cmea
Colorado Music
Educators Association

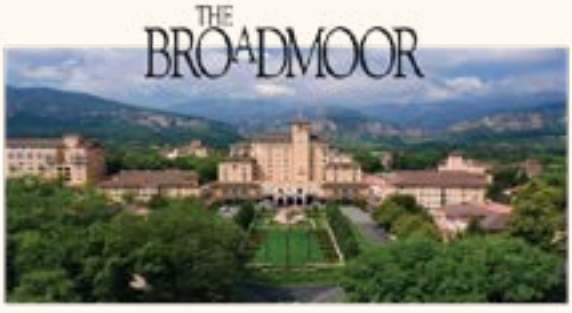
2026 CMEA Conference

# music speaks

*A Legacy of Inspiration!*

# Conference Program Guide

**January 28–31, 2026**



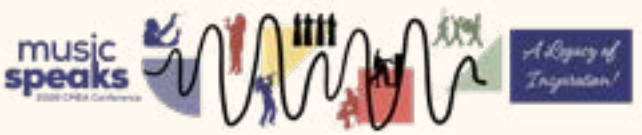
# Wednesday, January 28, 2026

## Highlights

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:30am-9:00pm | **Registration** Open |
| 8:45am-4:00pm | **Tri-M Day,** *Michelle Ewer*, Chair |
| 10:00am-4:00pm | **Modern Band 101** with *Mary Claxton* |
| 10:00am-5:00pm | **Roots Music Day** |
| 5:30-6:15pm | **Voices of Core Knowledge**<br>Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School, *Scott Wheeler, director*<br>Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School, *Alyssa Johnson*, director<br>Zach Core Knowledge Elementary School, *Thomas Chen*, director |
| 5:30-6:15pm | **Strings, Winds, Percussion, Oh My!** A Survival Guide to Full Orchestra for Band and String Teachers<br>*Bob Phillips* and *Chris Bernotas* |
| 6:00-7:15pm | **The Body is the First Instrument:** Learning Music Through Song, Stories Imagination and a Whole Lot of Joyful Movement Using the Eurhythmics Teaching Approach<br>*Oren Logan* and *Jake Elam* |
| 6:15-7:15pm | **Orchestra Rehearsal Lab** - *Michael Hopkins*<br>with Stargate High School Full Orchestra<br>*Ariane Pegler*, director |
| 7:30-8:30pm | **Xylophone Reading Session**<br>*General Music Council* |
| 7:30-9:00pm | **Athena Brass Concert** |

# Wednesday Day at a Glance Schedule

| Wednesday January 28, 2026 | Tri-M Day - Modern Band - Root Music Day | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Broadmoor Hall A | Broadmoor Hall B | Broadmoor Hall C | Broadmoor Hall D/E | Broadmoor Hall F | Bartolin Hall E207/208/209 | Hallway to Bartolin Hall | Colorado Hall A/B | Colorado Hall D/E | International Center North | International Center South |
| 7:00 AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:45 AM | | Tri-M Welcome<br>*Michelle Ewer*<br>8:45-9:05 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:15 AM | Fostering Mindfulness and Self Care<br>*Krissie Weimer*<br>9:15-10:00 | Improvise and Harmonize!<br>*Leila Heil*<br>9:15-10:00 | Building Entrepreneurial Skills in the Music Classroom<br>*Sara Off*<br>9:15-10:00 | Playing and Teaching Ukulele. Bring your own Ukulele<br>*Michael Christiansen*<br>9:15-10:00 | "Things I wish I was told before I fell so deeply in love with this life and this world of music."<br>Learn about Colorado Public Radio and being a Music Talk Show Host<br>*Kabin Thomas*<br>9:15-10:00 | Compose Yourself: Finding your personal voice in your music<br>*Dylan Fixmer*<br>9:15-10:00 | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | Break<br>10:00-10:15AM | | | Intro to Modern Band 101<br>*Mary Claxton*<br>10:00-4:00 | "What's your band name?" Facilitating the Joyful Chaos of Student-led Mini-bands<br>*Jasmine Faulkner*<br>10:00-10:50<br>DEMO GROUP | |
| 10:15 AM | Where's the Hip in Your Hop?<br>*Roy Bailey*<br>10:30-11:15 | Athena Brass Masterclass<br>*Athena Brass*<br>10:30-11:15<br>Bring your Brass Instrument | Leadership for Future Music Teachers<br>*Gary Lewis*<br>10:30-11:15 | Athena Brass Masterclass<br>*Athena Brass*<br>10:30-11:15<br>Bring your Brass Instrument | Bringing American Roots to the Strings Classroom Jazz Fiddling and Beyond<br>*Enion-Pelta-Tiller*<br>10:30-11:15<br>Bring your String Instrument | Embracing Musical Space. Improv and Composition<br>*Nicholas Felder*<br>10:30-11:15 | | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11:15 AM | Lunch on your own 11:15-12:30. No outside Food or Drink allowed in Broadmoor Hall | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | | | | | | | Tri-M Exhibits Hour #1<br>12:00-12:45 | | | Classroom Gigs LIVE: Where Elementary Music Comes Alive with Modern Band, Kodály, Orff, and Student Voice<br>*Tara Sparks*<br>Tavelli Elementary School, Tavelli Tigers<br>12:00-12:50pm | |
| 12:45 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:30-1:30 | | Keynote: Life of an Army National Guard Member. Join the 101st Army Hot 7 Jazz Band featuring vocals, and sing and Dance to modern jukebox-style music. Plus, learn how to pay for college!<br>Form a Conga Line with your friends around Ballroom B<br>*Kelsie McCallum*<br>12:30-1:30. | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:45 PM | | | | | | | Tri-M Exhibits Hour #2<br>12:45-1:30 | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | Starting a Bluegrass Ensemble at Your School: Accessible, Authentic, and Engaging<br>*Martin Gilmore and Stacy Gilmore*<br>1:00-1:50 |
| 1:30 PM | REFIT®: Active movement for any music classroom<br>*Jennifer Langlotz*<br>1:45-2:30 | Expressive Conducting: Shaping sound beyond the beat patterns for those that want a more detailed conducting experience<br>*Rachell Waddell ReneeGilliland, Andres Jamie*<br>1:45-2:30 | Being Your Own Inspiration: Create motivation to practice instead of waiting for it<br>*Sarah Off*<br>1:45-2:30 | Strategies for Teaching Creativity and Improvisation in the String Classroom.<br>*Bob Phillips*<br>1:45-2:30<br>Bring your String Instrument | Learning and Teaching the Saxophone: Steps for a sensitive sound<br>*Andrew Dahlke*<br>1:45-2:30<br>Bring your Saxophone | EDEN Colorado: What if Trees Could Sing?<br>*Ellen Moeller and Julia Hilton*<br>1:45-2:30 | Tri-M Exhibits Hour #3<br>1:30-2:15 | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | Crested Butte Community School Bluegrass and Old Time String Band<br>*Matt Shugert*<br>2:00-2:50 | |
| 2:30 PM | Break<br>2:30-2:45PM | Break<br>2:30-2:45 | Break<br>2:30-2:45 | Break<br>2:30-2:45 | Break<br>2:30-2:45 | Break<br>2:30-2:45 | | | | | |
| 2:45 PM | String Sectionals Violin. Viola, Cello and Bass<br>2:45-3:30 | Brass and Percussion Sectionals<br>2:45-3:30 | Saxophone Sectionals<br>2:45-3:30 | Woodwind - Flute, Clarinet, Oboe and Bassoon Sectionals<br>2:45-3:30 | French Horn Sectionals<br>2:45-3:30 | Vocal Sectionals<br>2:45-3:30 | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | Rock Bands As an After-School Program<br>*Alex Javizian*<br>Bennett Ranch Elementary School, Bull's Rock<br>3:00-3:50 |
| 3:15 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:30 PM | | Tri-M Concert Rehearsal<br>3:30-3:45 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | | Tri-M Final Concert<br>3:45-4:00 | | | | | | | | Denver School of the Arts Guitar Orchestra<br>*Natasha Olson-Smith*<br>4:00-4:50 | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | | Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School; Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School; Zach Core Knowledge Elementary School, Voices of Core Knowledge<br>*Scott Wheeler, Alyssa Johnson and Thomas Chen*<br>5:30-6:15 | Strings, Winds, Percussion, Oh My! A Survival Guide to Full Orchestra for Band and String Teachers<br>*Bob Phillips and Chris Bernotas*<br>5:30-6:15 | | | | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | | | | "The Body is the First Instrument," Learning Music through Song, Stories, Imagination, and a Whole Lot of Joyful Movement Using the Eurhythmics Teaching Approach<br>*Oren Logan and Jake Elam*<br>6:00-7:15 | | Orchestra Rehearsal Lab<br>*Michael Hopkins* with *Stargate High School Full Orchestra, Ariane Pegler, director*<br>6:15-7:15 | |
| 6:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM | | Athena Brass Concert<br>7:30-9:00 | | | | | | Xylophone Reading Session<br>*GMC Council*<br>7:30 - 8:30 | | | |
| 8:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | |




### Registration Open

**7:30AM-9:00PM**
**Broadmoor Hall Lobby A**

*William Kohut*

People who have Preregistered for the conference please pick up your credentials at the Preregistration table. People who have registered very recently pick up your credentials at the Registration Desk. If you have questions, come to the Registration Desk.

