

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

Dr. Erik Johnson, MSOE Program Director,
Associate Professor of Music Education
Casey Lawson, Vault Editor and MSOE Assistant
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Week 9, April 3, 2019

In This Issue...

- The Journey
- On a Personal Note
- Be Our Guests
- Oxygen Mask
- What Do They Need?
- Small Section
- Teaching Tips

COMING UP

Saturday, April 6: MSOE
CARNIVAL!

8am-1pm in the UCA

Saturday, April 20: MSOE
Final Concert!



THE MSOE JOURNEY

"The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then? I cannot say"

- A song By JRR Tolkien from *The Fellowship of the Ring*

This simple quote from my favorite author reminds me that we are all on a journey. A journey that we have travelled all our lives and a journey that we have yet to take. One where paths cross and diverge. Our paths have crossed with the students of MSOE this year and as we enter the final unit of MSOE. We have been walking down this road for a long time and we need to keep up the effort for these students who deserve an impactful journey and a strong finish

- Kyle Thomas, Bassoon Teaching Artist



On A Personal Note...

To me, music has always been a way for me to connect with others through a shared experience. The most powerful moments in my musical journey have been the moments when the music expresses emotion through an ensemble and I know what I feel is what the person to my left and right feel as well. When I was a Freshman in high school my marching band played an arrangement of Eric Whitacre's Lux Aurmqe. It was a powerful music experience that showed me the immense emotional weight music can have. I shared that weight simultaneously with over 150 other people on the field and I fell in love. Fast forward four years and for my last concert as a senior, my Wind Symphony played a concert band arrangement of the exact same piece. Hearing the melody again brought me back four years as the nostalgia flooded in. Playing that music again forced me to reminisce on my high school experience and music's role in it. And the best part of it is all the seniors who played that song as freshman shared that experience with me.

-Kyle Thomas, Bassoon Teaching Artist

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Just make it through this week. Next week is next week Scout's problem.

-Scout Perez



“PUT ON YOUR OWN OXYGEN MASK BEFORE HELPING ANOTHER.”

If you have ever flown in a plane before, you have probably heard these words. But can they be applied elsewhere? YES! Life, in this metaphor, is an airplane that fly us from one destination to another. Sometimes there is a drop in cabin pressure. Sometimes life becomes stressful, messy, and seam unbearable. The air masks drop. PUT YOURS ON FIRST! You cannot help another person before you have helped yourself. You can't be 100% there for a person with problems when you yourself are dealing with them too. What you can do is help them by helping yourself. Put on your air mask first so you are able to help another with theirs.

-Scout Perez, French Horn Teaching Artist



BE OUR GUESTS!

SAL HERNANDEZ received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. While in Southern California, Sal was an instructor and performer for involved competitive indoor percussion, performed with Southern California Brass Consortium, and co-founded the Yosemite Brass Consortium (Clovis, Ca), now renamed the Clovis Brass Consortium. Sal was also on the instructional staff with the Blue Devils 'B' Drum & Bugle Corps during the 2017 season as the euphonium instructor, and during the 2018 season he had 6 of his former students make the Blue Devils 'A' Drum & Bugle Corps; making up 25% of the 'A' corps euphonium section for the season. Since moving to Fort Collins, Sal has worked with the Fossil Ridge High School music team, where he was a part of the school's championship season in the Colorado State Marching Band circuit. Sal continues to work with the students and directors at Fossil Ridge High School where he regularly coaches sectionals and runs concert ensemble rehearsals. Sal is currently attending Colorado State University as a master student. Previously, he was the Assistant Director of Instrumental Music at Clovis High School (Clovis, Ca), and served as Director of Percussion Studies at both Clark Intermediate School (Clovis, Ca) and Clovis High School.



THERESA SMITH is the Instrumental Music teacher at

Skinner Middle School in Denver Public Schools. She currently teaches band and orchestra for grades 6-8. This is her second year at Skinner and 11th year in the classroom. Previously, Theresa taught for several years at Denver North High School where she primarily taught Band, Orchestra and Drumline.

Throughout her tenure at North, she also had the pleasure of teaching Mariachi, Piano, AP Music Theory and choir. She has a degree in Music Education from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado Boulder.

In addition to serving in leadership roles and on curriculum writing committees in DPS, Theresa is honored to have received the Mile High Teacher Award in 2011, 9News 9Teachers Who Care Award in February 2014, and to have had the opportunity to present at the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference in January 2016 and 2019. Presentation topics focused on creating success in emerging high school music programs, and facilitating student driven rehearsals and performances in the instrumental music classrooms. She is most passionate about ensuring all students have a safe and fun place to learn an instrument, build relationships, appreciate and perform the music of their own culture and the many cultures around them, and most importantly, to express themselves fully through the art of music.



