

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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When in Doubt, Dance it Out!

When you hear the phrase “Keeping Music Alive”, what do you think of? This year’s Social Justice theme varies from person to person; be it through listening, playing, or sharing music, there are countless ways to express and weave music into our everyday lives! An area of expression that I’ve recently experimented with in lessons is one less conventional to instrumental music: dancing!

While schools all over the country are finding ways to navigate remote and hybrid learning, students and teachers alike are spending most days sitting in chairs, hunched over computer screens -- the point is, people aren’t moving like they used to.

Though a bit nerve-wracking to some, dancing is a way to let loose, destress, and have fun while listening to enjoyable music! Last lesson, the Horn Harbingers of Harmony all danced to a Just Dance song, and despite WiFi discrepancies, the students seemed to enjoy the activity. The Just Dance Setting over Zoom is quite adaptable, if



students aren’t comfortable having their cameras on while dancing, they are more than welcome to turn them off for the time being; if they’re in a space where moving much isn’t ideal, dancing with the upper body is more than welcome! As long as it’s something your students find enjoyable, it’s definitely worth a try!

- **Kia Young, Horn Teaching Artist**

Kia’s Teaching Goals:

Finding ways to insert and utilize Classcraft within lessons, creating opportunities for students to play for one another, and getting myself out of my comfort zone with lesson plans and engagement activities

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

Dr. Johnson's Teaching Corner

1. Engage the students with a video & prompt as they enter your rooms this week.
2. Find ways to talk directly to students when giving feedback more often.
3. Post a list of what you are going to try to accomplish during your time together right at the beginning.
 - Frame your objectives in "Know-Do-Show" language.
 - With this post (which can be a side you project on a screen share), make sure you also have a "to do" list for what the students need to have ready before you begin. Train your students to show up early by having something exciting for them to look forward to.
5. Train your students to show up early by having something exciting for them to look forward to (cool music or videos playing before class)
6. Utilize breakout rooms more often. Even if you are the only teacher in your session, you can use 5 mins of breakout rooms where you visit them and help them individually.
7. If you have more than one teacher in your room, have one person monitor and stimulate the chat.
8. Teach students 3 different ways to respond (physically, chat, musically).
9. Have everyone stay muted while you are modeling. It does no good to have everyone unmuted.
10. Utilize the electronic recordings and have the students play along with it while you, as the teacher, do as well. It's okay at this point to play all the way through a major section or even give the full piece/movement a try. (WHOLE-PART-WHOLE).
10. Use "Say it-- Finger it -- Play it" more often to scaffold understanding of fingerings and rhythms.
11. Check in with your students at the end of the lesson/chunk by having them respond to a poll.
 - You can create several polls ahead of time and use them to build momentum.
12. Come up with your own wacky and fun approaches to meet your goals. Try something out and ask the students how well they think you did in trying out a particular instructional strategy.
13. Ask the students a few times in the class session to type in the chat what you could do to be more helpful to them.
14. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, **BE MORE OUTGOING!!** It is okay to be silly, smile, laugh, and keep things fast-paced! Don't worry about looking our sounding cool. Vary your voice, use gestures, create a tornado of enthusiasm. On Zoom, we have to be more outgoing than we would normally be in-person.

Props Box!

"Shoutout to Zoe and Jake for always being awesome, and for being the best timekeepers and attendance-takers in the universe!" - Kia

"I want to give a shout out to Maddy! She is such an organized, caring, and responsive teacher, and I've really enjoyed taking MU 286 and Woodwind Techniques with her. Maddy (and all the admins of course) does so much work behind the scenes of MSOE, which has paved the way for the teaching artists to dive headfirst into teaching! Thank you Maddy!" - Madison

Be Our Guests: Meet Our Week 5 Master Teachers!

Bryan Kettlewell is currently the Director of Choral Music at Thompson Valley High School (TVHS) in Loveland, CO where he leads six different ensembles and has twice been nominated for Teacher of the Year in his school district. His choirs routinely go to festivals and competitions where they receive superior ratings. He received degrees from Colorado State University (M. M.) and The University of Texas, Austin (B.A.) where he had the privilege of studying with Dr. Ryan Olsen, and Dr. Suzanne Pence respectively. Bryan serves as a guest clinician and adjudicator across the state. He has presented at various music conferences including the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, and the College Music Society. As a singer and conductor, Bryan has performed on a variety of domestic and international tours, including multiple European tours to Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. This past April, Bryan and his wife Dana welcomed their first child Theodore into this world. He is the sweetest and most adorable little guy a father could ask for. The theme of the upcoming Laudamus concert was partially inspired by his presence! In his brief spare time, Bryan enjoys being in the mountains as much as possible, especially with his family and his dogs, Eliza and Penny.



