

# The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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

Week 11, April 17, 2019

## THE FINAL NIGHT IS HERE!

As you step into your sectional room or up onto the podium tonight, think about what you want your lasting impression to be on YOUR students. How do you want them to remember MSOE 2019? Reflect back on your own early experiences of concerts and performances. Get them excited! Remind them that everyone is so excited to see them perform and hear the beautiful music that you have been working on for three months! (Give and take the Wednesday night snowstorms..)

Also, take the time to express your gratitude to your peers. How have you seen them come into their own as teachers? Has it been in their delivery of instruction? Have you noticed more detail in their lesson plans? Have they built strong relationships with students? Most of all, how do you appreciate who they are as a person? How does their presence make your life better?

Finally, think about how you want to leave yourself at the conclusion of MSOE. Many times as teachers we forget that not only do we "fill the cup" for others but we also have to do the same for ourselves. How much have you grown? What are you proud of? Celebrate yourself!

Thank you all for an exceptional season! Your thoughtfulness, joy, and dedication to putting students first has left a lasting impression on my own teaching and I am very grateful to have been a part of MIIIIIS-SOOOEEE!!

*-Hollie Bennett, MSOE Program Associate Director*



## COMING UP:

**Saturday, April 20:** MSOE Final Concert!

## In This Issue...

- Inclusive Teaching
- Quotes of the Week
- On a Personal Note...
- Be Our Guests
- Community of Learning
- Teacher Toolbox

## SHOUT OUT!

Shout out to all the MSOE Conductors, teaching artists, high school mentors, and social justice coordinator for being flexible and willing to do what needs to be done for our last rehearsal this week. What great practice in thinking on your feet!

*-Casey Lawson*

# On A Personal Note...

## Empathizing with Students

Something that I have learned a lot from teaching in MSOE this year, is how to empathize with your student's current knowledge. I think that a crucial way in which students can connect with the teacher/material that is being learned in that lesson, is by knowing that the instructor knows when and what to do during that lesson. This can be aided by the instructor giving precise and short feedback to the student. The student needs to be able to comprehend the feedback that you give them. Try to see what you want to be achieved through the lens of the student. Lastly, always know what you are going to say before you stop a group. This has been said from a couple of different guest teachers, but this has stuck with me since I had heard it. In order to not waste time or effort, it is always a great idea to know what you are going to say. This does not mean you have to say it immediately; you can ask for student feedback, self-assessment or peer assessment. In many cases it is great to have the students find it on their own, but if they need some extra help don't be afraid to jump in that is why we are here. Knowing what to say, when to say it and how it is phrased will be crucial in the way your students comprehend your lesson material.

*-Luke Nelson, French Horn Teaching Artist*



## THE POWER OF APPRECIATION

*Contributed by Hollie Bennett*

## Quotes of the Week

**"It doesn't matter if they strike it, pluck it, bow it, or blow it!"**

*- Andrea Meyers*

# MEET THE GTAS!

*That's right! You know those hard-working grad students who've been behind-the-scenes of MSOE all semester? Now that the season is almost over, we thought it was time for a proper introduction.*



**HOLLIE BENNETT** is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Music Education at Colorado State University where serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Music Education Department and the Associate Director of the Middle School Outreach Ensemble (MSOE) program. She received her Bachelor's in Music Education from University of Colorado at Boulder. Ms. Bennett strongly supports equity and accessibility for all students. She is a certified Transitional Native Language Instructor and frequently taught bilingual music courses in her former positions as the Music Director at Bruce Randolph Middle and High School and Lead Teaching Artist with El Sistema Colorado. She also served as a Regional Team Specialist, facilitating professional development and writing curriculum for Denver Public Schools. During her five years at Bruce Randolph, the program was featured three times on 9News for its excellence and contributions to the community. Ms. Bennett's students frequently performed at many events including the National Take a Stand Orchestra in Los Angeles with Gustavo Dudamel, Red Rocks Amphitheatre with Yo-Yo Ma and DeVotchKa, Denver's Día de los Niños, Day of Drumline, Martin Luther King Parade, and Metropolitan State University's Chamber and Mariachi Festivals. In her free time, Ms. Bennett enjoys camping, traveling abroad, attending Rockies games, and spending time with her family in Thornton.

## *Creating an Inclusive Environment*

Try to find creative, and easy ways for students who may not be able to play, be able to practice with the group. Accommodating is very important to know how to deal with. Especially with wind players, because it is often that students may be sick, may have gone to the dentist, gotten braces, etc. It is important for the student to realize that they haven't been forgotten about if they can't play. Everyone in the ensemble should always be included in learning and music making, by whatever they can physically/mentally do at that point in time.

*-Luke Nelson, French Horn Teaching Artist*

**ANNA PHILIPPE** is a Board Certified Music Therapist pursuing her Master's Degree in Music Therapy at Colorado State University. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University in music therapy and chose to attend Colorado State University because of their focus on neuroscience. She has the privilege of working with the music education faculty and students as a Graduate Teaching Assistant alongside Hollie Bennett and Casey Lawson. Anna is one of the assistant directors for the Middle School Outreach Ensemble (MSOE) program as well as the high school liaison. As a music therapist, Anna has worked in a variety of settings including hospitals, collaborative clinic spaces, skilled nursing facilities, and private practice. Within these spaces, she has implemented effective music therapy interventions for individual, co-treatment, and/or group sessions with the following populations: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, inpatient rehabilitation, oncology, ICU, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, behavioral, epilepsy, transplant, and antepartum. She loves collaborating with other professionals to provide the best possible care. In her free time, Anna enjoys spending quality time with friends and family, writing songs, and finding the best fashion deals and steals!



**CASEY LAWSON** is a teacher, trumpet player, and conductor based in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Music Education at Colorado State University where she serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Assistant Director of CSU's Middle School Outreach Ensembles (MSOE) Program. Before moving to Fort Collins, Ms. Lawson was the Music Director for Grand County School District in Moab, Utah, where she taught middle school and high school concert, marching, and jazz bands, as well as color guard, general music, and ukulele classes. Ms. Lawson believes in the power of music education to transform the lives of students and create meaningful bonds between students and the surrounding community. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Ms. Lawson is an active performer on the trumpet and appears regularly with the Fiery Furnace Marching Band throughout the four-corners area. When she is not busy with musical endeavors, Ms. Lawson enjoys spending time outdoors running, backpacking, and relaxing with her fiancé, Steve, and her dog, Fisher.

*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? Describe what "body action" needs to happen**

**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**

**Be able to answer "WHY?"**

**Ask students to be their own musician**

**Take it apart, put it back together**

**Develop "proactive reactivity"**

**LISTEN and Think before you speak**

**....WHAT ELSE?**

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

Email the editor at [casey.lawson@colostate.edu](mailto: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!*



## Letter from the Editor

### The Teaching Trifecta

*WOW! Can you believe it? We've arrived at the last week of MSOE! I am so proud of the teaching growth that I've seen in all of our Teaching Artists throughout the semester. It is a true testament to the power of thoughtful collaboration, feedback, and reflection! I think these three practices in combination are what makes teaching great (and fun!). We are so lucky to be part of a community of practice that celebrates and supports teacher growth the way our MSOE team does. Way to go!*

*-Casey Lawson, VAULT Editor*

*P.S.--I have thoroughly enjoyed curating the VAULT for this MSOE Season! I am so glad I've had the privilege of peeking into the brains of our MSOE staff and learning from all of your great insight!*

## Contact Us

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Submissions? Send them to:

[casey.lawson@colostate.edu](mailto:casey.lawson@colostate.edu)