

# THE VAULT



The official newsletter of  
MSOE 2022

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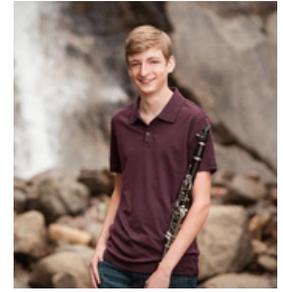
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# TEACHING MUSIC IS FUN!

SAM ANDERSON, UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

When I was thinking about what I wanted to write for this week's Vault submission, I kept coming back to the same topic: students. I wanted to use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all of the teaching artists, participants, and MSOE administrators for all of the hard work they have done in the months leading up to the first night of MSOE. None of this would be possible without the tremendous help of both undergraduate and graduate music education students, and of course there would be no MSOE without middle school students. At almost every single level of this program, students make it happen. As we approach the third year of this historical pandemic, I couldn't even begin to count the number of hardships that we have faced. Looking towards the future of this program, there are still many challenges to overcome. Between this year being back in person, the snowstorm that delayed our first week, and students having to quarantine, this year has proven to be one of the most challenging for everyone involved in the program.



Despite everything that has happened in these past few years, I feel extremely fortunate to be working with our amazing MSOE team. Obviously, things look different than when I first signed up to be a clarinet section coach for the 2020 season. Only a few of the teaching artists have ever experienced a full season of MSOE, and some haven't experienced an in-person season at all. With a little help from our directors, though, we managed to make it happen. The teaching artists were eager to help with the recruitment process, and I wish that I could show all of the behind-the-scenes work that everyone is doing to exhibit how intricate everything is. I'm inspired by the amount of passion every single person involved has for the teaching of music. Running a program like this, especially during a time like this, is not easy by any stretch of the word. It takes hours of dedication, imagination, and hard work to make this happen. So, to all of the undergraduate teaching artists, the high school trying-on-teachers, the graduate program directors, and administrators of this phenomenal program, thank you for everything that you do. To the middle school students who participate, thank you for allowing us to share with you our love of music. You all make the long hours of work worthwhile. I tell my friends who aren't involved in music education about all of the tasks that I and my peers have to do for this program, and they almost always ask me, "Why would you do all of that?" My response is always the same: because teaching music is fun.

## Letter from the Editor



Hello, Readers! We started MSOE with a record amount of snow last week! This unfortunately led to the cancellation of what was supposed to be our first rehearsal. However, I think that this only led to even more preparedness and confidence from our Teaching Artists. I am even more excited now for our actual first rehearsal! For this issue, I wanted to dive deeper into our Teaching Artists' minds on their views of teaching and their thoughts on MSOE. I hope you enjoy getting to know them through *The Vault* as much as I have enjoyed getting to know them so far!



## Staff Spotlight



"Our Social Justice theme this year, 'Music Lives' really means a lot to me. I was part of the class of 2020, and during the height of covid back then music seemed suddenly non-existent for me. I think when people get lost within the isolation of something like that, music no longer seems alive. But through MSOE, we can show our students how they can foster the power of music, and truly make their own performance come alive."  
--Alexa Hudson, Teaching Artist  
Aggie Band



"Hello, my name is Joshua Greiner and I am one of MSOE's Assistant Directors. I am excited to work with MSOE in this role because I get to work with small groups of middle school students in furthering their musicianship while mentoring undergraduate students in their teaching."  
--Joshua Greiner, Assistant Director



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH MUSIC

## LAUREL AVE, ORCHESTRA TEACHING ARTIST

When I was accepted to MSOE I immediately began planning what my classroom would look like, how I could make an impact on my students, and what this program could do for me. Even though MSOE hasn't commenced yet, my dreams and expectations are becoming a reality. As a Teaching Artist, I am excited to start the program and get to know my students and learn about them. This is not only an amazing opportunity for them to learn music, but also to be involved with other inspired musicians like themselves. It is a time in their life where they will learn what they can do with music and what music can do for them.



I am so thrilled that I get to lead them through this learning process. I want my students to find joy and creativity in making music with the MSOE program. I hope my students will learn the fundamentals of how to play their pieces but also how music impacts their lives as well as others. Music making should be fun and influential, and my students will learn just that. This program can bring them experiences they may not receive in their current schools, as well give them experience of performing with other musicians outside of their normal pool of fellow musicians.

