



THE VAULT

The official newsletter of CSU'S Middle School Outreach Ensembles (MSOE) 2023



Welcome to MSOE!

Dr. Erik Johnson, Program Director

Greetings and welcome to MSOE 2023! With eleven years under our belt, it is both humbling and exciting to see the ripple effects of work our students do resonate throughout Colorado and beyond. Drawn together through a passion for elevating access to music education, we are here because of the hard work of so many wonderful people. I am honored to work alongside such a great 2023 team of talented and driven music educators at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The experience and innovative ideas that our team has brought to the design of our program has been truly inspirational -- and, speak directly to our 2023 Social Justice mission Nurturing Community.

I would also like to welcome a record number of High School students into the Trying-on-Teaching program! With the impacts of the pandemic still being felt in arts enrollment across all educational institutions, we are excited to see that the future is bright with a stronger-than-ever interest in the Trying-on-Teaching program. You come from across northern Colorado, and, with a sincere interest in discovering if a career in music education is right for you, you also represent the kind of hope we all have for our music education community. We are looking forward to working with you all to make MSOE 2023 a magical event for the over 150 middle school students who join us at CSU this week.

As our 2023 Teaching Artist team embarks on this journey together, I want to remind you of the respect I have for your passion to improve the lives of young people. We are a tremendous community filled with knowledge and grit, and together, we can accomplish anything. However, our most important accomplishment will be the connection we will make with individual students. Celebrate the joy of music making! Celebrate the joy of being together! Celebrate your passion and knowledge through your work to continue nurturing our community!

GO MSOE!

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NURTURING COMMUNITY

Ben Landfair, Feedback Coordinator and Conductor

Since its inception, MSOE has been about furthering the field of music education by providing opportunities for both future music educators and middle school musicians to hone their craft in a safe environment. In the past three years of a challenging pandemic and pressing on to provide the best MSOE experience we could to our students, it became evident that the cornerstone of MSOE as we know it was interaction and community. This year we shine a light upon that unspoken function with our social justice theme, Nurturing Community. Two questions that I have been striving to answer since this theme was introduced are, “what communities are we nurturing,” and “how can I pursue this task using my role in the MSOE program in an authentic way?” Our communities are expansive and include our sections, ensembles, teaching artist team, and administration team. With these communities in mind, my fellow teaching artists and I have worked tirelessly to determine ways to nurture community in authentic ways relevant to our roles.

One of my roles during this season of MSOE is as the Feedback System Coordinator, and as the coordinator I have tried to implement our social justice theme within the system. Strengthening our teaching artists and helping to grow their skills through feedback is inherently a way to nurture our MSOE community, but by personalizing the feedback based on self reflection from the teaching artist, we are able to contribute not only on a general level, but also focusing on the areas that they want extra help. This builds our communal bonds, strengthening our level of understanding for one another to lift each other up to heights only achievable through collaboration.



To aid in the development of our teaching artists we have segmented feedback into trimester focuses (or foci as Dr. Johnson may refer to them) based around the three phases of teaching: self, content, and impact. These phases of teaching are what we as educators focus on during our careers. With “self”, we focus on our demeanor: how we are standing, talking, and moving our arms. In the “content” phase we focus on what the students are learning and how that information is being presented. In the last phase, impact, we focus on how we are affecting the students past the years in our classroom. With these in mind we aim to simplify these teaching phases to help facilitate our teams to look beyond themselves and think about all three phases as the semester progresses.

As we’re ramping up into the first week of MSOE, the feedback team will be taking note of the starting points of our teaching artists in order to strive for growth. This allows us to look back at our first teaching videos and lesson plans with fondness as we recognize the leaps we took in our development with the help of our community. I, along with the entire MSOE team, am ecstatic for this MSOE season and am looking forward to just how far we go!



Assistant Director Josh Greiner coaches the 2022 MSOE Orchestra



Undergraduate Program Director Jack Robataille leads the 2023 MSOE teaching artists during a conducting workshop



Percussionists from the 2022 MSOE Season rehearse their parts with the full band

THE SEED BANK

Inspired by the federal seed vault that lies below Fort Collins, The Seed Bank is an ever-growing collection of teaching techniques, educational quotes, book recommendations, and all other things music education compiled by our MSOE staff. New seeds will be planted every week, culminating in a garden of knowledge by the end of this MSOE season.

Check out what's growing by visiting [https://tinyurl.com/2p8jp37c!](https://tinyurl.com/2p8jp37c)

Letter from the Editor

Hello, readers! I'm Brian Tremper, a first-year Master's of Music Education Plus Teaching Licensure student at CSU. I'm so excited to be one of the assistant directors for MSOE this season as well as serving as a section coach for percussion.

MSOE is a truly unique program- the agency given to the teaching artists is unlike any other organization I've ever seen. Here, we are encouraged to think creatively, create our own systems, and collaborate with each other to achieve heights unachievable by ourselves and run a program that is truly ours.

We're all looking forward to getting started with this season of MSOE, meeting our students, fostering connections, and making beautiful music. My goal for the Vault is to give you all a glimpse into the inner workings of this incredible program.

