



# THE VAULT

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



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## *Welcome to MSOE!*

Dr. Erik Johnson, Program Director

Greetings and welcome to MSOE 2024! The experience and innovative ideas that our team has already brought to both the MSOE and Trying-on-Teaching programs for 2024 has been truly inspirational to witness. The work being done speaks directly to our 2024 Social Justice mission *Dispositions of Democracy*. 2024 is the Year of Democracy at CSU (<https://thematicyear.colostate.edu>) and we are proud to contribute our work to the broader goals of what this year at CSU means. Working in collaboration with our community partners to provide low-cost, accessible music education for instrumental music education students in our community, we look forward to celebrating the Year of Democracy through growing the ways we make music collaboratively.



*We will listen to each other. We will take individual perspectives into account. We will consider what our contribution can be and aspire to find ways to bring our ideas into a space where harmony can be rendered toward the greater good of our community, both in and outside of MSOE. This is our impetus for developing and realizing how our individual dispositions as musicians can translate into our daily lives as we seek to make our world a better place.*

# Welcome to MSOE! (continued)



MSOE Senior Admin, Undergradmin, Teaching Artists, and ToTs all come together to prepare the first night with students.

I would also like to welcome the 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 individuals showing a strong interest in becoming K-12 teachers.

This year we are launching our innovative MSOE All-Stars Program which, nested within the Trying-on-Teaching program, gives middle school students a chance to also try out their teaching chops. Each middle school "All Star" will be given the opportunity to lead instruction for their peers, mentor other students, and develop leadership skills all with the help and mentorship of the high school and college students in the Trying-on-Teaching program. We are very excited for this new aspect of our program which seeks to elevate the lives of young people by providing access to impactful arts education opportunities.

The students in the Trying-on-Teaching and MSOE All-Stars programs come from across northern Colorado, and, with a sincere interest in discovering if a career in music education is right for them, 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 2024 a magical event for everyone involved.

As our 2024 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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## "Dispositions of Democracy"

Arjen Wynja

*Social Justice Team, ToT Mentor, & Teaching Artist*

Each year, MSOE operates with a different Social Justice theme. Last year's theme was "Nurturing Community through Music". I'm proud to once again be serving on the Social Justice team, where we created a curriculum that explores this year's theme, Dispositions of Democracy. The 2023-2024 school year is the "Thematic Year of Democracy" at CSU, and MSOE expands on this by exploring individual behaviors, rather than the institutions, that are required of citizens in a democracy.

Our mission through MSOE is supporting music education in CSU's surrounding communities, so that must be the center of all our activities. In the past, activities aligned with the Social Justice theme have been external from music ensemble instruction - such as visual art projects or compiling a playlist of great music during MSOE 2021: Keeping Music Alive. This year, we look in a new direction: allowing social justice activities to go hand in hand with the music-making process.

The role of education itself in the United States is to prepare citizens to function and thrive in their families and communities within a democratic society. Thus, it is essential that teachers must be adept at educating students in a way that prepares them to engage passionately and respectfully in our institutions. It is for this reason that the 2024 Social Justice curriculum is rooted in teaching practices that challenge students to work together cooperatively in the music-making process.



## Dispositions of Democracy (continued)

*Disposition* is defined by CSU as a tendency, inclination, or attitude toward a professional behavior. *Dispositions of Democracy*, then, are how an individual citizen approaches their engagement in a democracy. Throughout the MSOE season, students will be challenged to consider the importance of their individual **contributions** to the music, how their **interactions** in the ensembles are critical to musical cohesiveness, and how the coming together of their **perspectives** as musicians creates a vibrant learning environment for all.

Through participation in MSOE, students will recognize the importance of individual preparation, consider different musical ideas for expression, and decide on a plan as a group. Learning to execute artistic goals in music is more than playing expressively in emotional music - it also involves creating a shared vision with peers. Learning to build a healthier democracy goes beyond taking a position - it involves seeking to understand and experience other positions in the pursuit of a shared path forward for everyone.

