

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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Week 5, February 27, 2019

COMING UP

- Sunday, March 3:** Concert Band Concert
7:30pm in Griffin Concert Hall
- Monday, March 4:** Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30pm in Griffin Concert Hall
- Wednesday, March 6:** Wind Symphony concert at American Bandmasters' Association Conference, 7:30pm Embassy Suites Loveland

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EMBRACE YOUR TRUE TEACHER PERSONA (EVEN IF IT'S WEIRD!)

Instructional delivery and management of a lesson can be difficult, especially when we feel like our lessons always have to go by the book or else it is not successful. I think we have all had a teaching experience where a lesson didn't go as planned and we automatically blame ourselves for the outcome. Something that I think is particularly important during these times is to remember to be kind to ourselves. As cliche as it is, I always think it is vital to be our genuine selves even when a lesson doesn't go as planned because at the end of the day, who we are and how we connect with our students is what leaves the biggest impact on them, not how "poorly" our lesson went on one particular day. If you are someone who likes to crack jokes, play it up for your students! If you are someone who is weird, be extra weird for them. These are the type of lasting impressions that we leave. Our teaching personalities hold more merit than we think sometimes!

--Katie Knutson, Clarinet Teaching Artist



QOTW

Me: "What is a piece of music that inspires you in your daily life?"

Student: "The Thomas the Tank Engine Theme Song"

On a Personal Note....

An experience I had with one of my students in MSOE was talking to them about the different hobbies they had outside of music. It was a very liberating experience to have an in depth talk with them about the things we were both interested in and I think that type of conversation should happen more often.

-Derek Summers

**STAYING ON TASK**

Don't let the students get you off task! I have a hard time with this. My students have a lot to talk about. They are super chatty! But in the middle of a sectional, there are other things we need to be doing. It's hard for me to keep from joining these conversations because I don't want them to feel like I'm blowing them off or ignoring them or like I just don't care about their lives. I want to get to know them. However, there is a time and a place. Someone suggested to me that I can acknowledge them simply by saying, "You know, I would love to hear about _____, but right now we need to be practicing. Why don't you tell me about it after rehearsal?" I still need some practice with this, but it has usually worked in the past! I will be working on this because if I am off task, the students will be too!

-Tabitha Lindahl, Violin Teaching Artist



**PLAY THE CLARINET...
WITH DOLPHINS**

Just for laughs because I love this video. This is the type of content that gets me through the week. I think it's important that we never get too serious about life, especially in a profession where we are working with children. Stay weird, my friends. (p.s. the dolphin in the background at 1:20 is definitely me) -Katie Knutson

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

**“Percussionists
don't need to breathe.
We have hands.”**

- MSOE Percussionist



BE OUR GUESTS!

BILL CLEARY has been teaching band and orchestra at Wellington Middle School for the last six years. In that time the music program at Wellington has grown quite a bit from its humble beginnings into a respectable music program in Poudre School District. Prior to accepting his teaching assignment at Wellington, Mr. Cleary received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Colorado at

Boulder where he had the Privilege of studying with Dr. Matthew Roeder, Professor Allan McMurray, Professor Tom Myer, and Dr. Erik Johnson.

Mr. Cleary also plays the Alto Saxophone in the Fort Collins Wind Symphony in addition to his teaching responsibilities.



CHRISTIAN HUANG

Based in Boulder, CO, Christian is a versatile musician and teacher who has performed with symphonies, chamber ensembles, bands, and electronic artists across the Front Range.

Christian earned degrees in Viola Performance and Music Education from Colorado State University, where he studied with Dr. Margaret Miller and Dr. Eric Johnson. During his studies there, Christian explored his love of music and has gone on to teach courses in music theory, guitar, piano, music theater, conducting, composition, and music history.

Christian currently works in the Boulder Valley School District at Broomfield High School, Southern Hills Middle School, Mesa Elementary, and Bear Creek Elementary as Orchestra Director, piano accompanist, and festival coordinator. During his educational career, Christian discovered a passion for sharing the emotional depth of performance with audiences and students, and, because of his electrifying energy, has been invited as an adjudicator, guest conductor, clinician, and coach by schools, festivals, and orchestras across Colorado.

A strong believer in the healing and expressive potential of music, Christian works to discover the ways in which music can become a visceral conversation for performers and audiences alike.