### Tri-M Welcome

**8:45-9:05AM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

*Michelle Ewer*

Tri-M Day brings Colorado's student musicians together for a one-of-a-kind immersion in music-making, creativity, and leadership. Designed for Tri-M Honor Society chapters and all Middle and high school musicians, this special day blends hands-on labs, interactive clinics, and conversations that broaden skills and spark community. We begin with a Tri-M Welcome from chair Michelle Ewer, setting the tone for discovery and connection, then students rotate through curated sessions led by inspiring artists and educators. Expect opportunities to try new ideas, meet peers from across the state, ask questions, and gather practical tools you can bring back to your program. Come ready to listen, move, create—and leave energized with new friends, fresh perspectives, and momentum for the rest of your year.

### 10 Things I Wish I Knew Before I Fell in Love with Classical Music and with Life

**9:15-10:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**

*Kabin Thomas*

I'm honored to join the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) and Tri-M Music Honor Society, sharing my "10 Things I Wish I Knew Before I Fell in Love with Classical Music—and with Life." I'll unpack practical, humorous, and heartfelt revelations that shaped my journey in music and in life, drawing from personal truths like unwavering self-belief, resilience, and the value of crafting your own artistic path,. I'll also reflect on my role at Colorado Public Radio and why radio remains vital... especially classical radio—despite financial headwinds or shifting media landscapes. In my 45-minute talk, I'll give insights into artistry, career readiness, and the unique power of music and media to inspire, connect, and lead. I look forward to engaging the BRASS (Board, Reps, And Student Scholars!) with music, laughter, and actionable advice for thriving in music, media, and in life..

### Building Entrepreneurial Skills in the Music Classroom

**9:15-10:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

*Sarah Off*

This session is for music teachers who are interested in ways in which they can help their students develop entrepreneurial skills through their music classes. We will discuss ways in which we can create opportunities to foster entrepreneurial skills and mindset through discussions, classroom activities, and creative projects, without disrupting or taking away from the primary focus of the class - musical instruction. We will offer several ideas for creative performance-based activities and projects that provide opportunities for students to practice skills such as effective communication, community engagement, creative programming, basic budgeting and marketing. Ready to use examples of best practices will be provided throughout the session so that attendees can leave with tools they can apply in the classroom right away.

### Compose Yourself: Finding your personal voice in your music

**9:15-10:00AM**
**Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

*Dylan Fixmer*

Do you ever feel like you can't find your own voice when playing your instrument, and haven't known how or where to start? Well then, compose yourself! In this interactive session, participants will be given tried and true tools and techniques from University of Northern Colorado Composition Faculty, Dylan Fixmer, to

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# CMEA Sessions - Wednesday

express their personal voice as a musician through improvisation, composition and interpretation. Participants will also examine the importance of play, practice, experimentation and refinement as ways to hone their personal voice in music making.

**Fostering Mindfulness and Self-Care**
***Krissie Weimer***
**9:15-10:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall A**

Teachers and students are challenged with managing multiple responsibilities and excessive amounts of stress, anxiety, and fatigue, which may lead to burnout. It is important that teachers and students are equipped with coping skills and strategies to practice self care and maintain wellness. The purpose of this session is to provide teachers with empowering mindfulness strategies to practice themselves, and ways to incorporate these strategies in their classroom to promote a focused and mindful learning environment for all. The clinician will discuss what mindfulness encompasses, and when, where, how, and why to practice various strategies. They will engage participants in multiple short activities throughout the session. Examples include specific breathing techniques, mantras, centering activities, self-compassion exercises, and self-management techniques. Resources will be provided..

**Improvise and Harmonize!**
***Leila Heil***
**9:15-10:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

Come to this session to harmonize melodies, sing background vocals, create soundscapes and improvise circle songs!

**Playing and Teaching Ukulele**
***Michael Christiansen***
**9:15-10:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

Participants will learn to improve their ukulele playing and teaching skills using the ukulele as an accompaniment instrument and as a melody instrument. Sequential curriculum for teaching the ukulele class, including sequential learning of fundamentals, chords, strum patterns, playing single note melodies, and ensembles will be presented. Available blended learning materials for teaching ukulele will also be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring their ukuleles to the session.

**"What's your band name?" Facilitating the Joyful Chaos of Student-led Mini-bands**
***Jasmine Faulkner***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**International Center North**

Delve into the world of mini-bands! Students in the K-12 Polaris Expeditionary Learning School's Modern Band classes not only play together as a band but also form their own smaller bands. From deciding "what we're going to play" and "who plays what" to working through the rehearsal process and getting gigs around town, these students grapple and succeed in student-led mini-bands. This experience in social music helps students build industry-focused skills, while fostering a lifelong love for music and enhancing their social skills to prepare them for future careers.
In this session, we will meet 6th-12th grade students from the Polaris mini-bands, listen to them perform a few songs, and discuss how teachers, as facilitators, can support the student-led process of mini-bands.

**Modern Band 101**
***Mary Claxton***
**10:00AM-4:00PM**
**Colorado Hall D/E**

Attend this full day introduction to Modern Band 101.

**Bringing American Roots to the Strings Classroom: Jazz, fiddling, and beyond**
***Enion Pelta-Tiller***
**10:30-11:15AM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**

In this hands-on session, Enion Pelta-Tiller, nationally renowned performer/educator in the jazz and American progressive string-band world, walks participants through techniques for teaching and implementing stylistic improvisation in the strings classroom.

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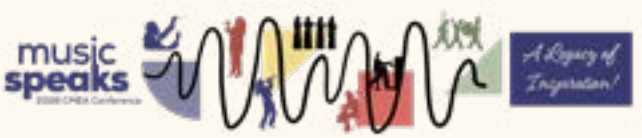


Using improvisation games, aural teaching, lead sheets, and modern string literature geared toward American roots styles, Enion offers practical and fun methods to get your students jamming with fluency, preparing them to be adaptable, 21st century musicians in the ever-changing strings landscape. Expect to be introduced to repertoire that will allow your students to port their skills beyond the classroom, and learn effective methods of teaching improvisation, improvised accompaniment (including the chop!), chord chart and lead-sheet reading, and arranging. This is a clinic, so bring your instruments and be prepared to play.

Tri-M

### Leadership for Future Music Teachers

**10:30-11:15AM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

***Gary Lewis***

This session is designed for the future music teacher and will introduce current school musicians and future teachers to a foundation of leadership skills applicable in both their current school ensemble program and throughout their career as a music educator. Topics will include a discussion of how music makes us better people and an exploration of the attributes of great leaders through the lens of music education. Those qualities include:

- Taking Ownership
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Vision
- Authenticity/Self-awareness
- Building Trust
- Taking Responsibility
- Achievement

Tri-M

### Where's the Hip in Your Hop?

**10:30-11:15AM**
**Broadmoor Hall A**

***Roy Bailey***

This session uses the rhythmic foundations and poetic power of Hip Hop to help participants explore personal identity, build confidence, and develop expressive delivery/flow through the art of rap. Grounded in culturally responsive pedagogy, this session invites participants into the creative process of MCing/Rap-lyrical storytelling, and DJing too!
Through structured movement, rhythm exercises, and rhyme challenges, participants actively learn internal rhyme, flow patterns, and freestyle techniques in a supportive and playful environment. The session is less about perfection and more about authentic self-expression: channeling the improvisational spirit of the cypher and the rich poetic lineage of HIP HOP.

Tri-M

### Athena Brass Masterclass

**10:30-11:15AM**
**Broadmoor Hall B & F**

***Athena Brass***

Experience world-class brass up close with Athena Brass. This interactive masterclass dives into the essentials that make great sections shine—resonant tone, clean articulation, confident intonation, balance, and blend—then goes further with style, phrasing, and musical leadership. Through live demonstrations and quick on-the-spot coachings (time permitting), students learn practical warm-ups, breathing strategies, and practice habits that translate to any ensemble. Expect insider tips on auditions, ensemble etiquette, and how to listen like a pro so your section locks in—every time. Brass players will benefit most, but all musicians are welcome to learn how great sound—and great teamwork—are built.

Tri-M

### Hey Kid, Take a Solo...Now What?

**10:30-11:15AM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Eric Hitt***

Jazz improvisation is often mysterious to approach for students and directors alike. This clinic will explore simple techniques that inspire positive results for students taking an improvised solo in jazz band or jazz combo.

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# CMEA Sessions - Wednesday

**Embracing [Musical] Space: Integrating music improv and composition to class curriculum**
**10:30-11:15AM**
**Bartolin Hall - E207-209**

***Nicholas Felder***

This presentation will share my work leading music improvisation workshops with students in 2nd–12th grade. Workshops were developed, applying my research in Black American vocal performance and practices from improvisers and community singing facilitators—artists and psychologists, such as James Oshinsky, David Darling, and Victor Wooten. Part of a program called "Embracing [Musical] Space," workshops guide students through movement exercises, word association games, and group composition to empower students' voices, leadership, collaboration, and creativity. By the end of the session, teachers will gain a collection of exercises, from graphic scores (musical occurrences described through pictures and symbols) to playing with consonance and dissonance, to help their students practice deep listening and better understand their individual roles in an ensemble.

**Lunch on your own**
***No outside Food or Drink allowed in the Broadmoor***
**11:15AM-12:30PM**

**Tri-M Exhibits Hour 1**
**12:00-12:45PM**
**Hallway to Bartolin Hall**

**Classroom Gigs LIVE: Where Elementary Music Comes Alive with Modern Band, Kodály, Orff, and Student Voice**
**12:00-12:50PM**
**International Center North**

***Tara Sparks***
***Tavelli Elementary School - Tavelli Tigers***

Bring the joy and energy of a live performance into your music classroom. This interactive session follows a lesson that includes the recording and evaluation process students use. From the opening notes of learning a song to a performance-ready arrangement of Chopsticks, complete with a rehearsal-style in-class recording experience, participants will discover how simple songs can grow into powerful learning opportunities. Leave inspired with ready-to-use strategies, arrangements, and activities that build confidence, collaboration, and musicianship across grade levels, and inspire young musicians to take the stage.

