



THE VAULT

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



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..And We're Off!

Kristen Falls, Senior Associate Director

The MSOE staff have been working towards their first rehearsal since November. The Senior Administration Team decided early on that starting a little earlier and having three staff trainings instead of two might help the team be more prepared for the program. By the third training in January, everyone seemed a little more ready for the next month. In February, before the first rehearsal, the staff already seemed to feel like they were part of a team.



In our first MSOE rehearsal, I saw our staff nurturing their MSOE community. Teachers were getting to know their students. Our undergraduate leaders have been meeting every Friday to plan, meet, and talk about their ideas on the program and were ready on Wednesday to lead their teams. The high school Trying on Teaching students had already met with and started to bond with their mentor teachers. This meant they were already prepared to start assisting their lead teacher and get to know the middle schoolers as well. The middle schoolers are starting to come out of their shells just a little bit. Even though it was just the first rehearsal, I really see the seeds of community starting to grow. Everyone involved in the program, from administrators, to teachers, to students, come from a different home community, school community, friend community, and music community. We all have different levels of experience, different experiences, and different banks of knowledge. Yet, we are here together, combining everything that makes us unique and making something completely new— a once-in-a-lifetime community that will last only nine weeks. By week nine, we will be in a groove and won't want it to end. So, how do we go from these seeds to a fully flowering community?

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..And We're Off! (continued)

First, we start building community through structure. The administration teams have been working since November 2022 to make sure that the framework for MSOE is secure enough for teachers and staff to work in. This includes schedules, music and social justice curriculum, and organizing staff training. From the beginning, we have been thinking through the program as a whole and what we can do to facilitate growth in both staff and students.

Second, we build community through activities and positive interaction. In our last staff training in January, MSOE section coaches and conductors started planning community building activities to implement in their small groups and large ensemble rehearsals. During our first rehearsal, they took those ideas and started implementing them. MSOE staff have also started building community with each other through our after party professional development sessions after MSOE rehearsals. The Senior Administration Team also works toward these after parties with the lens of facilitating individual growth in teaching, and collective growth as a music education community.

Finally, we build community through social justice and understanding. Though some of our social justice activities are purposeful to help students see their own role in their community and see how other communities interact, other activities are just for fun and getting to know one another! Opening up and seeking to understand one another will be the core of student-teacher relationships, teacher-administrator relationships, etc. Together, we hope to show you all the connections and strength we have built as a group in our final concert in April!

I am so excited to be a part of this collective journey. I am learning how to guide the program and coach our undergraduate leaders. I am able to see everyone work together in sectionals and large ensembles. I feel very lucky to be in this position and based on our first rehearsal, I am so excited for the growth in community and musicianship that is going to happen. Go MSOE!



Teaching Artist Arjen Wynja leads a high brass sectional

MUSIC SPEAKS

Anthony Sacheli, Teaching Artist



When we were given our Social Justice Curriculum of “Nurturing Community” this season, I thought back to all the communities I was a part of in middle and high school. From lacrosse to Boy Scouts to cross country and NHS, I was trying to figure out what made those communities different from the music community that I chose to be a part of for the rest of my life. I came to realize that every one of those communities is built upon competition. This competition pits peers against each other to get more points or to get higher grades or a higher rank, but music is different. The music communities at my high school and at CSU use music to unite others and to bring out the emotions of the composer and of the players. Music is a language that we use to depict the human condition and one that we have had around us since the beginning of civilization. This medium of communication lets its players and listeners delve into the true emotions that we all feel in our hearts- as my old band director used to say, “Music speaks when words fail.” That is why programs like MSOE and other ensembles are so important to our students’ education. At MSOE, my fellow teaching artists and the other staff work hard to not push the experiences and emotions of our students aside to make the music, but instead to encourage them to embrace their past and infuse it into the music and their musicianship. Our students come in with so much love, excitement, and creativity for music, and we strive for our community to truly nurture the amazing ideas that they bring. They have a say, a spot at the table, and an ability to put their heart and soul into the music and their education. Here at MSOE, we hope to bring that to the forefront and to give our students a memorable time and a community where they feel accepted and nurtured.



Meet Our Master Teachers!



Kathy Van Wert is the director of bands at Bill Reed Middle School and the assistant director of bands at Mountain View High School, both located in Loveland, CO as part of the Thompson School District. She teaches two sections of 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, and 8th Grade Band at BRMS. At MVHS, she teaches Concert Band and Intro to Guitar as well as co-teaches Marching Band. Kathy is in her fourth year of teaching at Bill Reed and her first year at Mountain View. Prior to her current position, she taught band and choir both at Bill Reed, and before that, she taught general music at Sunrise Elementary School in the Cherry Creek School District. In addition to her courseload at Bill Reed, she also teaches a before-school jazz band and is the co-director of the school musicals.

Kathy graduated from Colorado State University in 2018 with a B.A. in Music Education. She is currently working on her master's degree from Fort Hays State University in Instructional Technology and is set to graduate in May. Outside of teaching, Kathy enjoys hiking, paddle boarding, baking, and spending time with her husband, Adam, and friends.



Bill Cleary has been teaching at Wellington Middle High School for the last 9 years. In that time, he has taught Middle and High School Band, Orchestra, Choir, Guitar, and Piano.

Prior to teaching at Wellington Middle School, Mr. Cleary received his Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Colorado. When he is not teaching, Mr. Cleary enjoys playing saxophone with the Fort Collins Wind Symphony, backpacking, fly fishing, and spending time with his wife, 10-month-old baby, and dog.



Teaching Artist Sean Sullivan advises the bass section of the 2023 MSOE Orchestra during full ensemble rehearsal



Junior Associate Director Sam Gray and Assistant Director Josh Greiner discuss logistics during the first MSOE Night of 2023

THE SEED BANK

From TED Talks, presentations, teaching techniques and educational books, new seeds are being added every week!

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

Letter from the Editor

We are off to a great start! It was a pleasure getting to meet this year's MSOE students and even more of a pleasure getting to work with them. With registration and introductions out of the way, we are all excited to keep things rolling in both sectional and full ensemble rehearsals.

We are also excited to welcome our first master teachers of the 2023 MSOE Season! We look forward to receiving their expert feedback and learning from their years of experience.