SHANNON WEBER

is a native of Fresno, California who is currently seeking a Master of Music degree in wind conducting at Colorado State University. Weber received her Bachelor of Art degree in music education from Fresno State University, graduating Cum Laude. While at

Fresno State, she performed with the Fresno State Wind Orchestra as a clarinetist and she was drum major of the Bulldog Marching Band. Previously, Weber was the Director of Instrumental Music at the Reagan Educational Center, which also included all instrumental music programs in the eastern portion of the Clovis Unified School District. The Reagan Educational Center campus includes Clovis East High School, Reyburn Intermediate School, and Reagan Elementary School. In addition to this administrative position, she served as Director of Bands at Clovis East High School and Associate Director of Bands at Reyburn Intermediate.

During her tenure, she taught the Clovis East High School Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, concert percussion ensembles, Marching Band, and oversaw the winterguard and indoor percussion programs. In addition, she taught the Reyburn Symphonic Band, Concert Band, percussion ensembles, and Jazz Band.

Weber has performed as a clarinetist in the Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia), Symphony Hall (Chicago, IL), and at the MidWest Clinic, *An International Band and Orchestra Conference* (Chicago) in December 2018. During the summer of 2010, Weber was a conductor of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps.



BE OUR GUEST! CONT'D

MR. KYLE FREESEN

MR. KYLE FREESEN is the Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Loveland High School in Loveland, Colorado. At LHS he teaches the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, the Crimson Regiment Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble I, and Chamber Ensembles. He earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Western Illinois University and a Master of Music Degree in Wind Conducting from Wright State University.

Freesen has a reputation of leading his students to competitive excellence. In 2015 and 2018, the LHS Wind Symphony performed at CMEA State Conference. Since his appointment, the Crimson Regiment Marching Band placed in the top 3 in CBA State Marching Finals every year and has been Regional Class Champions twice at the BOA St. George (UT) Regional. Jazz Ensemble I has earned top ratings at the UNC Jazz Festival. The LHS Wind Symphony earned numerous *Superior with Distinction* ratings at CBA State Concert Band Festival.



Mr. Freesen has a passion for the marching arts and serves as a brass assistant for the Battalion Drum Corps (UT). He has presented at the OMEA and IMEA State Conventions as well as been a guest speaker at University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, and Wright State University. He is recognized as a Conn-Selmer VIP Educator. Mr. Freesen is a member of the Phi Beta Mu, National Association for Music Education, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, National Band Association, and the Colorado Bandmasters Association.

TEACHING TIPS!

My teaching tip this week is to help your students by having them help themselves. One of the biggest and most effective ways students learn and grow as people is communicating and relying on their peers rather than their all knowing teacher. As many of you already know we are not all knowing so the best thing for our students is to build independence within them so that they can think and act for themselves to get the job done.

-Derek Summers,
Percussion Teaching Artist

FROM THE YOUTUBES:

One of my favorites. This is what inspires me to do what I do.

-Tabitha Lindahl

ROFL!

Why did Mozart get rid of his chickens?

All they said was "Bach, Bach, Bach!"

--Tabitha Lindahl



The VAULT Presents....

TEACHER'S TOOL BOX

A collection of all teaching knowledge gathered in the 2019 season, in six words or less (a work in progress)

Talk less, play more

Sing it, finger, play it

#MODELIT

Teach the person, not the [insert instrument here] player

Start at the bottom of the pyramid

Lead with a musical action

Students determine objectives

Students count off

Put students in charge

Concise Feedback

Share the objectives

Praise positive behavior

"Good" is not good enough feedback

Build on small successes

What can you communicate nonverbally?

Pass the "Angry Birds" test

No such thing as an "Arts Emergency"!

Learn (and steal!) from your teaching peers

Give more than you get

...WHAT ELSE?

Do YOU have a tip that belongs in the toolbox? Let us know!

Email the editor at casey.lawson@colostate.edu

MSOE MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of CSU's Middle School Outreach Ensembles are to provide arts education that promotes a mindset of global citizenship and social justice through cultivating consciousness.

The MSOE Program is made possible by the generous support of private donors and Dr. Dan Goble, Director of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. We are so grateful for your support!



ACTION SHOTS!



CONTACT US

Letter from the Editor: On "Rule Number Six"

One of my favorite anecdotes from one of my favorite books, *The Art of Possibility* by Benjamin Zander (which you should go read RIGHT NOW if you haven't yet) is about "Rule Number Six". The rule?

Don't take yourself too seriously. (What are rules 1-5? It

doesn't matter.) I love the light-hearted, humorous tone from our contributors this week. Music Education is something we all hold in high esteem and take very seriously--which is NOT a bad thing! But let's not forget that there are other important things in life, too. Like sleep. And food. And going outside.

-Casey Lawson, VAULT Editor

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Submissions? Send them to:

casey.lawson@colostate.edu

