

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

Week 8, March 27, 2019

Dr. Erik Johnson, MSOE Program Director,
Associate Professor of Music Education
Casey Lawson, Vault Editor and MSOE Assistant
Program Director

STRICTLY BUSINESS

While we all want to have fun, it is okay to be a little stern sometimes. Finding the mix between letting students have fun and keeping control of your classroom can be very hard; it comes with experience. Most of these middle schoolers are exhibiting challenging behavior because they want to be noticed. It is a skill that is hard to learn how to do and when to use it, but we all need it. This includes letting your students know if they are not putting forth their best effort. They might not think we can tell, but we can and they need to know that. Always ask yourself, is it going to help the student(s) education, or just distract from the overall goal(s)?

-Sarah Tapia, Flute Teaching Artist



SET THE BAR HIGH!

Always set the bar higher than you'd think. The students are capable of so much, and it's important to show them that you believe in what they can accomplish. They will rise to the challenge and push the limits, so long as you support them along the way.

-McKenna Jansky, Flute Teaching Artist



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COMING UP

Saturday, April 6: MSOE
CARNIVAL!
8am-1pm in the UCA
Saturday, April 20: MSOE
Final Concert!



Until the Carnival!

On Three Personal Notes...

Our Social Justice theme, "On a Personal Note," has really made a difference in my life and my students lives. For me, I have thought about music in a different way, like how and who I can connect with around the world through the various genres of music. When we, as performers, are willing to immerse ourselves into the music, the listener receives so much more from the performance. I love having my students come in and get excited about the music we are playing and the different ways they have connected to it. Sometimes they do not tell me specifically, but I can see it in their face. It is a great reminder for us that we are changing the lives of these students!-*Emily Krogmeier*

Music makes us extraordinary; think about that. Your non-music friends have no clue what music theory is; they probably can't learn a new instrument in 4 weeks. Personally, music gives my purpose. I was not put on this earth to run a business, or cure cancer. We are all here to teach children about music, and hope that some of them have the pleasure feel as passionate as we do about it. -*Sarah Tapia*

We don't always choose what we experience. Many times in our lives, music chooses us. As we go through our daily lives, we occasionally stumble upon a new song that we just HAVE to listen to again, or our favorite song that plays on a dreary day and lifts our spirits. I encourage everyone to appreciate the small musical moments that occur this week, because they're out there- you just have to listen for them.-*McKenna Jansky*



Connecting with Students

A couple of weeks ago, I gave the middle schoolers a half sheet of paper to write down their favorite song or artist. The answers I received back surprised me. Some students immediately knew what to write down. Other students came up to me and did not know what to put. My task for the next week was to listen to the music they gave me in order for me to connect and learn more about them on a personal level. I am amazed at how well the students opened up to me after that! It has made the saxophone sectionals so much more fun. Music is a universal language and people around the world are connecting through music.

I suggest every section should do some sort of activity like this because you might learn more about your students than you ever thought you would!

-*Emily Krogemeier, Saxophone Teaching Artist*



ANDREA MEYERS began her professional career as a music educator and orchestra director in the Boulder Valley and Douglas County school districts. She has enjoyed a lifetime love of music as a cellist, conductor, adjudicator, clinician and music advocate. Ms. Meyers was, in 2015, inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) Hall of Fame and was a "Music Education" Grammy quarterfinalist.

Though 'retired', Ms. Meyers began the DC Downbeat program at Douglas County H.S. and continues to be a strong advocate of music education and an active musician, director and promoter of pride in the musicianship of colleagues and students throughout Colorado and the U.S. She is sought as a master teacher, musician, and mentor for her magnetism, charisma, depth of experience and positive energy.



BE OUR GUESTS!



CHARLOTTE HARSHA My

background with music really started when I was five and taking piano lessons. Since that time, I truly don't remember a time that I was not involved in music. From piano lessons, to starting horn in middle school, marching band, honor bands and all-state in high school up until now when I still get the opportunity to teach and perform. I grew up in Loveland and then went to the University of Northern Colorado for my Bachelor degree in Music Education. After receiving that degree, I went to Boston University and earned my Masters degree in Horn Performance. After my time in Boston, I came back to Fort Collins and have been teaching at Blevins Middle School for the last 6 years and performing in various ensembles in Northern Colorado.

COREY STOPPERAN

I graduated from Standley Lake High School in 1991 and moved to Fort Collins to attend Colorado State University. There I played in the Colorado State Wind Ensemble, Marimba Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble and the CSU Ram Marching Band! Then graduated in 1997 with a Bachelors degree in Music Education. I moved to little town, Sterling, Colorado where I taught K-12 music at the Fleming Schools in Fleming, Colorado from 1997-2001. That summer I moved to Greeley to work on a Masters degree in Music Education. I graduated from UNC that following spring and got married to the love of my life in June 2002. In the fall, I accepted the Music Director position at Northglenn Middle School. I spent my out of school time doing lots of things. Playing with my kids and all that they do. I play drum set in a local Denver rock/reggae band. In 2014 I began to play drum set for the Denver Bronco Band, The Stampede Brass. We play at all the home Bronco games.



KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes when we are caught up in everything going on, we can forget why we are here teaching music to the tiny humans. Take time to talk to your students and ask how they think sectionals are going and things we can improve on, both as a teacher and as a whole section. Students love having a voice and it's a good way for us, as teaching artists, to grow as well!

-Emily Kroegmeier

BREAKING NEWS!

Middle Schoolers May Not Like to Dance...but That Doesn't Mean They Won't

Every week the flutes ask an attendance question. Through these questions I have learned that many of these middle schoolers don't like to dance! Shocking, right? It is not that they do not know how, they just don't think it is fun. Try getting your students dancing. Even a simple thing like physically putting the beat in their feet; any movement is better than no movement. The weirder the better. Some students might look at you like you don't know what you're doing, but most of them will dance anyway. *-Sarah Tapia*



Always work towards a positive mindset! Sometimes it may be hard, but I know we can all do it. Remember, even the smallest negative thoughts can impact our mood significantly. The sun is out now, soak in the good vibes!

-Sarah Tapia

TEACHING TIPS!

A good teacher knows that sometimes you just need to stop and be silly for a few minutes.

-Sarah Tapia

Now that the notes are down, rhythms are clear, and we all have an understanding of our individual roles... Let's be musical!!! For this week, let's do our best to keep in mind that every note is either coming from somewhere or going somewhere. *-McKenna Jansky*

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-Emily Kroegmeier

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
 Use variety to maintain engagement
 Give technique musical purpose
 Help students create helpful habits
 Wherever you put the bar, students will reach it!
 Reflect on self, process, student impact
 Provide the structure that students crave

...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!



As a flutist, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to share this video. This is a video of the US Air Force Band playing Stars and Stripes, by John Philip Sousa. It is an iconic piece in national history and I believe every student should know this piece. Many of us were fortunate enough to hear this band play at the ABA convention on March 8th. In case you missed it or wanted to hear it again, here it is. -McKenna Jansky

Contact Us

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Submissions? Send them to:

casey.lawson@colostate.edu

Letter from the Editor

Teaching Artists, I hope you are all feeling refreshed and ready to go after a relaxing spring break! Sometimes a little time off gives our brains a chance to catch up on all of the new things we've learned lately. I am excited to see the fresh new ideas you'll bring to your lessons this evening! I'm sure the MSOE students are eager to get back in the MSOE routine and see your smiling faces this evening! -Casey Lawson, VAULT Editor