Ms. Samantha Post began her music journey in her district's Summer Band program. As she continued through school, Ms. Post started volunteering with the program, teaching younger students how to play the flute. This progressed into a determined passion for music education, leading her to study Music Education at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. During her four years there, Ms. Post taught in a variety of different music programs around the state in Fort Collins, Denver, and Colorado Springs, and performed on flute with the university ensembles; Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and CSU Flute Choir. She also participated in teaching the Middle School Outreach Ensemble as a flute section leader and conductor in her junior year. In Durango Colorado at Miller Middle School, Ms. Post has been growing the small band program from 30-110 students in her first to second year. Now in her third year of teaching, Ms. Post is excited and determined to resume her growing band program and giving students the opportunity to rejoin band as the pandemic starts to ease instrumental playing restrictions. In her spare time, Ms. Post loves to read fantasy novels, play instruments with her friends, and workout in a variety of different places such as ninja competitions, gymnastics, and Animal Flow.



Guest Teachers (continued)

Brian Floyd knew that he would become a music educator when he was in sixth grade. The high school band was playing a recruiting concert and the director gave a thumbs up when he caught Brian conducting the band from the audience. Now, he is completing his 17th year as Director of Choral, Musical Theatre, and Orchestral Activities at Blevins Middle School, and his 21st year as a music educator. Brian's classroom duties include teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced Choir and Orchestra, along with Musical Theatre Production, Introduction to Drama and Music Explorations.



In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Brian serves on the Building Leadership Team as the Electives Team Leader, chairs the Building Technology Committee, and he is the Music Department Chairperson. Brian also

occasionally serves as Acting Administrator in the absence of the building administration. He is currently the assistant coordinator of the Poudre School District Middle School Honor Choir and the coordinator of the Poudre School District Middle School Choral Festival. Brian previously served as coordinator of the PSD Middle School Honor Choir and as coordinator of the Texas Music Educators Association, Region XVI Junior High School Vocal Division.

MUSIC FOR YOU FROM THE UCA

On March 9th, at 7:50 pm, the Mendelssohn Trio, which includes Dr. Theim, Dr. Peterson, and Dr. Wallick, is performing. The program includes the Rachmaninov cello sonata. Streaming available [here](#).