**Keynote: Life of an Army National Guard Member. Join the 101st Army Hot 7 Jazz Band featuring vocals, and sing and Dance to modern jukebox-style music. Plus, learn how to pay for college!**
**12:30-1:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

***Kelsie McCallum***

Step into the world of military music and discover the unique opportunities available to musicians in the Colorado Army National Guard. In this dynamic and informative session, attendees will hear firsthand from current members of the 101st Army Band as they share their personal journeys, day-to-day experiences, and the many benefits of serving as a musician in the Colorado Army National Guard—including education incentives, travel, networking, and professional development. The session will also feature live performances by the 101st Army Hot 7, a traditional jazz ensemble within the 101st Army Band, showcasing the musical versatility and excellence that defines the Army Band program.

**Tri-M Exhibits Hour 2**
**12:45-1:30PM**
**Hallway to Bartolin Hall**

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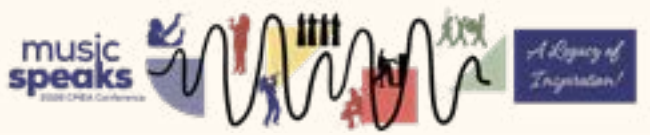


### Starting a Bluegrass Ensemble at Your School: Accessible, authentic, and engaging

**1:00-1:50PM**
**International Center South**

***Martin Gilmore and Stacy Gilmore***

This clinic will guide music educators through the process of starting and sustaining a bluegrass ensemble in a school setting. Rooted in the American folk tradition, bluegrass offers accessible, flexible instrumentation and strong opportunities for student leadership, collaboration, and creativity. Topics will include ensemble structure, teaching improvisation, integrating vocals and harmonies, selecting repertoire, and recruiting students. Ideal for small or rural schools, this session provides practical tools and culturally rich content to broaden your program's offerings and engage students with a living American music tradition. If you're a singer or have a stringed instrument, bring it along so we can play some tunes together!

### Tri-M Exhibits Hour 3

**1:30-2:15PM**
**Hallway to Bartolin Hall**

### REFIT®: Active movement for any music classroom

**1:45-2:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall A**

***Jennifer Langlotz***

Do you want to include more movement in your classes and connect with your students by incorporating today's music? Do you have trouble knowing where to begin with Latin American popular music for your Spanish-speaking students? Do you struggle with adaptation issues for students with mobility issues? Then REFIT® is right for you! In this session, you will learn how to utilize a FREE resource that will get you and your students dancing to today's popular music. See how important musical concepts such as beat, rhythm, form, phrasing and expression can be reinforced in the music that many students already know and love. Learn simple choreography techniques and adaptations that will help all students have fun and be successful. Minimal classroom management is required! Make sure to bring your dancing shoes to this fun and energizing session.

### Expressive Conducting: Shaping sound beyond the beat patterns for those that want a more detailed conducting experience

**1:45-2:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

***Rachell Waddell, Renee Gilliland, and Andres Jamie***

Participants will explore three techniques rooted in natural movement to enhance gestural expressivity and strengthen ensemble connection: (1) Articulation/ Dynamics (Laban Gestures), (2) Registration (outlining melodic contour), and (3) Controlling Rebound (carrying sound from beat to beat). Through hands-on individual, small group, and large group application, conductors will refine expressive techniques first outside beat patterns, then within structured conducting. By mirroring intuitive movement, conductors will gain tools to train their ensembles while elevating their own conducting. Co-taught by Dr. Rachel Waddell (CSU), Dr. Andres Jaime (UNCG), and Dr. Renee Gilliland (CU Boulder), this interactive session welcomes educators and musicians of all levels, with participation encouraged via instruments or vocalization.

### Being your Own Inspiration: Create motivation to practice instead of waiting for it

**1:45-2:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

***Sarah Off***

Have you ever waited around to "feel" motivated to practice and you just keep waiting? Me too! This session will provide ways to help you create the feeling of motivation to practice instead of waiting to feel inspired. Sometimes it can feel difficult to focus and be inspired to practice, but there are ways to overcome that challenge and become more consistent and productive in your practice while enjoying the process more. Come explore some tools and methods

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that I (and many others) use to create productive and fun practice habits!

**Strategies for Teaching Creativity and Improvisation in the String Classroom** — 1:45-2:30PM Broadmoor Hall D/E
***Bob Phillips***
Teaching students to be creative in the string orchestra setting can be easy, fun, and meet standards. Strategies that can be used at all levels to develop a response to music, composition skills, and improvisation using many genres of music will be demonstrated. Start using these concepts immediately!

**Learning and Teaching the Saxophone: Steps for a sensitive sound** — 1:45-2:30PM Broadmoor Hall F
***Andrew Dahlke***
Innovative, simple, engaging exercises and self-assessment methods will be presented for all saxophonists, especially beginners. The exercises are for group and individual settings and can be understood and executed by non-specialist saxophone teachers/directors. The exercises derive from the unique acoustical properties of the instrument and lay the foundation for a sensitive, controlled, dynamic approach to this at times bombastic instrument. Bring a saxophone! .

**EDEN Colorado: What if Trees Could Sing?** — 1:45-2:30PM Bartolin Hall E207-209
***Ellen Moeller and Julia Hilton***
EDEN-Colorado is a K-12 music workshop that inspires empathy with nature and music creation by asking the essential question: What if trees could sing? The workshop is offered in 3 parts, but can be tailored to your school's needs.

During the workshop, students learn and perform "Seeds of Hope." In doing so, they become a part of a worldwide music and environment project, and will have the opportunity to share the stage with Ars Nova singers to sing Seeds of Hope.

Students will create their own song involving lyrics, music, and songwriting, responding to the prompt: What if Trees Could Sing?

The EDEN curriculum and materials are also available if you want to bring EDEN to your classroom yourself! Ensemble etiquette, and how to listen like a pro so your section locks in—every time. Brass players will benefit most, but all musicians are welcome to learn how great sound—and great teamwork—are built.

**Crested Butte Community School Bluegrass and Old Time String Band** — 2:00-2:50PM International Center North
***Matt Shugert***
Concert

**String Sectionals Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass** — 2:45-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall A

**Brass and Percussion Sectionals** — 2:45-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall B

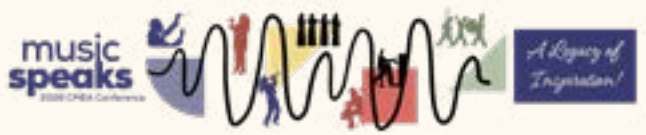
**Saxophone Sectionals** — 2:45-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall C

**Woodwind - Flute, Clarinet, Oboe and Bassoon Sectionals** — 2:45-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall D/E

**French Horn Sectionals** — 2:45-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall F

**Vocal Sectionals** — 2:45-3:30PM Bartolin Hall E207-209

Vocal Music · General Music · All · Music for All · Exhibitor Showcase




**Rock Bands as an After-School Program**
***Alex Javizian***
***Bennett Ranch Elementary School - Bull's Rock***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**International Center North**

This panel will explore adding an after school rock band to your school's music program. We will be discussing pedagogical elements of how to run and teach these elements, as well as having live demonstrations with Bulls Rock; Bennett Ranch Elementary's after school rock band.

**Tri-M Concert Rehearsal**
***Michael Hopkins, conductor***
**3:30-3:45PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

**Tri-M Final Concert**
***Michael Hopkins, conductor***
**3:45-4:00PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

**Denver School of the Arts Guitar Orchestra**
***Natasha Olson-Smith, director***
Concert
**4:00-4:50PM**
**International Center North**

**Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School; Traut Core Knowledge Elementary School; Zach Core Knowledge Elementary School, Voices of Core Knowledge**
***Scott Wheeler, Alyssa Johnson and Thomas Chen***
Concert
**5:30-6:15PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

**Strings, Winds, Percussion, Oh My! A Survival Guide to Full Orchestra for Band and String Teachers**
***Bob Phillips and Chris Bernotas***
**5:30-6:15PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

Are you a string specialist navigating the brass section, or a band director baffled by bowings? This session is the ultimate survival guide for leading a full orchestra. We'll bridge the gap by providing essential tips and troubleshooting techniques for all sections. String teachers will gain confidence working with winds and percussion, while band directors will get a crash course on the string family. Leave with practical strategies to run a more effective and confident full orchestra rehearsal.

**"The Body is the First Instrument," Learning Music through Song, Stories, Imagination, and A Whole Lot of Joyful Movement Using the Eurhythmics Teaching Approach**
***Oren Logan and Jake Elam***
**6:00-7:15PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

The Colorado Eurhythmics Society (CES) is a chapter of the American Eurhythmics Society (AES) promotes Eurhythmics as a model for music and movement education in schools in North America. This model offers active and creative music making for all children. Based on the Eurhythmics model developed by Émile Jaques-Dalcroze Eurhythmics develops musicianship through singing, improvising, and purposeful and creative movement by focusing on student attention, concentration, social integration, and understanding of musical nuance. Active music making is the core of this philosophy, supporting both the conceptual and affective development of children.

Join us for a Wednesday evening workshop session at CMEA on how to incorporate purposeful movement, improvisation, Solfége Rythmique, interactive stories, and Plastique Animée in a variety of teaching contexts!