This program is a wonderful opportunity for my students and a compelling exposure for me. When I graduate from CSU, I hope to find an opening as a middle school orchestra teacher. The middle school age group is a time when students learn the fundamentals of playing their instruments and how to create good habits of efficient body and instrument awareness. If we help create good habits in our students at the foundation of their musical careers and experiences, it is more likely that students will play for longer and enjoy their playing more. If a student plays the violin and is constantly having hand cramps and neck cramps, it's very discouraging to continue playing as a sixth grader. Adjusting one aspect of their posture could solve that tension and have an encouraging experience to continue with music. Through this program, I am able to experience teaching the age group I aspire to teach and have desired to teach since I fell in love with teaching. This amazing program benefits everyone who is part of it. When we come to the final concert, we will all be more deeply connected, through our experiences with music, than we were before.

## Staff Spotlight



I am very excited to work with the MSOE Students this year! This is my first year working with MSOE, but I am so excited to work on the music we have selected and grow together as musicians and people!

--Jack Robitaille, Feedback Leader & Ram Band Teaching Artist



Since I am a freshman this year, I am really looking forward to gaining more hands-on experience at teaching middle schoolers through MSOE. From this experience, I hope to become more confident in my teaching capabilities and I am excited to connect with the students!

--Lucy McCrossan, Aggie Band Teaching Artist

# Welcome our Master Teachers!



**Beth Remming** beth.remming@gmail.com Beth Remming was born and raised in Rochester, NY, is a recently retired string teacher, and moved out to Denver, CO to be with family. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education, certificate in music in special education and a masters degree in music all in New York and is recently certified in Colorado. Beth Remming is also a certified Suzuki teacher and taught for many years at the Hochstein School of Music. Public school experience includes middle school and elementary school string teacher for Brighton Central School District in Rochester, NY. She has received faculty service award from Hochstein School of Music and was also honored as Music Educator of the Year by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Since moving to Denver, Beth performs viola with the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, maintains a private teaching studio, performs with the duo "So Far So Good" and is a board member for COTFA.

**Mike Perez** is in his twenty first year of teaching and is in his sixteenth year as Director of Bands at Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School in Fort Collins, CO. Mr. Perez previously taught for five years in the Thompson School District at Erwin Middle School and Loveland High School. Mr. Perez graduated from Loveland High School and received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado. While at CU, he studied percussion with Doug Walter, conducting with Allan McMurray and Rob Carnachan, earned a Downbeat Magazine Outstanding Jazz Combo Performance award and was a concerto competition finalist on marimba. Mr. Perez received his Masters degree in Conducting from Southern Oregon University.

Mr. Perez's duties at Kinard Middle School include teaching 245 students in three beginning bands, Intermediate Band, Honors Band, and Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band was the first Colorado middle school band selected to perform at the prestigious Music for All National Concert Band Festival in 2018 and has performed four times as an honor band at the Colorado Music Educators Association Convention. The Symphonic Band also consistently earns superior ratings at local and state level festivals, represents one third of the Poudre School District Honor Band, and among the most students accepted into the CU Middle School Honor Band. The Symphonic Band has been a demonstration group at the University of Northern Colorado's Conducting Symposium with Richard Saucedo and at the Colorado Music Educators Association Clinic Conference with Dr. Matthew Arau.

Mike has had two master's degree projects published and featured in Band World Magazine (Oct. 2003 and April 2005). He is a member of the National Association of for Music Education, Phi Beta Mu and the Colorado Bandmasters Association. Mr. Perez's musical family includes his wife Jessica (piano and voice), Jackson (percussion and guitar), Sophia (piano and tuba), and Micah (trombone).



**Kathy Van Wert** received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Colorado State University in 2018 where she had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Erik Johnson, Dr. Bonnie Jacobi, Dr. Rebecca Phillips, Dr. Richard Frey, and Dr. John McGuire. She is also currently pursuing a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from Fort Hays State University and will graduate in Summer 2023.

Kathy has worked in Loveland, Colorado at Bill Reed Middle School since 2019 and teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band and choir. She also co-directs the school musicals, runs a before-school jazz band program, and assists with marching band instruction at Thompson Valley High School. She is passionate about educational advocacy and serves as an education association representative for her school. Prior to her current position, she taught general music at Sunrise Elementary School in the Cherry Creek School District. Under her direction at both the elementary and middle school levels, student involvement in the music programs increased substantially.

Kathy lives in Thornton, Colorado with her husband, Adam, and their numerous cats. Outside of teaching, she enjoys hiking (especially 14ers!), paddle boarding, cooking, and going to sleep at 8:30 pm!