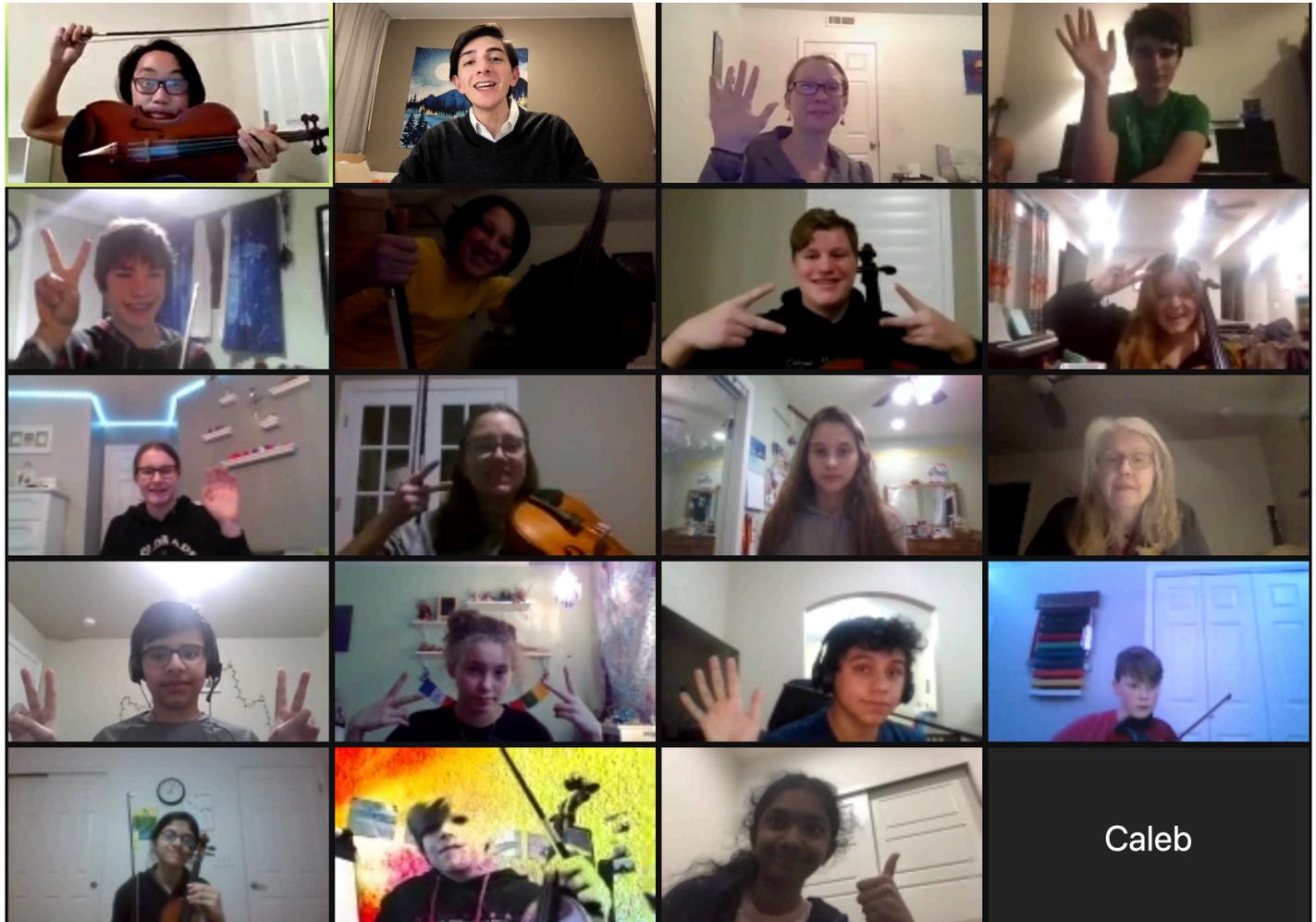
In 2007, Brian's select choir students performed at the Colorado Music Educators Association Clinic and Conference. In 2014, Brian and his orchestra students were honored to work with Dr. Erik Johnson to present a workshop session at CMEA, "All the Information in one spot? Teaching with lead sheets in the band and orchestra rehearsal to improve sight-reading and ensemble-wide comprehension." Throughout his career in Colorado and Texas, Brian's students have earned First and Second division ratings in Large Group and Solo/Ensemble contests and many of his students have been selected to District and Region Honor Choirs and Honor Orchestras at the middle school, junior high school, and senior high school levels. Brian earned the Bachelor of Music Education—Choral

Music, with honors, and the Master of Music, with an emphasis in Music Education and Conducting, from Eastern New Mexico University. He earned the Specialist in Education—Educational Leadership, with principal licensure, from the University of Northern Colorado.

KIA'S TEACHING TIP!

"Something that I have to remind myself quite often is that Zoom can be weird, laggy, and awkward, and the best thing I can do is push through that strangeness with a smile and a bright attitude (even if I feel like doing neither). I like to tell myself that nothing's weird unless you make it weird, and this can go both ways! Try this [link](#) to a compiled list of Icebreakers for Distance Learning that can help you connect with students and get through the weirdness!" - Kia Young

MSOE in Action!



Last week, our amazing orchestra students and teaching artists worked together to perform a new piece titled “Latency Strings” by MSOE teaching artist, Jake DiFebo. Look for performances of awesome pieces like this one in our MSOE Showcase coming up on April 7th!

FROM THE EDITOR: REACHING OUT

Last week, I felt like a bad teacher. I thought my students were behind and that I wasn’t doing enough to help them be successful. Does this sound familiar to anyone? But thankfully, Madison reminded me that I shouldn’t be so hard on myself with her submission for this week’s Props Box (thanks a million, Madison)! Her kind words were exactly what I needed to get out of my funk. Maybe you also had a tough week and could use some love? Here it is: your students have learned so much from you and you are doing great work for them! If you didn’t need that, pass it on to someone else who might. You never know what your kindness and encouragement could do for a fellow teacher!

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