Instrumental Music | Technology | College/ University Music | Tri-M | Exhibitor Showcase

# CMEA Sessions – Wednesday

**Orchestra Rehearsal Lab with Stargate High School Full Orchestra**
***Michael Hopkins, clinician***
***Ariane Pegler, director***

**6:15-7:15PM**
**International Center North**

**Xylophone Reading Session**
***General Music Council***
Join the General Music Council to find some new and exciting Xylophone pieces for you ensemble.

**7:30-8:30PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

**Athena Brass *Concert***
The Athena Brass Band is the first women's brass band in the United States, named after Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. The band was formed in 2003, by Laura Lineberger, to perform at the International Women's Brass Conference with Anita Cocker Hunt as conductor. This successful debut resulted in many more invited performances and several commissioned compositions. Jessica Sneeringer has been the music director of Athena Brass Band since 2012. The musicians include current or former members of the U.S. Army Band, the U.S. Coast Guard Band, Brass Band of Battle Creek and the New Sousa Band. There are several college professors and public school music educators, conductors, music therapists, a sound engineer, a music publisher and a composer; also a nuclear physicist, a biologist, a sociologist, an MBA and an author. Most of the ladies also play with a NABBA brass band.

**7:30-9:00PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

Vocal Music

General Music

All

Music for All

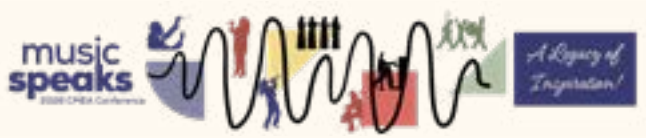
# Thursday, January 29, 2026

## Highlights

| | |
|---|---|
| 7:30am-4:30pm | **Registration Open** |
| 7:55-8:30am | **Athena Brass Concert** |
| 830-8:45am | **CMEA Opening Plenary Session: Honor Awards** |
| 8:45-9:20am | **CMEA Opening Plenary Session: Keynote Address,** *Ray Cramer* |
| 12:00-1:00pm | **Pizza with the Presidents** (preregistration required) |
| 12:00-6:00pm | **Exhibits Open** |
| 5:00-6:00pm | **Creating Connections and Viewing Content followed by Opening Reception** |

# Thursday Day at a Glance Schedule

| Thursday January 29, 2026 | West - Divide Room | West - Louis Stratta Room | West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom | Main - Ballroom | Broadmoor Hall B | Broadmoor Hall C | Broadmoor Hall D/E | Broadmoor Hall F | Main - Theatre | Colorado Hall A/B | Colorado Hall D/E | Colorado Hall C | Bartolin Hall E-213/214 | International Center North | Bartolin Hall 207/208/209 | Bartolin Hall Exhibits | Broadmoor Hall A Lobby |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:15 AM | | | | | | Vocal Music Council - Meeting 7:15-8:30 | College University Council Meeting 7:15-8:30 | Instrumental Music Council - Meeting 7:15-8:30 | | | General Music Council - Meeting 7:15-8:30 | | | | | | CMEA Registration 7:30 am - 4:30 pm |
| 8:00 AM | | | | | Athena Brass 7:55-8:30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 AM | | | | | CMEA Opening Plenary Session- Honor Awards Ceremony and Keynote - 8:30-8:45 Awards Musicians with Purpose *Ray Cramer* 8:45-9:20 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Voices In Transition: Gender expansive choral voicings - *Roger Emerson* 10:00-10:50 | Vocal Improvisation in the Classroom *Jeremy Fox* 10:00-10:50 | | Playing the Long Game: Understanding and mitigating vocal risk for music educators - *Jeremy Manternach* 10:00-10:50 | | Supporting Neurodiverse Students in the Music Classroom *Blythe LaGasse 10:00-10:50* | Do You Hear What I Hear? Monitoring Solutions for Creative Ensemble *Craig Edgar* 10:00-10:50 | Understanding Your Students' Needs: Motivation in the orchestra classroom *Michael Hopkins* 10:00-10:50 | Play Tests: Educating, Inspiring, and Assessing Students *Jack Yonce and Raleigh "Butch" Eversole, IV* 10:00-10:50 | Joyful Beginnings: Kodály-inspired lesson planning for K–1 *Tanya Lejeune* 10:00-10:50 | Let It Ring - Demonstration *Thomas Chen* 10:00-10:50 | Audiation Station: Tunes for teaching in different tonalities and meters *Jeff Ogden* 10:00-10:50 | Strategies for How to Break Language Barriers in Any Music Class *Erika VanDriel* 10:00-10:50 | Lewis Palmer High School Jazz Band *Samuel Anderson* 10:00-10:45 | | | |
| 10:30 AM | | | | | Ken Caryl Middle School Symphonic Band *Cathy Wahl* 10:30-11:00 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | | | | A Mixed Bag of Choral Quick-Fixes - *Victor Johnson* 11:00-11:50 | | Relevance of Creating Outreach Opportunities for Students as Providers and Audience Members in the Community *Daniela Guzman-Eguez 11:00-11:50* | | Developing Musical Leadership Within Our Ensembles *Gary Lewis* 11:00-11:50 | Building Your Brass Section Resonance with the Athena Brass Band *Athena Brass* 11:00-11:50 | PROCESS MATTERS - Using Body Percussion with your Students *Thom Borden* 11:00-11:50 | Improved MY Improv: Now what? *Roy Bailey* 11:00-11:50 | Chaos in the Classroom: A trauma-informed approach to music education *Bobbie Ann Neslon* 11:00-11:50 | The First Three Years *Margaret Berg, Ashley Civelli, Benjamin Golden, Ryan Kimball, and Alexandra J. Sbarra* 11:00-11:50 | | EdSpeak for Music Teachers: Turning buzzwords into administrative buy-in *Bryce Melaragno and Kim Wilson-Paugh* 11:00-11:50 | | |
| 11:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Lesher Middle School Symphonic Orchestra *Loni Obluda* 11:30-12:00 | | | |
| 12:00 PM | The 7 Deadly Sins of the Middle School Choir Director - *Roger Emerson* 12:00-12:50 | | | So You Think You CAN'T Dance? Easy insider tips to rocking musical theatre choreography *Katrina Thomas and Anika Borders* 12:00-12:50 | Legacy High School Wind Ensemble *Brian Ebert* 12:00-12:45 | Meet the CU Boulder Music Education Department *CU Boulder Music Education faculty* 12:00-12:50 | Pizza with the Presidents 12:00-1:00 (preregistration required) | | Building a Legacy in the Pursuit of Excellence (pertains to All areas) Ray Cramer 12:00-12:50 | | | | Expressive Conducting: Shaping sound beyond the beat pattern *Rachel Waddell, Andrés Felipe Jaime and Renee Gilliland* 12:00-12:50 | | Many Mistakes, Many Solutions: 25 challenges you can overcome with band and orchestra *Chris Bernotas* 12:00-12:50 | Exhibits Open 12:00-6:00pm | |
| 12:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | Body Mapping for Musicians: Breathing - *Bridget Sweet* 1:00-1:50 | | | We Are Family *Victor Johnson* 1:00-1:50 | | | CNAfME Session: Interview "speed dating" *College/University Council* presiding 1:00-1:50 | Cultural Inclusion in Music Education: The role of Banda and Mariachi *Erika Vandriel and Alfredo Ramirez* 1:00-1:50 | The Care and Feeding of your Rhythm Section *John Gunther* 1:00-1:50 | Playing and Teaching Ukulele - How Fun is This? *Michael Christiansen* 1:00-1:50 | Classroom Behavior Strategies: Achieving success by staying on task-Demonstration *Thomas Chen* 1:00-1:50 | Recorder Readiness: Creative tools for building music literacy on recorder *Danielle Bayert 1:00-1:50* | Fostering Mindfulness and Self Care *Krissie Weimer 1*:00-1:50 | Ralston Valley High School Chamber Orchestra *Kelly Watts* 1:00-1:45 | | | |
| 1:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | Middle School Magic: Music for developing voices - *Andy Beck* 2:00-2:50 | | | Distinctive Literature for Innovative Programming - *Victor Johnson* 2:00-2:50 | Colorado State University - Pueblo Wind Ensemble *Brett Keating* 2:00-2:45 | | Arts 360 Advocacy - Building Community Partnerships *Cynthia Eversole*, moderator 2:00-2:50 | The Joy of Recruitment and Retention *Heather Murphy* 2:00-2:50 | The Dynamics of Marching Band: Preparing for rehearsals, fundamentals and all that supports your success with Adjudication *Beth Fabrizio* 2:00-2:50 | More Musical Theatre Staging Techniques *Jenny Hall* 2:00-2:50 | Folk Dance Remix: Mixing old moves with new grooves *Tanya Lejeune and Carrie Nicholas* 2:00-2:50 | Your First Year in Modern Band *Mary Claxton* 2:00-2:50 | Finding Your Compass: Programming and repertoire selection *Weston Lewis* 2:00-2:50 | | Restorative Practices For the Music Classroom *Megan Lewin* 2:00-2:50 | | |
| 2:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | T/B Reading Session *AJ Wulf* 3:00-3:50pm | Embrace the Scoop and "Smile!" CCM in the Traditional Choir Setting *Ryan Deignan* 3:00-3:50 | Carson MS Eagle Choir *Annette Lauer* 3:00-3:25 | Towards An Opportunity-Based Approach to the Ensemble Rehearsal *Ian Henning* 3:00-3:50 | | Creating a Safe Space for Songwriters & Creators: Best practices for music educators in higher education *Dango Rose 3:00-3:50* | Making It More Accessible: Performing electroacoustic works with your ensemble *Justin Hubbard* 3:00-3:50 | Warm-ups That Develop Outstanding String or Full Orchestras *Bob Phillips* 3:00-3:50 | Brush Up Your Woodwinds *Peggy Rakas* 3:00-3:50 | PROCESS MATTERS - Using Literature with your Students *Thom Borden* 3:00-3:50 | | Musical Theatre: During the day and beyond.... *Jenny Last 3:00-3:50* | Trauma Informed Practices in the Music Classroom *Carla Aguilar, Lindsay Latva and Tami LoSasso* 3:00-3:50 | Lesher Middle School Jazz Band *Meghan Muñoz* 3:00-3:30 | Embracing (Musical) Space: Integrating music improv and composition to music curriculum *Nicholas Felder* 3:00-3:50 | | |
| 3:30 PM | | | Denver School of the Arts Voces Valiosas (Treble Choir) *Meaghan Quigley* 3:30-3:55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | Science on the risers: Applying acoustics to achieve your desired choral tone *Jeremy Manternach* 4:00-4:50 | | Falcon HS Tenor/Bass Choir *Tyler Privia 4:00-4:25* | Intentional Choral Warm-Ups: Skill building & accountability - *Eric Posada* 4:00-4:50 | Colorado Christian Wind Ensemble *Mark Dorn* 4:00-4:45 | A Fresh Look at Sound Innovations and More! *Bob Phillips and Chris Bernotas* 4:00-4:50 | Audio Opitmization for Marching Arts *Alex Entin* 4:00-4:50 | 12 Ways to Improve Your Guitar Class *Michael Christiansen* 4:00-4:50 | Before the Method Book: A step-by-step guide to launching successful middle school beginners *Michael Windham and Andrew Holcombe* 4:00-4:50 | Songwriting Strategies *Mary Claxton* 4:00 - 4:50 | Blue Mountain Elementary School, Blue Mountain Beats Percussion Ensemble Concert *Director-Amber Bartel* 4:00-4:30 | Guiding the Arrow: Helping students hit the learning target *DeAnna Clink and Jamie Zupparo* 4:00-4:50 | | New Jazz Reading Session *Darin Kamstra* 4:00-5:00 | Arts 360 - The Power of the Individual in Advocacy and Systems Change *Laurie T. Schell* 4:00-4:50pm | | |
| 4:30 PM | | | Boulder HS High Altitude (SATB) *Kelly Carmichael* 4:30-4:55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Creating Connections and Viewing Content followed by Opening Reception 5:00-6:00 | |
| 5:15 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |




