

THE VAULT



The official newsletter of
MSOE 2022



GAINING VALUABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING!

LUCY MCCROSSAN, AGGIE BAND TEACHING ARTIST

This year, I am a freshman music education at CSU, and the only freshman Teaching Artist in MSOE. Coming to CSU, I had never taught middle school students before. I knew that MSOE would be the perfect opportunity to teach middle school students and expand my teaching capabilities, and I am so glad that I decided to join. When first joining the teaching team at MSOE, I was nervous that I would not be able to keep up with my peers, as I have had less experience. However, I soon realized that I was a part of a supportive community, and I have learned so much from working and interacting with my peers. Observing Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Elam conduct in Aggie Band and working with Ms. Nieves in sectionals has been very inspiring, and the energy that all the Teaching Artists bring to MSOE keeps me motivated and excited to teach.



It has also been very valuable to gain experience at teaching students on instruments other than my primary instrument. My primary instrument is the flute, however, there are no flute students in MSOE, which means that I get to work with clarinets, saxophones, an oboe, and a french horn in my sectionals. Doing so has pushed me outside of my comfort range, and allowed me to further my capabilities in teaching a wider range of instruments.

I have been very impressed by the students in my sectional group, and they have furthered my passion for music education. The students come to full ensemble rehearsal and sectionals every week with great energy and are ready to learn, and I have genuinely enjoyed getting to connect with them. I have students in my team who compose their own music, play multiple instruments, and participate in various other musical activities, and it has been heart-warming to watch all of them come together and express their love for music. I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to teach middle school music students as a freshman through MSOE, and I cannot wait to continue teaching and help with MSOE in future years!

WHAT IS INSIDE



GAINING VALUABLE
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE
IN TEACHING - 1

THE POWER & COMMUNITY
OF MUSIC - 2

MUSIC LIVES IN ALL OF
US- 2

MEET OUR MASTER
TEACHERS - 3

LETTER FROM THE
EDITOR- 3

THE POWER AND COMMUNITY OF MUSIC

TREVOR WOODCOCK, AGGIE BAND TEACHING ARTIST



This year, MSOE has gone from virtual to in-person teaching, and we're all so excited to be back with these wonderful students from across the region. While it's great that this program will be reaching its 10th year, there's always something new. A new batch of students, a new set of teaching artists, a new social justice theme. There are a lot of firsts for me individually, as I've never been a part of this program before. For starters, this has been my very first time teaching students that weren't my age. This is an amazing opportunity to apply all the teacher skills and techniques I've been taught here at CSU, and figure out how they work on real children, instead of a textbook. I'm mostly stoked that they're real, and they're right in front of me!

As someone who started music education in the midst of the pandemic, this is my first time teaching younger students. It's amazing to put into practice all the things that I have been studying for the last two years. The experience of being in front of and playing with these kids is invaluable, and my students are teaching me so much more than any one class ever could. My students inspire me everytime I see them, and I hope that I inspire them too. Despite challenges in their lives, my students come to rehearsal every week with a smile on their face. These students love music and are dedicated to maintaining music as a crucial piece of our society. It's amazing what they've come to share each week, their ideas flood our classroom with joy and excitement. No one is ever too young to share the power and community of music with those around them. GO MSOE!



MUSIC LIVES IN ALL OF US

PAUL BEYER, RAM BAND CONDUCTOR

As we continue into our third trimester of MSOE, and the concert draws near, I am reminded of the very basis of MSOE this season: MUSIC LIVES! Through the course of this season I have seen students go from barely saying a word to singing by themselves in front of the group. I have seen kids make friends that I am sure will last them a long time. I have seen everybody involved with this activity grow connections to themselves and others that is almost unfathomable, all through music.



Music has survived all of the turmoil of the world so far, but the particular difficulties of the last few years have put a strain on the way people create music. Many students stopped their studies -- quit band, or choir, or orchestra, or whatever it may be -- because we were faced with a world where music, which is meant for ALL to experience and participate in, was faced with a world-wide roadblock that nobody had the power to move. It is absolutely inspiring to see that, despite all of the above, these kids have overcome these issues and have put their hearts and souls into something that they only do for a couple hours once a week. "Music lives" doesn't just refer to the revival of ensemble music in regards to the pandemic. Truly, music lives in every person, and if these kids are the people that music lives through, I am very optimistic about the way the world and the arts will continue to flourish. GO MSOE!



Meet Our Master Teachers!



Melissa Claeys has been teaching for 18 years, and has been the Orchestra Director at Boltz Middle School since 2014. Prior to this position, her career has spanned all three levels of instrumental music. She has directed groups at the elementary, middle school and high school level. At all levels, her groups have a history of receiving Superior ratings at festivals and achieving prestigious honors and championship awards at both the State and National level. Mrs. Claeys received her Bachelor of Music Education and Performance degrees from Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO in 2003. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and also received the Educator of the Year Award in Music. In 2008 she received a Master's Degree in Integrated Arts Education from the University of Montana. Earning this degree allowed her to become more educated in other passions of hers as a performing arts educator which includes dance, drama and music collectively.

Not only is Mrs. Claeys a music teacher, but she is a dance instructor as well, currently teaching the only middle school dance program in Poudre School District at Boltz Middle School. Outside of the orchestra classroom she has also coached Winter Guard and her groups have medaled several times at the State level and have won a State Championship. Currently, she is also the choreographer for the Boltz Middle School Musical Theater program. Aside from teaching music, Melissa Claeys' other passions revolve around being a wife to her husband Jason, and mom to her three children Emmalene, Annaliese and Remington. As a family, they enjoy spending time outside on their boat up at Horsetooth Reservoir, scuba diving and just living life to the fullest— together.

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.



Letter from the Editor

KRISTEN FALLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Last week's rehearsal was full of positive energy! It was so fun to be back at MSOE after a week off. Even though Teaching Artists and Conductors are starting to focus on our concert, I still see so much effort going into the classroom environment, and making sure that kids are learning in a fun and safe place. While I am also looking forward to the concert, I am making sure to take note of the small "aha" moments I see from middle-schoolers and Teaching Artists. I will continue to savor these moments to make them last as long as possible because before we know it, our MSOE 2022 Program will be coming to an end! Until then: GO MSOE!!!

