



THE VAULT

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



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Thank you!

Professor Christina Herman
Senior Admin Team, Interim Program Director

Greetings, MSOE Community!

As we bring this MSOE season to a close, I am reminded of how truly special and unique this experience is. Some of our current staff members have participated in MSOE as middle schoolers, chose to return as high school Trying-on-Teachers, and are now serving as Teaching Artists and pursuing their music education degree at CSU. I am also a “boomerang” member of this community, having served as both an Assistant and Associate Director of the program, and am returning now as a member of the senior administration team.



It goes without saying that all of our middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, and senior administration staff work tirelessly to help make the magic of MSOE year after year; however, this program would truly be lost without your support. This community of caretakers, parents, music educators, and local support is the backbone of MSOE. It allows all of our participants, everyone from beginning musicians to seasoned teachers, a space to learn, grow, and make great music together. As we continue our journey, we are honored to have you by our side, championing our cause and helping to make our vision a reality. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community where music education thrives. Your commitment to our cause has truly made a difference in the lives of so many aspiring musicians in our community.

Therefore, on behalf of everyone at MSOE, I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support as we look forward to many more magical and musical MSOE seasons together.

“Trying-on-Teaching Reflection ”

Ashton Glatfelter

Trying-on-Teaching Artist



With the end of the 2024 MSOE Season, I've been reflecting a lot on how it has impacted me as a young educator. I am reminded of how music education at all levels has a significant impact on students and teachers. My introduction to this program in 8th grade sparked a lot of passion inside of me, hopefully leading me to pursue music. MSOE gave me friendships that I still hold today, as well as an experience I'll never forget. I am so glad I decided to follow up with this program this year as a high school instructor rather than a student. Seeing the inside look of what it takes to plan a lesson or even talk to other educators was highly rewarding. The mentors I have had supporting me throughout my journey as a musician and as a young teacher have helped pave the way for me to be successful. I know that when I look back in a few years, MSOE will be a major part of my journey.

With my experience in MSOE being so rewarding during my 8th-grade year as a student, I aimed to provide that same enjoyment and excitement for my students as we rehearsed this year. Watching them become more excited and comfortable as the season progressed was definitely my favorite part of this program. Entering the concert hall and seeing them smile after the performance, knowing they did well, was such a wonderful feeling for me. Another aspect that made it feel organic yet rewarding was witnessing their understanding deepen. Seeing what you're teaching click is magical. When you hear it in their playing and they get excited that they played a section 100% correctly or experience that "aha" moment when you explain content boosts your confidence as a teacher and theirs as students.

Watching my students and colleagues grow their passion for music made me realize why I love it so much. Music is crucial for self-expression, just like any other form of art. It's a deeply personal and vulnerable subject. You play pieces you love and pieces you hate, but opinions vary widely. I loved seeing everyone develop their own identity through the diverse range of music we explored. Witnessing students play their favorite piece or move with the music for the first time because they understand its meaning is truly beautiful. Being able to connect emotionally with your music is a beautiful experience.

My final remarks for the season are thank you. This has truly been an enlightening experience, and I'm so grateful I did it. MSOE is such a unique program, and I wish there were more universities that did something similar. To have people from multiple stages of their teaching, whether that be a director, high school student, college student, or middle schoolers, helps each level. Your middle school students can provide creativity to your directors. Your college students can provide advice to the high schooler. We all learn from each other in different ways, no matter how old you are. MSOE was a great program, and I'm so glad we ended our season on such a high note.

Letter from the Editor

This Vault issue brings our MSOE season to close. I want to take this moment to thank all of you for your continued support of the MSOE program. We are grateful to our master teachers who donated their time to provide feedback and work directly with the undergraduate students, ToTs, and All-Stars to not only improve the MSOE experience, but also help us all grow as educators.

Additionally, there were many CSU faculty and staff members who worked diligently behind the scenes to keep MSOE running. Mike Solo and Jennifer Clary were instrumental in promoting the program, concert, and donor night. Pete Muller, Valerie Reed, Jim Dosier, and the rest UCA event staff ensured that the day of the concert was logistically smooth. Finally, Professor Jessica Warner took on the role of handing such a large number of administrative tasks behind the scenes, I could not even begin to list them here and keep this note brief.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Assistant Director for MSOE this season. One final thank you to all of the Senior Administration team (Dr. Erik Johnson, Professor Christina Herman, Professor Jessica Warner, Sydney Bouwens, and Brian Tremper) for being a great team this season.



Band Teaching Artists



Orchestra Teaching Artists



Conductors



Thank You for all of Your Hard Work This Season!