**College/University Music Council Meeting**
*Martina Miranda, chair*
**7:15-8:30AM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

**General Music Council Meeting**
*Paul Malley, chair*
**7:15-8:30AM Colorado Hall D/E**

**Instrumental Music Council Meeting**
*Chuck Stephen, chair*
**7:15-8:30AM Broadmoor Hall F**

**Vocal Music Council Meeting**
*Bryan Kettleman, chair*
**7:15-8:30AM Broadmoor Hall C**

**Registration Open**
*William Kohut*
**7:30AM-4:30PM Broadmoor Hall A Lobby**

**CMEA Opening Plenary Session**
***Athena Brass***
**7:55-8:30AM Broadmoor Hall B**

**CMEA Opening Plenary Session Awards Ceremony**
*Casey Cropp*
**8:30-8:45AM Broadmoor Hall B**

**CMEA Opening Plenary Session Keynote Address: Musicians with Purpose**
*Ray Cramer*
**8:45-9:20AM Broadmoor Hall B**

**Play Tests: Educating, inspiring, and assessing students**
***Jackson Younce and Raleigh "Butch" Eversole***
**10:00-10:50AM Main Theatre**

The best instrumental music ensembles are comprised of motivated and skilled students that can contribute great sounds and well-prepared parts. Play tests can be a great way to engage students in effective practice and preparation, track student progress, reward and motivate students, and assess one's own teaching.

This session will explore the reasons to use play tests regularly and a number of assessment strategies and ideas that are guaranteed to increase the skills of the students and the quality of the ensembles in which they play.

**Do You Hear What I Hear? Monitoring Solutions for Creative Ensemble Applications**
***Craig Edgar***
**10:00-10:50AM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

Modern problems require modern solutions – as we encounter situations where students are not able to rely on their ears acoustically, we need to plan for how they are going to hear themselves and the rest of the ensemble. How do we make sure our theater pit can hear what's happening onstage when we're piping music in from another room? How can we make sure our electronic musicians can hear themselves in the marching band front ensemble when their instruments don't produce an acoustic sound. How can we manage stage volume to preserve student hearing and avoid feedback, or create a true silent-stage environment using headphones? This session will cover monitoring best practices, standard signal flow, and how to incorporate a talkback mic and click track for more complicated setups where extra ensemble coordination is needed.

**Let It Ring**
***Thomas Chen***
**10:00-10:50AM Colorado Hall D/E**

Have you ever wanted to start a handbell or handchimes choir for your elementary school? What do you need to buy? What methods should you use? Where do you even start? Come see what these ensembles are all about starting with a demonstration by the Traut Chimes Choir. Then, we will explore what purchases be made, how to decide between a handbell or handchimes choir, fundraising ideas, guidance on lessons, and how to have a successful ringing experience.

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# CMEA Sessions - Thursday

**Joyful Beginnings: Kodály-inspired lesson planning for K–1**
***Tanya LeJeune***
**10:00-10:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**

Sometimes teaching Kindergarten and 1st grade music can feel daunting, but it's also where the most important foundations are built! In this session, we'll explore how to create engaging, developmentally appropriate lessons rooted in Kodály-inspired pedagogy. Learn how to sequence playful songs, games, and activities that not only delight young learners but also lead toward music literacy and musicianship. This session will offer planning tips, teaching strategies, and classroom-tested favorites to help you feel confident and successful in the primary music room.

**Lewis-Palmer High School, Jazz Band**
***Samuel Anderson, director***
**10:00-10:45AM International Center North**

Concert

**Playing the Long Game: Understanding and mitigating vocal risk for music educators**
***Jeremy Manternach***
**10:00-10:50AM Main - Ballroom**

Teachers rely heavily on their voices for effective instruction. As a result, "the teacher's voice is placed under constant vocal harassment" (Cooper, 1970, p. 334). Because of the amount of voice use, music teachers tend to have high rates of voice disorders, which compromises their ability to instruct, give feedback, and model for their students.
In this session, we will begin with a look at the anatomy and physiology of voicing, with a focus on the risk factors inherent to music teaching. We will then look at proactive ways to avoid voice disorders and fatigue. Specifically, we will explore the science and usefulness of semi-occluded vocal tract exercises (e.g., straw phonation) in maintaining effective voicing. Additionally, we will discuss recommendations for how you can proceed when you may be experiencing voice difficulties.

**Strategies For How to Break Language Barriers in Any Music Class**
***Erika VanDriel***
**10:00-10:50AM Bartolin Hall E213/214**

Recent Census data shows that students identified as English language learners are the largest growing population in public schools. As more English language learning students are attending public schools, they are also enrolling in our music classes. Despite the growing diversity in our classes, music teachers lack the resources or training to support English language learning students effectively. This session will explore the current strategies that can help teachers break language barriers to ensure inclusion of all students.

**Supporting Neurodiverse Students in the Music Classroom**
***Blythe LaGasse***
**10:00-10:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**

Recent Census data shows that students identified as English language learners are the largest growing population in public schools. As more English language learning students are attending public schools, they are also enrolling in our music classes. Despite the growing diversity in our classes, music teachers lack the resources or training to support English language learning students effectively. This session will explore the current strategies that can help teachers break language barriers to ensure inclusion of all students.

**Understanding Your Students' Needs: Motivation in the orchestra classroom**
***Michael Hopkins***
**10:00-10:50AM Broadmoor Hall F**

This session will provide participants with an overview of the key ideas from educational psychology on motivation and how these ideas can be applied in the orchestra classroom to reduce student dropout and enhance the orchestra

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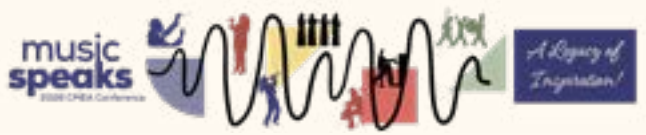


experience for teachers, students, and parents.

**Voices In Transition: Gender expansive choral voicings**
***Roger Emerson***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**West - Divide Room**

The session will provide choral voicing options to meet the needs of both the changing transgender voice and those of cisgender singers. In addition to adapting existing voicings, options for creating a new "flex" part will be demonstrated.

**Vocal Improvisation in the Classroom**
***Jeremy Fox***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**West - Louis Stratta Room**

Most every human being has the ability to spontaneously create melodies, but many may not recognize or realize this ability until later in life. In this session, Jeremy Fox will demonstrate different varieties of vocal improvisation, and discuss ways we might incorporate it in our classrooms – plus different tools to use and games you might play with your students. Included in the session are: circle-singing, scat singing (beginner to more experienced), melodic ornaments, rhythms, word association, and other elements. The aim is to help you guide your students to create their own spontaneous melodies, not only to become improvisers but perhaps also songwriters, composers and arrangers. Handouts with a number of resources will be distributed.

**Ken Caryl Middle School, Symphonic Band**
***Cathy Wahl, director***
**10:30-11:00AM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

Concert

**Chaos in the Classroom: A trauma-Informed approach to music education**
***Bobbie Ann Nelson***
**11:00-11:50AM**
**Colorado Hall C**

This clinic will consider how behavioral disruptions, emotional dysregulation, and interpersonal challenges in the music classroom may point to indications of underlying trauma in students. Using a trauma-informed lens, participants will explore the intersection of music education, attachment style, and student nervous system states to learn how to see the student behind the trauma. This presentation offers practical neuroscience-informed teaching strategies to encourage emotional regulation, build safety within the classroom, and foster resilience, while encouraging students to both develop as musicians and learn to lean on music as an expressive emotional outlet. Music educators will learn tools to reframe disruptive behaviors, reimagine classroom management, and restore relationships with their students through the transformational power of music.

