reflection! You will hear from us again starting in January 2019! -Heather Ewer, Assistant Program Director



Their Smiles and Their Joy- It is Worth it!

Let's be real . . . MSOE can be exhausting! In the middle of the semester when classes get difficult, getting through Wednesday nights can sometimes be an overwhelming feat. Yet, the concert Saturday revealed why it is all worth it! Every student had a smile on their face after the concert, leaving with a sense of pride and accomplishment and YOU helped them to achieve this! MSOE is exhausting but even more so, it is empowering! Every week we get the opportunity to practice what we love and what we aspire to do. That is a gift! After five years of learning with this program, I have come to realize that the hardest times will teach you the most. Never take MSOE for granted. The lesson plans, feedback, crazy students, long nights. They are all worth it, and I guarantee that one day you will look back on this time as one of the best things you did in college. MSOE has evolved so much throughout the years, but the core has remained the same. We provide a service to the community and in turn receive countless lessons on what it means to become a good teacher. This program has given me so much throughout the years, and I am so grateful for it. Cherish MSOE and the most stressful times of your college career, it's all worth it!
-Katie Oglesby, Unit Program Director

Composers of NOTE

CSU Composition Student Andy Blomfelt wrote a very moving piece for the MSOE Band this year- "Mother's Waltz." He has this to say about his two movement work:

"Writing for a middle school ensemble allows me to go back to the basics of how a composition works. A melodic figure must be consciously present and easy to listen to, and the harmony and other textural elements must be simple enough to be playable and easily understandable but also fit my established sound as a composer. Balancing transparency, security, and staying true to my musical language was perhaps the most difficult part of this process, but extremely rewarding once I accomplished it." -Andy Blomfelt, Composer

Why We Do What We Do!

As we reflect on what has been accomplished, I am continually reminded that MSOE and the Trying-on-Teaching program exist as a force for good in our community. Every single teacher, student, and volunteer should feel tremendously satisfied by what was accomplished during MSOE 2018: *we Played it Forward*.



In a very real way, you took the time to share your passion for music, to share your belief in taking chances, and to share the fortitude to get it all done in service of the students each week. Music education, as a profession, is about a lot of things: musicianship, artistry, collaboration, and a dedication to creating beauty in our world. All of these aspects are foundational to our craft. However, and this is a BIG H-O-W-E-V-E-R, we are music educators because we want to lift people up -- to give them a place to be and to be who they are, all while fearlessly pursuing a meaningful connection with others. Through music, it is the stories where we learn about others and ourselves that draws out and develops our humanity. In a very real sense, we nurture consciousness through music. Stay true to your commitment to the ideals of music education and you will no doubt witness an apotheosis of yourselves, our world, and in the students with which you strive to inspire. GO MSOE!!
- Dr. Erik Johnson, Program Director

Reflections from Our High School Teaching Artists



I went into MSOE not knowing if I wanted to teach, and by the end of Saturday night I still did not know. But man, Sunday morning was intense! When I woke up, I felt like this is what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I feel relieved and happy and like I finally have a goal for my future. I really hope to be in MSOE again next year because it has been such an amazing experience!! -Daylen Blehm, Flute High School Teaching Artist



Teaching Tip!

Keep your head up. Confidence is key! Even if you make a mistake, just know that everyone does and it is important to keep moving forward! Your kids will love you just the same, no matter what <3

Play it Forward!

This semester, I "played it forward" by teaching my students how to not only be better musicians, but also how to be better people and how to contribute to the kindness in the world!

I am sad that this semester is over!! I am especially going to miss our wonderful Graduate students. You guys are going to do amazing things. -Laurel Ladzinski, Viola Teaching Artist

Thank you!

I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has made my last couple of years in MSOE so wonderful! A lot of work goes into creating and organizing this operation and I couldn't be more thankful to have been a part of it. During many weeks of MSOE, especially in the middle of the semester, it almost felt as though it was an extra chore or not necessarily a priority of mine. However, during the last couple of rehearsals I chose to make my last experiences and memories of MSOE as positive as they could be. It greatly impacted how I viewed the organization as a whole and made my time more enjoyable. I felt as though I was instantly more connected with my students and peers than in previous weeks, as my time was spent truly in the moment. We get so bogged down with other commitments sometimes we don't see how amazing the things in front of us truly are. Although my time in MSOE has come to an end, I will take the life lessons with me wherever I go in life. It's been a privilege and honor working with each of you these past few years and, as always, go MSOE! -Nicky Tisdall, Trumpet Teaching Artist



Passion is Key. How would you answer, "What is the best instrument?"

The best instrument is.....boy! That is a hard one! Each one can do different things that others cannot. Being a violinist, I LOVE playing the violin, but that does not make it the best. It really depends on what you want to hear and what you want to do. For a horn player, the horn is probably the best instrument for them because they like the sound that it makes, what they can do on it, and how they feel when they play it. I guess I will answer in this way:



The violin is the best instrument for *me* because I love the way it sounds. I cannot play as low as a cello, but I love the deepness and richness of the G string when I play a slow, lyrical tune with broad vibrato. I love the vibrato! The variety in how broad or tight you can make it allows for different feelings based on the piece. The repertoire for violin is extensive and diverse. There are many different "textures" you can make by moving the bow differently or using harmonics. I am always learning something new! I love how high I can play on the violin. I am playing "Scene de Ballet" right now. There is a beautiful section played high on the E string, AND. I. LOVE. IT! I finally played all the way through my piece in my lesson on Monday with the piano. It is not quite polished, but I felt so great when I played it! I was shaking through the whole thing, partly from nerves (do not ask me why I was nervous in my lesson), and partly from excitement. – Tabitha Lindahl, Violin Teaching Artist

Letter from the Editor-

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for letting me be a part of MSOE this year. It has truly been an honor. I have loved watching you all teach, coordinate the method in which feedback was given, and organize a massive concert. I have a great deal of respect for each and every one of you, and I am so happy that we get to be colleagues in the noble profession that is teaching from here on out! I hope that post-finals week, you will take the time to reflect on all that you have learned from MSOE. Think about what you learned from our fabulous guest teachers, from the administration team, from your wonderful students, and most importantly, from yourself. I have said it before and I will keep on saying it: Self-reflection in teaching is what will fuel your passion for helping your students and your own desire to improve your craft. Keep on learning! You are all rock stars! Thank you so much for the chance to be your editor!!

Stay excellent everyone!

-Heather Ewer, Assistant Program Director



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Go MSOE!!!!!!