

THE VAULT



The official newsletter of
MSOE 2022



CONDUCTOR SAM ANDERSON USES PROXIMITY TO GET MORE DYNAMICS FROM THE ORCHESTRA.

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THE WORLD OF PERCUSSION

MAYA RENO, RAM BAND TEACHING ARTIST

This year, I am the only Percussion Teaching Artist in MSOE. Valuing the safety of MSOE staff, students, and families, MSOE made the tough decision to limit the number of percussionists admitted into the program to just five students. Since there are fewer percussionists this year, our percussion team, Team ACDC, is the only small group that is instrument specific. However, the small group environment has brought many opportunities for the MSOE percussion team, specifically the ability to play percussion ensemble music. Percussion ensembles are incredibly beneficial to young percussionists. Chamber music is necessary to stretch the limits of what percussion is. More importantly, it gives our MSOE percussionists more time to explore their instruments.



Over the past two years, all forms of education have seen effects from the COVID-19 Pandemic. For many music programs, COVID necessitated strict limitations for what could be done, and online music education provided presented challenges for how to teach instruments over Zoom.

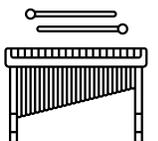
Percussionists faced unique situations themselves. Percussion not only consists of a wide variety of instruments, but many percussion instruments are large. Due to this, it is unrealistic to expect students to have access to those instruments outside of school. Young percussionists normally don't own more than basic sticks, mallets, and sometimes a practice pad. Complicating the issue, much of the accessible group music for these students rely on simultaneous performance with others.

Unlike many other instrumentalists, many young percussionists have not had much access to their instruments for a long time. The time lost is disheartening, especially after many students expressed the importance of music in their life. For many, it has served as an outlet for them and something to stay consistent in such chaotic times.

Providing MSOE percussionists with an opportunity to play a piece focused on their instruments is extremely important to their education. In every sectional, I can tell the students are excited to have their hands on some instruments, and even more excited to work on their percussion ensemble music. Now, instead of being in the back of the ensemble, they will be front and center. Together, we get to move through the ins and outs of playing new instruments or piecing together new rhythms. The piece provides opportunities for them all to explore and spend time with their instruments, taking a deeper dive into the world of percussion.



MAYA RENO COACHES PERCUSSION STUDENTS DURING FULL ENSEMBLE.





THE RAM BAND ENDS REHEARSAL WITH OUR MSOE CHANT!

MUSIC LIVES! IN A CHANGING WORLD

LEAH DUNPHEY, RAM BAND TEACHING ARTIST



This is my first year with MSOE, and I can honestly say that it has been nothing short of reinvigorating. Like many of us, I experienced a deep fear and loss of stability during the thickest parts of the pandemic. How are my future students being impacted? What does this mean for the career that I so look forward to, but has, in some ways, changed from when I was a student? Will I be able to make up the difference and provide my students with the musical education and experience that they need? Most importantly, will live music survive? My friends, there is good news: *MUSIC LIVES!*

Perhaps more now than ever before, music is our grounding: a safe place where we can connect to each other in a world that is ever-changing. It gives me hope beyond what I can describe to see and hear our students learning, forming relationships, and building a deeper understanding of music and how it lives in each one of us. It is my pleasure and honor to work with these students and learn from them as much as they are learning from me. Being a part of MSOE has reminded me why I chose to become a music educator in the first place, and my passion and excitement for teaching music has been revitalized with each rehearsal we've had. I've realized that although these students have experienced hardships and change beyond their years, they are resilient and their thirst for learning has not diminished.

Change and difficulty always bring their unique silver linings. While more challenges surely lie ahead, the past few years have shown us our incredible ability to adapt, adjust, and bounce back stronger than we were before. Working with my MSOE students, my teachers, and my colleagues, I firmly believe that the future for music education is bright and filled with the motivation and excitement borne of hardship. I am constantly reminded of music's ability to connect people from many backgrounds and walks of life. The blessings and positivity that I have experienced recently far outweigh the darkness that insists on permeating our lives. There is tremendous hope and potential in these students. I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn, teach, laugh, and make music with these phenomenal kids. A huge thank you to the students, to their parents who give selflessly of their time and resources for their kids, to my teachers, and to my peers, who never fail to teach me something new. Go MSOE!!

MEET OUR MASTER TEACHERS!