**A Mixed Bag of Choral Quick-Fixes**
***Victor Johnson***
**11:00-11:50AM**
**Main - Ballroom**

Looking for fun, yet effective ideas for making your rehearsals more efficient and engaging? This session will focus on resources and tools you can use to work on breath control, tone, behavior, and much more in your choral classroom.

**EdSpeak for Music Teachers: Turning buzzwords into administrative buy-In**
***Bryce Melaragno and Kim Wilson-Paugh***
**11:00-11:50AM**
**Bartolin Hall E 207-209**

Today's music teachers are expected to be fluent not only in music, but in the ever-evolving language of education. This session unpacks current educational jargon - like SEL, durable skills, data-driven instruction, and more - and shows you how to align your music classroom with district goals and evaluation frameworks. Learn how to frame your existing teacher strategies in administrator-friendly language, highlight the soft skills your students gain through music, and navigate teacher evaluations with confidence. Walk away with practical

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# CMEA Sessions - Thursday

tools to advocate for your program and communicate your impact in terms that resonate beyond the music wing.

**The First Three Years**
***Margaret Berg, Ashley Civelli, Benjamin Golden, Ryan Kimball, and Alexandra J. Sbarra***
**11:00-11:50AM Bartolin Hall - E 213/214**

The first three years of teaching are an important and often challenging transitional time for all new music teachers entering the profession. This panel discussion will explore the experiences of music teachers currently navigating this early career stage. Panelists Ashley Civelli, Benjamin Golden, Ryan Kimball, and Alexandra Sbarra will share lessons they have learned in their journey from college to the classroom. Moderator Margaret Berg will also invite questions from the audience. College students, new teachers, and experienced teachers who mentor new educators will all benefit from this dialogue about experiences in the first three years.

**Developing Musical Leadership Within Our Ensembles**
***Gary Lewis***
**11:00-11:50AM Broadmoor Hall F**

The finest leaders empower those with whom they work. This session will explore practical strategies to develop better musical leadership within the ensemble, both from the perspective of the musicians and of the conductor. Rehearsal strategies, empowering ourselves as conductors and the musicians we work with, creating greater awareness, clarifying roles within the ensemble (who is really in charge?), listening skills, and specific approaches to a collaborative and "musical" approach to conducting and performing within the ensemble will be discussed.

**PROCESS MATTERS - Using Body Percussion with Your Students**
***Thom Borden***
**11:00-11:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**

This session will explore the body percussion activities found in the Rhythmische Ubung and the possibility of poems that can be created to engage students.

**Improved MY Improv: Now what?**
***Roy Bailey***
**11:00-11:50AM Colorado Hall D/E**

Join us for the next exciting installment of Improv Your Improv, where we build on foundational improvisation skills and step into modern applications using the recorder. This dynamic session will center on student-created composition, movement, and expressive performance, all while having fun through musical exploration.

Rooted in modern music-making/student relevant best practices, this session is designed for educators working with students of all levels. Participants will engage in a sequential process of improvisation that begins with one-note motifs and expands toward five-note frameworks, eventually unlocking full pentatonic patterns and accessible modal improvisation.

Movement and Dance
Rhythmic Chants
Xylophone and Recorder Ensemble Work

Ready to perform over a: F#-9/B13sus4/Emaj9, then this session is for you!

**Relevance of creating outreach opportunities for students as providers and audience members in the community**
***Daniela Guzmán-Égüez***
**11:00-11:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**

Looking for fun, yet effective ideas for making your rehearsals more efficient and engaging? This session will focus on resources and tools you can use to work on breath control, tone, behavior, and much more in your choral classroom.

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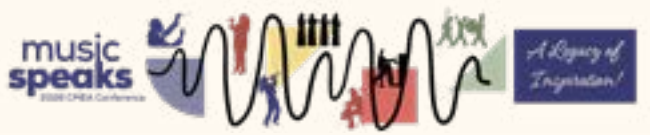


### Building Your Brass Section Resonance with the Athena Brass Band

**11:00-11:50AM**
**Main - Theatre**

*Athena Brass*

Are you looking for ways to help level up your brass section's sound in the New Year? Come hear members of the Athena Brass Band discuss tone production and resonance tips for your brass musicians. Our session will be interactive, so please bring all of your brass questions, or click here to submit your question in advance. We look forward to meeting you!

### Lesher Middle School, Symphonic Orchestra

**11:30AM-12:00PM**
**International Center Nort**

*Loni Obluda, director*

Concert

### Legacy High School, Wind Ensemble

**12:00-12:45PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

*Brian Ebert, director*

Concert

### Meet the CU Boulder Music Education Department

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

*CU Boulder Music Education faculty*

Are you a high school student considering a teaching career, or a working teacher seeking graduate study to become a leader in the field? At this session, members of the CU Boulder Music Education faculty + admissions staff will provide an overview of our degree options and answer your questions.

### Many Mistakes, Many Solutions: 25 challenges you can overcome with band and orchestra

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall E 207/209**

*Chris Bernotas*

Every band and orchestra director faces challenges throughout their career, but those challenges are also opportunities for growth and learning. In this session, I'll share 25 common obstacles and topics I encountered during my 28 years in the classroom and the practical solutions that helped me turn those challenges into triumphs. From rehearsal struggles and performance issues to parent communication and program advocacy, we'll cover a wide range of topics with honesty, humor, and a focus on empowering you to build a thriving music program. This session is engaging for new and seasoned educators alike!

### Expressive Conducting: Shaping sound beyond the beat pattern

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall E 213-214**

*Rachel Waddell, Andres Jaime and Renee Gilliland*

Participants will explore three techniques rooted in natural movement to enhance gestural expressivity and strengthen ensemble connection: (1) Articulation/ Dynamics (Laban Gestures), (2) Registration (outlining melodic contour), and (3) Controlling Rebound (carrying sound from beat to beat). Through hands-on individual, small group, and large group application, conductors will refine expressive techniques first outside beat patterns, then within structured conducting. By mirroring intuitive movement, conductors will gain tools to train their ensembles while elevating their own conducting. Co-taught by Dr. Rachel Waddell (CSU), Dr. Andres Jaime (UNCG), and Dr. Renee Gilliland (CU Boulder), this interactive session welcomes educators and musicians of all levels, with participation encouraged via instruments or vocalization.

### So You Think You CAN'T Dance? Easy insider trips to rocking musical theatre choreography

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Main - Ballroom**

*Katrina Thomas*

Congratulations! You're directing a musical! But the choreography has got you in cold sweats. Or maybe you have a choir and want to jazz it up with some choreography hare group choreography look great whether your students (or you) are experienced dancers, have two left feet, or anything in-between. But what if you are in a small or rural school? No problem! So are we! No matter the size of

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for choreography success with practical, easy-to-use techniques.

**Building a Legacy in the 12:00-12:50PM West - Divide Room Pursuit of Excellence (pertains to all areas)** **12:00-12:50PM Main - Theatre**

***Ray Cramer***

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." Pericles "Excellence is not a destination, it is a way of life." Aristotle

**The 7 Deadly Sins of the Middle School Choir Director** **12:00-12:50PM West - Divide Room**

***Roger Emerson***

middle school choir is a real challenge but it is made worse by not knowing the pitfalls of this age group. Methods and resources for addressing the unique needs of the middle school voice will be demonstrated. Range testing, appropriate warm-ups, literature choice and the optimum organization of the classroom will be explored.

**Pizza with the Presidents (preregistration required)** **12:00-1:00PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Leila Heil, host***

Pull up a chair for Pizza with the Presidents—a casual, high-impact lunch connecting collegiate members and early-career teachers (years 1–3) with leaders of Colorado's major music organizations. Enjoy pizza while you ask questions, swap ideas, and gather real-world advice on classroom culture, programming, advocacy, and career growth. Come hungry, leave encouraged—and connected.

**Exhibits Open** **12:00-6:00PM Bartolin Hall-Exhibits**

***Richard Shaw, chair***

**Ralston Valley High School, Chamber Orchestra** **1:00-1:45PM International Center North**

***Kelly Watts, director***

Concert

**Fostering Mindfulness and Self Care** **1:00-1:50PM Bartolin Hall - E213/214**

***Krissie Weimer***

Teachers and students are challenged with managing multiple responsibilities and excessive amounts of stress, anxiety, and fatigue, which may lead to burnout. It is important that teachers and students are equipped with coping skills and strategies to practice self care and maintain wellness. The purpose of this session is to provide teachers with empowering mindfulness strategies to practice themselves, and ways to incorporate these strategies in their classroom to promote a focused and mindful learning environment for all. The clinician will discuss what mindfulness encompasses, and when, where, how, and why to practice various strategies. They will engage participants in multiple short activities throughout the session. Examples include specific breathing techniques, mantras, centering activities, self-compassion exercises, and self-management techniques. Resources will be provided.

**Interview "Speed Dating" for Collegiate NAfME Students** **1:00-1:50PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Martina Miranda***

This is an excellent opportunity for college students to get experience practicing for job interviews and to learn what questions and scenarios to prepared for.

