

# The Vault

## MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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SAM**

## Facing Fears

**A**s everyone can agree, 2020 and subsequently the beginning of 2021 has been something no one expected. We were thrust into the biggest change of most of our lives and I know I struggled to keep up passion in the things that I loved. During quarantine I found myself struggling to love music and love playing. I found myself asking if I truly could teach if school stayed online. However, MSOE has changed all of that.

I, just like many of my peers, didn't know what I was doing when it came to teaching over zoom. We would often talk about what we thought could go wrong and how we were afraid we wouldn't be able to give the students the education experience that they deserved. Yet the very first night proved all of our doubts wrong.

It was messy and scary, but teaching once again reignited my passion for both teaching and for music. Despite countless technological errors the students were troopers and readily helped us solve the errors. By now I find myself eagerly awaiting Wednesday where I get to make music with students once again and see them learn.



- **Grayson Symes, Saxophone Teaching Artist and Feedback Leader**

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

## The Music is Alive!

This week, I had a strong connection to the Social Justice theme "Keeping Music Alive". I was able to go in-person to Werner Elementary School where the kids aren't able to sing, and have to keep distance between themselves. Despite this, the children were so excited to go to music. The kindergarteners



especially loved showing up to music and dancing around with their teacher. They were able to go outside and play games with each other while saying the lyrics to songs instead of singing.

This resonates with me because even though they can't sing, they are still keeping music alive by gathering and stopping their lives to learn something about music. During their time in music, they can forget about the

pandemic and just be a kid! It is especially important right now because the children growing up in our society now haven't been able to have a normal childhood that we all had. By keeping music alive in their lives, they can remember music class without associating the pandemic with it. The teacher focuses on giving them the same experience that they would normally get without the pandemic by playing recordings and singing for them. This translates to MSOE because I have realized that it is the same instance for middle schoolers. Even though we are not playing music in person with each other, they still decided to be a part of MSOE and show up every week. This means that we should all take the time (like Mr. Krueger at Werner Elementary) to give the students an experience that they will smile about in the future despite the pandemic.

- **Katie St. Gemme-Pate, Saxophone Teaching Artist and Undergraduate Program Director**

### KATIE'S TEACHING TIP!

I think an important goal for every MSOE teaching artist is to keep your expectations high even over Zoom. It would be a good idea to ask students to record themselves playing in their own breakout room and then have them upload it to Flipgrid or Classcraft. This way, you are able to listen to everyone (including the students who are too nervous to demonstrate for the group). You should give them some goals to accomplish in their recordings.



### SPECIAL GUEST IN THE SAXOPHONE SECTION!

This week, students in the saxophone section got to meet Teaching Artist, Grayson Symes's pet bird! Willow is a 7 month old Black Headed Caique, which is a medium sized parrot. She's still working on reaching the saxophone keys with her toes, so she usually sings along with the saxophones instead!

## Be Our Guests: Meet Our Week 6 Master Teachers!

**Emily Anne Bowman** lives, breathes and dreams in music. A dedicated educator, she keeps a regular schedule as Artistic Director of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra and conductor of the GBYO Philharmonic, as faculty with Boulder Suzuki Strings where she teaches violin, viola, fiddle and conducts the Senior Solo Orchestra, and as instrumental music teacher for grades 3-12 violin, viola and orchestra at Shining Mountain Waldorf School. Ms. Bowman has been recognized with the "Exemplary Teacher" award four times by the American Strings Teachers Association of Colorado. Ms. Bowman is an active performer. With music, she has traveled to Europe, South America, Central America, and throughout North America. She can be heard regularly performing with the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Ms. Bowman graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Viola Performance from the University of Colorado, receiving the Gabor Ormai Viola Award and the Outstanding Graduate Award from the College of Music. Ms. Bowman lives with her husband and two cats in beautiful Boulder where in addition to making music she delights in spending quality time with family and friends, eating and enjoying the outdoors.



**Jared Crump-Bertram** have been working in Adams 12 Five Star Schools district since 2001, and has been at Century Middle School since 2008. Before that he taught at Thornton High School. He has a Doctorate in Education (EdD) from the University of Colorado, as well as a Masters and Bachelors degree in music education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Jared lives in Broomfield, Colorado with his wife Jennifer and Children Ella and Aidan. He is an instrumental music teacher and musician. He plays trumpet in the Denver Bronco's Stampede and other groups around town. He also has a passion for Aviation and is a licensed pilot. He enjoys flying whenever time and money permits! He also enjoys many other hobbies such as skiing, snow boarding, fishing (fly and spin), and spending time in the mountains in general!



## Sam's MSOE Teaching Tips!

- ▶ Routine is everything! Following a rehearsal routine helps you to focus on the music rather than the structure of the instruction, and it also helps your students to be prepared the second that rehearsal begins. Students will be set up and ready to go every time if they know the routine, saving time that can be spent making beautiful music!
- ▶ I start all of my lessons with a "Song of the Day". It's usually a short 5 minute song or piece that has to do with the social justice theme or something with clarinet. For example, the week that students were supposed to find folk songs, our Song of the Day was a Hungarian Folk song played on clarinet! Click this [link](#) to hear next week's awesome song.



▶The best advice I ever received from a middle school teacher was to meet them at their level. I know we all want to be super serious and super professional college students with serious passions, but sometimes it can be good to be fun and silly with your students. Not everything has to be serious, especially not MSOE! Have fun with it!

▶Fundamentals! Are your students sitting up straight? Are they holding their instrument correctly?

