CSU'S MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTREACH ENSEMBLES & TRYING-ON-TEACHING PROGRAMS PRESENT... FEBRUARY 17, 2021

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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Talk Less (Smile More!)

In my own teaching, I've noticed that especially over zoom, it's really easy to talk, a lot. There's definitely been times when we finished MSOE for the night and I just have to chug a glass of water. I like to think of this as my physical reminder to A) drink more water while teaching, but more importantly B) give students the chance to play and talk more. The second session is a great place for students to talk more about their experiences and their passions. Prepare some questions for them to answer and as the semester goes on, start to get deeper with your questions.

Amber's Teaching Tip:
Make sure you're using the "Frame" step of your teaching cycle. Students will be more successful early on if you tell them what you're going to be working on! It's a tiny step, but an important one.

And of course, a lot of these students are here first and foremost, to make music. Take the time in your first part of rehearsal to make sure you are playing music. It doesn't necessarily have to be the MSOE repertoire, any music at all is good. Play the melody to one of your student's playlist songs, or ask for their own favorite piece they're doing in school. These students are excited to be here and play music, make sure they get to do that!

-**Amber Sheeran, Cello/Bass Teaching Artist, MSOE Repertoire Composer**

Questions? Contact Erik Johnson, Program Director (e.johnson@colostate.edu) or Maddy Cort, Assistant Program Director (macort@rams.colostate.edu)

Keeping Music Alive: Music and Connection

Countless scientific studies show the value of music, but I would like to share real life examples of the impact of music. In my own life, music has been a huge source of hope, dating back to early childhood. Music gave me a place to make friends and to work for something greater than ourselves. Music fosters a unique connection because, unless playing unaccompanied solo repertoire, musicians have to work together to make something beautiful. In a society that is focused on self, it is invaluable to have music to teach us empathy and connect us together for the greater good.

Middle school was when I fell in love with music. I remember going to orchestra every week at a program not unlike this one and feeling welcomed and valued as talented. Music gave me confidence, skills, and connections. My goal as a teaching artist is to do the same for my students. l strive to foster an environment that encourages students to be themselves and work together for the greater good.

- **Rachel Nieves, Violin Teaching Artist**

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent"
- Victor Hugo

Our Social Justice Theme In Action!

During MSOE last week, my students and I got to discuss what music means to them. Some of them said they get a lot of enjoyment and stress relief out of music. Others said it helps them deepen their relationships with their family and friends. I even had a student tell me she is hoping to have a career in music! I think the social justice coordinators have done an amazing job designing projects that highlight the meaning of music. I'm excited to use these discussions to get to know my students better! **- Madison Kubala, Violin Teaching Artist**

In my carnival lesson, Found Percussion Fantasy, my students used even more creative objects than I would have thought of! This lesson is really helping me to understand that music can be found anywhere, and that students are always willing to find it!
- Paul Beyer, Feedback Leader and Trumpet Teaching Artist

Be Our Guests: Meet Our Week 3 Master Teachers!

Leanne Griffey is currently the Orchestra Director at Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School in Fort Collins, where she has been for 11 years. She has been a music educator longer than most of you have been on this planet, having taught a lot of Choir and Orchestra and a little bit of Band and Music Exploration in middle schools and a few elementary schools in Northern Colorado and Williamsburg, VA. She had an extensive private violin and viola studio, too, until a child of her own entered the house and started demanding more attention. In pre-pandemic life, Leanne took advantage of every opportunity she could to perform professionally as a violinist or violist, sometimes just to have a chance to talk to other adults. Leanne's happiest place is at the top of mountain on her skis, with her husband and daughter, in knee-deep powder, but a close second place goes to the fireplace after the skiing with her shrewd cats on her lap.

Dave Wiske is a retired teacher from Adams County School District 12 north of Denver. He received both his undergraduate and master's degrees in music education from the University of Northern Colorado. He also finished his coursework towards a doctoral degree in trombone performance at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Dave's first job was as an elementary general music teacher, which he enjoyed very much. He then spent 15 years as the band director at Thornton High School and after that spent the last half of his career at Rocky Top Middle School. Pre- (and hopefully post) pandemic, Dave has always maintained an active performance schedule as well as working as a clinician/adjudicator at various festivals throughout the area. Dave has been happily married to his wife, Sheri for 32 years and they have two amazing, grown kids and 2 great dogs. In addition to spending time with them, Dave loves to find time to fish, run and cook (the cooking thing is new, since he's been stuck at home for 9 months :)

Props Box!

"I just want to give a shout out to our master teachers last week. Their feedback was extremely helpful! I especially liked what Mr. Bell said about imagining yourself in the middle schoolers shoes, and Mrs. Poole's genius repertoire selection trick! Their advice is helping me understand learning from the student's perspective. I'm excited to learn from more awesome teachers so my lessons can improve every week!" - Madison

"Props to my ToT mentee, Mr. Arjen Wynja, for showing up and doing everything he can to connect with students, long before he will teach a lesson himself!"- Paul

Teaching Tip!

When giving feedback, always remember to give positive feedback as well as constructive. Make students feel as comfortable as possible! Also make sure that you are *receiving* an adequate amount of feedback from your students about how they're doing!

- Paul Beyer, Feedback Leader and Trumpet Teaching Artist

MSOE in Action!

Left: The Cello/Bass section teachers and students (also known as “Bass-ically the Best”) enjoy a dramatic reading of a Quest from Classcraft; Right: The Fearless Flute Foxes play music together!

FROM THE EDITOR: FIRST TRIMESTER REFLECTIONS

This week marks the end of our first MSOE Trimester - can you believe it? We are a third of the way through MSOE! Take some time this week to reflect on what you have accomplished so far and remind yourself of your goals for your students. Do you need to recalculate your trajectory? Are you right on track? One of the best parts of MSOE is all the built in supports that we have for our teaching artists. Share your ideas openly, ask questions, and continue to make this the best virtual MSOE ever!

- Maddy Cort, MSOE Assistant Program Director, “The Vault” Editor