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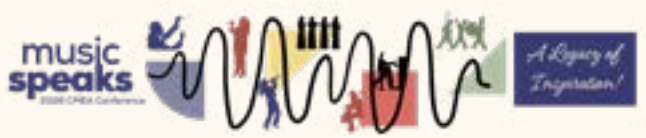


### Cultural Inclusion in Music Education: The role of Banda and Mariachi

**1:00-1:50PM Broadmoor Hall F**

*Erika VanDriel and Alfredo Ramirez*

As music education works toward being more inclusive, many schools have added mariachi programs to better reflect and represent the growing Hispanic population. However, mariachi is often treated as the only option, while banda is often overlooked or misunderstood. This session will explain the cultural and musical differences between mariachi and banda, and explore the possibilities for your music program.

### Playing and Teaching Ukulele-How Fun is This?

**1:00-1:50PM Colorado Hall A/B**

*Michael Christiansen*

Participants will learn to improve their ukulele playing and teaching skills using the ukulele as an accompaniment instrument and as a melody instrument. Sequential curriculum for teaching the ukulele class, including sequential learning of fundamentals, chords, strum patterns, playing single note melodies, and ensembles will be presented. Available blended learning materials for teaching ukulele will also be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring their ukuleles to the session.

### Recorder Readiness: Creative tools for building music literacy on recorder music education

**1:00-1:50PM Colorado Hall C**

*Danielle Bayert*

Unlock music literacy with recorder success! This session explores a scaffolded approach to teaching the soprano recorder using activities that systematically build rhythm, pitch recognition, and technique as independent skills, then synthesize them into confident, literate performance. Discover engaging, adaptable activities that meet students where they are—before, during, and after recorder instruction. Leave with tools that support all learners on their journey to musical independence and ideas of how to create literacy with a systematic approach.

### Classroom Behavior Strategies: Achieving success by staying on task

**1:00-1:50PM Colorado Hall D/E**

*Thomas Chen*

Stating that "teaching is difficult" is a massive understatement. Not only are we, as music educators, tasked with ensuring each student learns our content, but we need to make sure they are staying on task, behaving, and feeling safe so they are mentally able to receive instruction. Therefore, how do we maintain strong classroom behavior in a music setting and which specific strategies will have the most beneficial outcomes?

Using a tier list, we will evaluate and rank a wide variety of behavior strategies. These include strategies for transitions, how to work with IEP students, relationship building, and much more. Come explore to see what strategies work well, and which ones work even better.

### We Are Family

**1:00-1:50PM Main - Ballroom**

*Victor Johnson*

Diversity and Inclusion activities are simple and effective ways to get students talking and listening to one another. In this interactive workshop, Johnson will share energizers, icebreakers, and other team-building activities to help build community within the choral classroom.

### The Care and Feeding of Your Rhythm Section

**1:00-1:50PM Main - Theatre**

*John Gunther*

The success of your jazz band largely depends on the strength of your rhythm section! This workshop will provide you with practical techniques and strategies to help your students, both on their individual instruments and working together as a section. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced concepts include: Voicings for piano and guitar, bass lines, rhythms for your drummer, and strategies

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for "comping" for soloists. Styles demonstrated will include swing, rock, funk and Latin music. Detailed handouts will give concrete information to apply in the classroom for both Middle School and High School levels. For this presentation, Dr. John Gunther will lead the University of Colorado Boulder Thompson Jazz faculty featuring Annie Booth –Piano, Tim Wendel –guitar, Bijoux Barbosa – bass,and Paul Romaine –drums.

**Body Mapping for Musicians: Breathing within our ensembles**
***Bridget Sweet***
**1:00-1:50PM West - Divide Room**

The body map is one's self-representation in one's own brain. If the body map is accurate, movement is likely to be good. If the body map is inaccurate or inadequate, movement may be inefficient and potentially injury-producing. Designed to bring awareness to tension habits, this injury prevention information for musicians focuses on the body in movement. During this session focused on BREATHING, we will unpack and explore human anatomy to better understand what physiologically happens when we breathe. In doing so, we will accurately map breathing structures to promote more efficient and effective breathing for ourselves, as well as for our music students. As a result, we will be equipped to maintain healthy and sustainable breathing practices that will only enrich musical production and expressiveness.

**Colorado State University- Pueblo, Wind Ensemble**
***Brett Keating, director***
**2:00-2:45PM Broadmoor Hall B**

Concert

**Finding Your Compass: Programming and repertoire selection**
***Weston Lewis***
**2:00-2:50PM Bartolin Hall - E213/214**

The programming process is a personal and essential part of every musician and educator's work. Distilling a large canon of works into a concise list of repertoire appropriate for your ensemble presents challenges and decisions that music educators must contend with. From balancing aesthetic values to addressing student needs and audience engagement, the choices we make reflect our educational and artistic priorities. In this presentation, Lewis will explore key considerations in ensemble programming and share practical strategies for crafting artful programs using quality repertoire.

**The Joy of Recruitment and Retention**
***Heather Murphy***
**2:00-2:50PM Broadmoor Hall F**

Recruitment and retention do not need to be anxiety-producers; they can be events that are fun for you and your students! Creating joy begins at the introduction of the instrument with enthusiasm in the demo as well as creating magic in the playing of the first note. It continues in a variety of repertoire that reflects various cultures, fostering creativity, and encouraging get older, it is about getting parents involved, opportunities for bonding outside of class, and having students become more autonomous with music choice and rehearsals. It is also about showcasing students from older grade levels to younger students so that they can see what is possible in the future. I cannot wait to share the tools that I have used for the past 20 years that have helped me grow multiple programs and kept them thriving!

**More Musical Theatre Staging Techniques**
***Jenny Hall***
**2:00-2:50PM Colorado Hall A/B**

Learn and explore how to use simple shapes, patterns, and pedestrian movement to create powerful and purposeful moments for your musical numbers. Examples include: Opening Number Ideas, stage

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positions and their meanings, creative use of repetition, levels, diagonals, how to stage a star entrance, creating balance onstage, shapes, starbursts, circles, boxes, how to "act" the song, staging solos and duets, movement canons, patterns, lines, wedges, amoebas/blobs/mushels, weaves, pinwheels, buttons, and in-depth example/demonstration/participation of each. In order to get the most out of this movement-based session, if you are able, please plan to move and play.

**Your First Year in Modern Bands** — **2:00-2:50PM Colorado Hall C**

***Mary Claxton***

This hands-on session will engage in a variety of entry-level modern band concepts to help you gain confidence in facilitating and sequencing modern band curriculum as both you and your students learn and grow your program. The session takes a practical and realistic approach to common challenges of teaching modern band, such as ensemble set-up, repertoire selection, and goal setting to set you and your students up for the successful launch of your school's modern band program.

**Folk Dance Remix: Mixing old moves with new grooves in the Classroom** — **2:00-2:50PM Colorado Hall D/E**

***Tanya LeJeune and Carrie Nicholas***

Come ready to move in this fun, active session! Folk dances are a great way for students to explore form and phrase through joyful, structured movement. They make great energizers and offer a refreshing change of pace in any music lesson. In this session, we'll learn classic folk dances and reimagine them with modern pop music your students already know and love—bringing tradition to life with a fresh, engaging twist.

**Distinctive Literature for Innovative Programming** — **2:00-2:50PM Main - Ballroom**

***Victor Johnson***

Victor Johnson will present and lead attendees through a reading session of choral works curated for high school singers in a variety of musical styles and voicings with levels of difficulty ranging from moderate to advanced.

**The Dynamics of Marching Band** — **2:00-2:50PM Main - Theatre**

***Beth Fabrizio***

Preparing for rehearsals, fundamentals and all that supports your success with adjudication.

**Middle School Magic: Music for developing voices** — **2:00-2:50PM West - Divide Room**

***Andy Beck***

Looking for choral music that will engage your middle school singers and is also pedagogically appropriate? Join Andy Beck in reading through a complimentary packet of new music designed specifically for developing voices. Music in this session will address your big concerns, like choosing music for changing voices, balancing fun selections with educational repertoire, motivating students, and More. students, and more.

**Restorative Practices For the Music Classroom** — **2:00-2:50PM Bartolin Hall - E207-209**

***Megan Lewin***

Classroom behavior strategies make or break a lesson. No matter how much we prepare for our students to engage with our content and learn, if we are not prepared to meet their potentially challenging behaviors, then we are wasting everyone's valuable time. In this session, we will explore how to approach classroom behavior with curiosity and restorative practices to enhance everyone's experience and increase student success.

**Building Community Partnerships presented by Think 360 Arts for Learning** — **2:00-2:50PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Cynthia Eversole, moderator***

Join moderator Cynthia Eversole and

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representatives from Think 360 Arts for Learning for a roundtable discussion about arts advocacy. Come and learn about successful initiatives for building community partnerships, and share ideas and resources for building sustainable partnerships to support thriving music programs in your community.

**Carson Middle School, Eagle Choir**
***Annette Lauer, director***
Concert

**3:00-3:25PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Lesher Middle School, Jazz Band**
**Meghan Muñoz, director**
Concert

**3:00-3:30PM**
**International Center North**

**Trauma Informed Practices in the Music Classroom Choir Director**
***Carla Aguilar, Lindsay Latva and Tami LoSasso***

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall - E213/214**

Join the CDE Arts team to explore how trauma impacts student behavior, engagement, and learning, with a focus on the unique context of arts education. Participants will gain practical strategies for creating safe, supportive, and empowering classroom environments. Through discussion and hands-on activities, educators will leave with tools to integrate trauma-informed approaches into their daily teaching practice in Music, Dance, Drama, and the Visual Arts classrooms. One hour of CDE relicensure credit is available for attendees.