WHAT DO THEY NEED? When in doubt, ask your students what they need. It can be difficult when you're stuck and have no idea how to fix a certain problem. Especially with older students, often students are willing and wanting to tell you what they need. Assuming that the rapport is there and they feel safe to be honest with you, by simply asking them, "What can I do to help you here?" or, "What would make this better?" students will have an idea. Our continuously growing bag of strategies is an absolutely great resource but is by no means comprehensive; and when we feel stuck, sometimes the simplest is giving the students agency and a voice to help steer the direction of class

-Andrew Dutch, Saxophone Teaching Artist



TEACHING TIP!

Don't be afraid to show your passion. Kids will not care until they see you care.

-Scout Perez



"When somebody plays music, you listen. You just follow those sounds, and eventually you understand the music. The point can't be explained in words because music is not words, but after listening for a while, you understand the point of it, and that point is the music itself. In exactly the same way, you can listen to all experiences."

— Alan Wilson Watts

Contributed by Andrew Dutch

CHARLIE MATTHEWS is a 2015 graduate of Colorado State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Mr. Mathews began his career teaching band, orchestra and beginning band in Fort Morgan, Colorado before moving back to his hometown in Colorado Springs. He is currently in his third year of teaching band and orchestra at Discovery Canyon Middle School. He is proud to work with incredible performing arts colleagues who recently won "Team of The Year" at DCC! Between band, orchestra and choir, around 75% of the students at DCCMS are involved in the performing arts.

DR. ROBERT KREUTZ a native of Colo., has educated for 33 years in Loveland, Greeley, and Fort Collins, Colo. at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in the orchestral field. Highlights of Bob's teaching career include numerous appearances at music festivals and competitions with his great students. In Jan. 2014, Bob's high school orchestra at Thompson Valley was awarded one of the top honors in the state of Colo., performing at the Colorado Music Convention as one of the premiere high school string orchestras. They were also awarded the most inspiring award from the Thompson School District in May 2014. As a violinist, Bob performs regularly as a member of the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra as a member since 1983, where he has enjoyed many memorable years in the first and second violin sections. Bob is active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout Colo., Wyo., and beyond, creating great music with tremendous orchestral students in Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Fort Morgan, Grand Junction, Jefferson County, Longmont, Thornton, Cheyenne, Wyo., and later this spring, in Salem, Ore. Bob enjoys fly fishing, reading, and listening to amazing orchestras!



BE OUR GUESTS!

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 [instrument] 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

Know what to say before you cut off

Find new ways to say the same thing

Connect with every student

Stop it, say it, move on
Connect warm ups to repertoire
You're teaching when you're not teaching
Don't say something is "Hard"
They don't care what you know until
they know that you care

....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!

ON TEACHING A SMALLER SECTION

As one of the Bassoon teaching artists, I have had the unique challenge of having a strange teacher to student ratio. counting our high school helper it is three of us to our one fantastic student. This provides us with special and unique challenges. To start off, lesson planning is extremely precise and specific to the small section. To be successful we need to refer to the specific student's students traits and prior knowledge. A extremely small groups lesson plan will be more personal as well with aspects such as the anticipatory set and closure. These will be more connected to the student and his/her needs. Once you plan and get the lesson going, one of the biggest pitfalls can be the isolation of the student. To run a small section properly you CAN NOT allow the student to feel alone or in any way uncomfortable. Making sure you have someone who can be at their side that isn't the teacher leads to better and faster student comprehension. In the Bassoon section, our high schooler has done a wonderful job of fulfilling that role in the sectional room. He has been a perfect role model for out beginning Bassoon student and his contribution to the student's growth is invaluable. Lastly creating student connection can have its own positives and negatives. With fewer students, you would assume that creating a proactive student-teacher relationship would be easier. But in actuality, it is quite the opposite. It is easy for a student to see the one on one relationship as nonprofessional and can cause them to lose focus or take the teacher less seriously. You must strike a balance between professionalism and your own personality, especially in a smaller group. If you have a proper plan, a lifeline for the student and a proper teacher-student relationship, a small section can learn to grow at its own special and unique pace. -Kyle Thomas, Bassoon Teaching Artist

Contact Us

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Submissions? Send them to:

casey.lawson@colostate.edu

Letter from the Editor

Have you heard? The Carnival is only 3 DAYS away! What a cool and exciting opportunity! It's not often that you as a teacher get to choose EXACTLY what you want to teach and EXACTLY how you're going to teach it. As much as I love rehearsing a large ensemble, I find that any chance to teach in a different setting is a refreshing opportunity to try something different and maybe step out of the comfort zone. I can't wait to see you all share your musical passion with middle school students in a new way! After all, music can inspire students in so many ways outside the ensemble experience. Embrace this opportunity and have a blast! -Casey Lawson, VAULT Editor