Phuong Nguyen received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Colorado State University and learned from such greats as Dr. Charles Lawson, Dr. William Runyan, and Dr. J. Steven Moore. He also received his Masters of Music in Conducting at Colorado State University, studying with Peter Sommer, Wes Kenney, and Dr. J. Steven Moore. While at CSU, Phuong was awarded the David Paul Knight Scholarship for Jazz, the Award of Highest Distinction at the CSU Research and Creativity Symposium, and was a Senior Honors Recital recipient. Phuong currently plays saxophone and performs with the Fort Collins Wind Symphony, Twelve Cents for Marvin, Choice City Seven, the Fort Collins Jazz Friends as well as a slew of side projects. With more than 20 years of experience performing in Colorado rock/jazz/ska/reggae bands, he has performed with famous rock bands, Vietnamese pop stars, and has even starred in a few short films! Aside from teaching at Boltz Middle School (the best middle school in the world!), Mr. Nguyen also teaches private lessons and coaches students in the Youth Music Collective, a group of high school rock musicians from all over Fort Collins. Phuong currently lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his beautiful wife Nicole Wilshusen and two lovely daughters, Claire and Ella. He likes to hike, ride motorcycles, snowboard, play basketball, and watch cheesy action movies. Oh, and he's a huge Star Wars nerd.

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Msoe Photo spotlight



MEET OUR MASTER TEACHERS!

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Benjamin Pouncey, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, is currently pursuing a Masters of Music in wind conducting from Colorado State University, and is in the studio of Dr. Rebecca Phillips. Mr. Pouncey most recently served as Director of Bands at Ashley Ridge High School (Summerville, SC) where he directed the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band, as well as oversaw the Winter Guard program. Prior to Ashley Ridge, Mr. Pouncey was co-Director of Bands at DuBose Middle School (Summerville, SC) where he was the 2013 Rookie Teacher of the Year. At DuBose Middle School he taught all levels of brass and percussion pedagogy and co-directed all ensembles. The DuBose Symphonic Band was a featured ensemble at the 2018 South Carolina Music Educators' Conference.



Bob Kreutz, a native of Colorado, is motivated to be instructing students during his 38th year as an educator and conductor. Bob is an educator at Colorado State University, where he has instructed orchestral courses in the music education program since 2016. Bob also acts as a university supervisor in the student teacher program, routinely supervising 2-4 students per semester. Concurrent with Bob's CSU work, he was a string and piano specialist from 2014-2020 in the Greeley Options Program, an enrichment program for students with a home-school education. Prior to that, Bob was a strings educator in the Thompson School District in Loveland for 30 years, where he taught orchestra and French at both Thompson Valley High School and Walt Clark Middle School.

As a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, Bob has worked with orchestras throughout Colorado and Wyoming, conducting honor groups in Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Fort Morgan, Grand Junction, Lakewood, Longmont, Loveland, and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

A performing violinist in the area, Bob regularly plays with the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra and many other local ensembles.

Noted Colorado composer, Robert E. Kreutz, conductor Wilfred Schwartz, and educator Steve McNeal are past influences on Bob's career. His hobbies include fly-fishing, golf, enjoying nature and quality time with his family



Andrea Hollenbeck is in her 23rd year of teaching band and has been teaching at Preston Middle School since 2003. Andrea earned a Master's of Music in Education degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Alabama. Andrea continually works on optimizing happiness, being the best mom she can be by being an independent thinker, and surrounding herself with people that make her a better person, keeping her body and mind sharp, and taking risks. She excels at living in the present moment, being vulnerable, genuine, open, and loving unconditionally. Andrea spends her time writing poetry, her beloved and sacred book club, hiking, and yoga. She is a published poet. Andrea currently resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Andrea serves as the Director for Poudre School District Solo and Ensemble, coaches track, and has coached football. Under Ms. Hollenbeck's direction, her bands have earned Superior ratings at band festivals, including Nordic Festival and Colorado Bandmasters Association Festivals. Preston Symphonic Band performed at Colorado Music Educator's State Conference in 2020, 2017, and 2013 and was a clinician in 2012 and 2019. She proudly plays clarinet in the Fort Collins Wind Symphony. Andrea is currently serving as the Northern Representative for Northern Colorado. Ms. Hollenbeck was a clinician in 2019 and 2008 at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Conference. She was featured in the 2019 edition of SBO magazine. Andrea's article on "Composition in the Classroom" was published in The Instrumentalist 2009 October edition. She earned a trip to Calgary, Canada, for a week of SMART professional development in 2014. She was the Rotary Club Teacher of the Month in 2013. Her professional affiliations include CBA and NAFME. She has conducted several different honor bands throughout Colorado. Andrea previously taught elementary, middle, and high school in the Chicago area and Alabama.



Letter from the Editor

KRISTEN FALLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

This is the point in MSOE where progress really starts to shine from both our students and our teachers. With our middle-school students, I see their confidence blossoming and I see them taking charge of their musicianship. With our teachers, I see intention on working toward specific goals with their students, and I see them not only actively collecting tools for their teaching toolbox, but boldness in experimenting with those new tools to see what works and what does not. It is truly an honor to see this program in action. I am inspired weekly by seeing and sharing in the constant growth that MSOE fosters.