It all begins with a mutual decision to engage - whether in an election, or in the MSOE program. By engaging and participating fully in any facet of a community, people forge a path forward, whether in a country or in a music ensemble. I look forward to seeing the incredible music-making that comes out of this unique yet inseparable marriage of democracy and music. My colleagues and I are so excited to have you along for our MSOE 2024 journey. We just can't wait to get started!



Curriculum UPD and conductor Riley Busch leads the MSOE undergraduate staff in a chorale.



Teaching artists deliberate on how to implement *dispositions of democracy* into teaching practice.



Associate Program Director, Brian Tremper, leading the MSOE staff in trainings.



Program Director, Dr. Erik Johnson, leading the MSOE staff in a collaboration of staff expectations



## Note from the Editor

Hello, readers! I'm Paul Haarala, Master of Music Education student at CSU. I come from six years of teaching middle school orchestra in Summerville, South Carolina. This year, my role is assistant director for MSOE as well as conductor for the orchestra.

MSOE is a truly unique experience for music students and future music educators that allows members at every level experience ownership over the program. Each year, new personnel allows for new perspectives. This program allows for agency in a way that means no two MSOE years will ever look the same. Graduate and undergraduate students work collaboratively to design a positive musical and educational experience for local middle and high school students under the direction of Dr. Erik Johnson.

I am thrilled that I get to play a role in shaping the MSOE experience this 2024 season. Thank you for your continued support of MSOE. Stay tuned for more exciting updates next week!





# Meet Our Master Teachers!



**Katrina Hedrick** is passionate about helping students cultivate their personal artistry to live an active musical life. Her approach integrates responsive and sustaining practices with Elemental pedagogies, trauma informed practices, National Core Arts Standards, Modern Band, and mixed-ensemble rehearsal strategies for small, underserved, secondary music programs. Katrina's 13 years of teaching experience includes building 6-12 grade vocal, instrumental and general music programs in small rural and urban Colorado public schools; and in music teacher education for pre-service and practicing educators. Katrina's career began with 5 years teaching at her alma mater on the land of the Southern Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado. After earning her masters at CSU, she spent 5 years cultivating a 6-12 music program at Bruce Randolph Schools in central Denver. She now serves as the Director of Education for Colorado Music Bridge and an Adjunct Professor of Music Education and Program Director of the Spur Music Lab at Colorado State University. She also works as a Supervising University Instructor of Student Teachers for Metro State University, and runs a studio for private music lessons for all ages.

Katrina has earned degrees in Music Education from Fort Lewis College (Bachelors of Arts, 2010), Colorado State University, (Masters of Music, 2018), and American Orff Schulwerk (AOSA) Teaching Certifications at UNLV-Las Vegas (2014), San Francisco Orff Institute (2019), and Metro State University in Denver (2021). She is an actively performing multi-instrumentalist in the Denver Area, and a clinician for regional, state, and national music education conferences, chapters, and collegiate programs. Katrina is a co-founder and former vice-president of the AOSA- Four Corners Chapter, and currently serves on the board for AOSA - Rocky Mountain Chapter. Most importantly, she is an active participant in social justice projects that serve to dismantle systemic racism at local and national levels through music. Please connect with her at [katrina.hedrick@colostate.edu](mailto:katrina.hedrick@colostate.edu).



**Mr. Joshua Greiner** is a cellist and music educator currently in his fourth year of teaching at Preston Middle School. He has served as the Orchestra Director for four years and is in his second year as the Director of Bands. He received his Undergraduate degree from Colorado State University in Music Education, Cello Performance, and Cello Pedagogy in December 2019. Mr. Greiner has experience teaching students across Northern Colorado from beginners to advanced and experience with state and nationally recognized ensembles.

Mr. Greiner is also a co-director of the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra where he works with all three levels and teaches students from elementary school and up to the age of 21. In March of 2022, Mr. Greiner traveled with NoCoYO to Atlanta and placed third at the National Orchestra Festival and will head with NoCoYO to Carnegie Hall in June of 2024. Mr. Greiner's orchestras at Preston have received excellent and superior ratings at ASTA festivals during his tenure since 2020.

Joshua Greiner is also currently earning his Master of Music with an emphasis in Conducting/Music Education at CSU.