▶Take your time! There's no need to rush through any process.

Work on a concept or phrase until it is exactly how you want it.

- **Sam Anderson, Clarinet Teaching Artist and Feedback Leader**

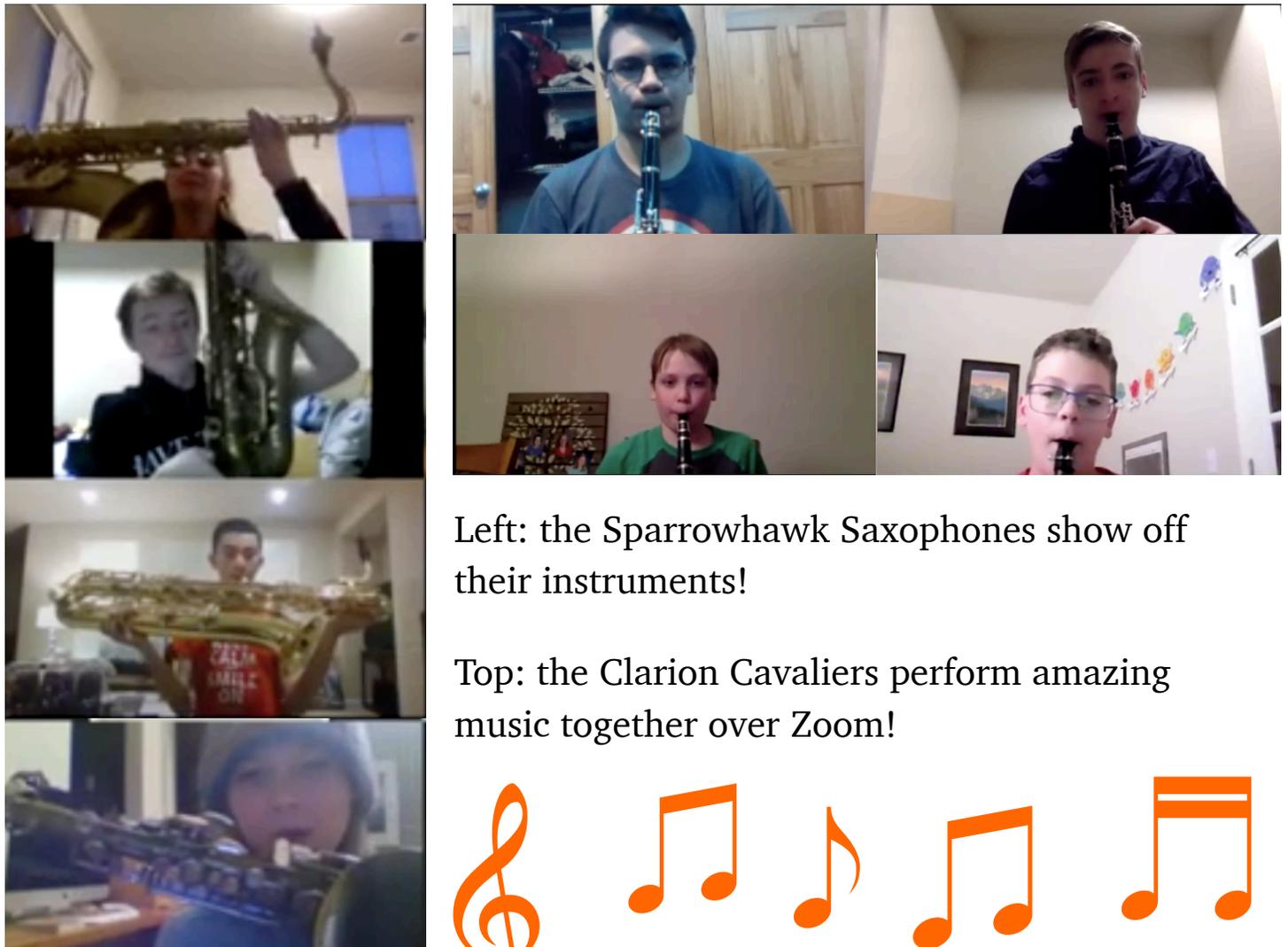
### Props Box!

"I want to give props to my high school teacher Maria (High School Trying-On-Teaching Participant)! She has been leading such a great warm-up for the students every week, and continues to be flexible with her teaching. It is such a big deal for her to jump into the deep end and start teaching ten saxophone players over Zoom. We are so proud of her!" - Katie

"Obviously I'd like to shoutout my section for being troopers through this experimental process. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to ALL of the teaching artists! You guys are all working so hard and it's making a difference!" - Sam

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift! That is why it is called the present." -Master Oogway

## MSOE in Action!



Left: the Sparrowhawk Saxophones show off their instruments!

Top: the Clarion Cavaliers perform amazing music together over Zoom!



### FROM THE EDITOR: HALFWAY!

Not only are we at the halfway point for MSOE, but also for the entire CSU Spring Semester. It both feels like we just started AND that we've already been doing this forever. This middle point is an excellent time to reflect and think ahead. Where did we start and where are we going? Consider re-watching a rehearsal recording from the beginning of MSOE and using it as a catalyst for reflecting on how far you've come. And for how much more is left to go! I'm sure you'll find some great improvements in your teaching and some habits that are still persisting. Then, after all of that looking back and looking forward, center yourself on the present moment and show up as your best possible teacher-self for your students!

- Maddy Cort, MSOE Assistant Program Director, "The Vault" Editor