**Creating a Safe Space for Songwriters & Creators: Best practices formusic educators in higher education**

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

***Dango Rose***
Explore practical strategies incorporating Authentic Relating techniques to create a supportive environment where student songwriters can thrive. Learn to guide students in developing artistic communication skills, establishing a space for effective feedback, and supporting through challenging emotions. We'll help you balance creative freedom with constructive feedback all while embracing diversity in musical expression.

**Making It More Accessible: Performing electroacoustic works with your ensemble**
***Justin Hubbard***

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

Are you curious about performing electroacoustic works with your ensembles but are unsure where to begin? This clinic will present the basics of audio gear and technology needed to perform electroacoustic works with your group. We will demonstrate how to use audio interfaces, speakers, MIDI controllers, and other related equipment. We'll show how these are used in varying levels of repertoire musically and technologically from the perspective of both the conductor and performer. We'll also discuss best practices for rehearsing and performing electroacoustic works. We hope you leave this clinic feeling inspired to program your first electroacoustic work or ready to advance the technology in works you already program.

**Warm-ups That Develop Outstanding String or Full Orchestras Valley High School, Chamber Orchestra**

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**

***Bob Phillips***
Learn how to use and develop warm-ups to create ensembles that play in-tune, with a balanced sound, matched articulations, unified dynamics, with matched style, and musically.

**PROCESS MATTERS - Using Literature with your Students**
***Thom Borden***

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

This session will focus on the sequenced process to teaching pieces from the Music for Children - VOL 1.

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Language, rhythm and body percussion all prepare for a successful transition to playing and improving with these "gems."

**Musical Theatre: During the day and beyond....**
***Jennifer Last***
**3:00-3:50PM Colorado Hall C**

"A five, six, seven, eight....." Putting on a musical takes a lot of planning, creativity, and time. In this clinic we will address how to teach musicals during the school day with entire grade levels or in an after school rehearsal setting. We will go through the process of planning and preparation, holding auditions, casting, budgeting, rehearsals, performances and more! Resources and fun for all who attend!!!

**Towards An Opportunity-Based Approach to the Ensemble Rehearsal**
***Ian Henning***
**3:00-3:50PM Main - Ballroom**

How we frame our feedback matters a lot. Many ensemble music teachers use a negative framing; they focus on what's not working, with the goal of fixing it. Though they do not do this with ill intent, the effect is that the musicians they teach adopt this mindset, and spend their musical lives focused on fixing mistakes. There is, however, another way. An opportunity-based approach, rooted in positivity, allows teachers and students alike to acknowledge areas for growth without letting them overshadow the many things that students do well every day. Celebrating success and striving to reach new heights creates a very different environment from fixating on failures and striving to eliminate them, even if on the surface they produce similar results. This session explores common ways a deficit-based approach manifests in our rehearsals, and how to shift towards an opportunity-based approach.

**Brush Up Your Woodwinds**
***Peggy Rakas***
**3:00-3:50PM Main - Theatre**

Join Peggy Rakas, woodwind methods instructor at Hofstra University, for a fun and informative refresher on the basics of woodwind pedagogy. She'll also share up-to-date tips on mouthpieces, instruments, reeds, vibrato, and tone production. You'll leave with helpful handouts, go-to warm-ups, and fresh ideas to keep your woodwind players engaged and sounding great at every level.

**Tenor/Bass Reading Session**
***AJ Wulf***
**3:00-3:50PM West - Divide Room**

**Embrace the Scoop and "Smile!" CCM in the Traditional Choir Setting**
***Ryan Deignan***
**3:00-3:50PM West - Louis Stratta Room**

Vocal jazz and other contemporary commercial music genres (CCM) are musically rich and often popular with students, offering a great way to attract a wider variety of individuals and to increase stylistic diversity in our choral programs. Maybe you are interested in offering CCM experiences to your kids, but lack the time or funding to start a pop/VJ group. Coming from a traditional choral director who learned CCM on the job and found modest success, this session will offer tips and tricks for authentic CCM performances in your traditional choirs without spending excess resources or starting a new group. Specific areas of discussion include tone production, styles, repertoire, and working with a rhythm section. This is an immersive session and we will sing throughout - come ready to embrace the scoop and practice smiling into the tone!

**Embracing [Musical] Space: Integrating music improv and composition to class curriculum**
**3:00-3:50PM Bartolin Hall - E207-209**

This presentation will share my work leading music improvisation workshops with students in 2nd–12th grade. Workshops were developed, applying

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performance and practices from improvisers and community singing facilitators—artists and psychologists, such as James Oshinsky, David Darling, and Victor Wooten. Part of a program called "Embracing [Musical] Space," workshops guide students through movement exercises, word association games, and group composition to empower students' voices, leadership, collaboration, and creativity. By the end of the session, teachers will gain a collection of exercises, from graphic scores (musical occurrences described through pictures and symbols) to playing with consonance and dissonance, to help their students practice deep listening and better understand their individual roles in an ensemble.

**Denver School of the Arts, Voces Valiosas** — **3:30-3:55PM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**
***Meaghan Quigley***
Concert

**Falcon High School, Tenor/Bass Choir** — **4:00-4:25PM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**
***Tyler Privia***
Concert

**Blue Mountain Elementary School, Blue Mountain Beats Percussion Ensemble** — **4:00-4:30PM Colorado Hall D/E**
***Amber Bartels***
Concert

**Colorado Christian University, Symphonic Band** — **4:00-4:45PM Broadmoor Hall B**
***Mark Dorn***
Concert

**Songwriting Strategies** — **4:00-4:50PM Colorado Hall A/B**
***Mary Claxton***
Music creation is a key part of our standards, but getting started can be intimidating! In this session, we will explore songwriting activities such as writing chord progressions, lyrics, rhythmic accompaniment, and more!!

**Guiding the Arrow: Helping students hit the learning target** — **4:00-4:50PM Colorado Hall C**
***DeAnna Clink and Jamie Zupparo***
You have your learning targets written on the board, but now what? We often know what students need to do to demonstrate the learning concepts. How can we help students make their learning visible charge and understand what is needed to meet their learning targets? With our time constraints, how do we incorporate these criteria for success while keeping students actively making music?

In this session, attendees will learn a variety of techniques to engage students in learning targets and success criteria, while still allowing for discovery of the concepts and a sight before sound approach. Presenters—a seasoned elementary music teacher and an experienced administrator—will share practical examples, ready-to-use templates, and tips you can apply immediately in your classroom.

**Audio Optimization for Marching Arts** — **4:00-4:50PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**
***Ryan Unangst***
The quality of your sound reinforcement can make the difference between a fine performance, and a spectacular performance. In this session, Ryan Unangst will be discussing ways to optimize your sound system through choices in equipment, best practices in its use and deployment, and how it can elevate the quality and impact of your show's moments.

**Intentional Choral Warm-Ups: Skill building & accountability** — **4:00-4:50PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**
***Eric Posada***
This topic is crucial to the development of singers, choirs, and directors. My primary objective is for middle school and high school choral directors to return home and reinvent their current routine. Warm-up exercises

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should be treated akin to repertoire rehearsals via constant assessment, immediate feedback, and effective solutions. Consequently, these exercises will build vocal technique, aural skills, musicianship, and awareness in singers that will transfer to the choral repertoire and rehearsal. To achieve my goal, I will use the convention audience to provide tangible examples of my methodology. I shall use a varied collection of warm-ups from familiar exercises to specific drills that encourage voice building skills, chord tuning, vowel unification, open/closed vowels, dynamic contrast, consonants and enunciation, simple and advanced kinesthetic movements, and stretching.

**A Fresh Look at Sound Innovations and More!**
***Chris Bernotas and Bob Phillips***
**4:00-4:50PM Broadmoor Hall C**

Learn something new about Sound Innovations Book 1 and its supplemental resources. This session showcases a comprehensive and flexible method, featuring enhanced technology and a time-tested curriculum. Learn how these powerful resources build strong fundamentals and inspire musical growth

**Before the Method Book: A step-by-step guide to launching successful middle school beginners**
***Michael Windham and Andrew Holcombe***
**4:00-4:50PM Main - Ballroom**

What happens before page one of the method book can make or break your beginning instrumental programs' success. This session guides middle school band and orchestra directors—new and experienced—through a detailed January-to-September timeline for starting beginners with intention. From organizing effective instrument testing events and creating balanced instrumentation to planning a beginner-friendly summer camp and mastering the first weeks of school, you'll learn how to build strong routines, teach classroom procedures, set up instruments, and guide students through their first sounds. Leave with adaptable resources, proven strategies, and a clear roadmap to set your beginners—and your program—up for long-term success.

**12 Ways to Improve Your Guitar Class**
***Michael Christiansen***
**4:00-4:50PM Main - Ballroom**

This session is for those who are new to teaching classroom guitar, as well as seasoned teachers. Participants will learn key elements of guitar pedagogy that will assist in developing and/or improving successful guitar instruction. Skills that every guitar student needs to develop will be presented. Other considerations, such as sequential skill development, pacing, and incorporating various styles of music and ensembles will be discussed.

**Science on the risers: Applying acoustics to achieve your desired choral tone**
***Jeremy Manternach***
**4:00-4:50PM West - Divide Room**

Have you ever struggled to get the sound you're looking for from your choir? In these moments, we may be able to lean on science to inform our art. For some choral conductors, "acoustics" may sound inaccessible or too academic to be useful in real life. But even a cursory knowledge of vocal and choral acoustics can inform many decisions you make in your classroom and in the performance hall. In this session, we will begin with a primer on vocal acoustics and how certain voicing behaviors create the timbre we perceive. We will then explore a series of practical, science-based techniques to address the causes of these sounds rather than simply masking the symptoms you hear. Topics will include chorister spacing, semi-occluded vocal tract exercises (e.g., straw phonation), and more.

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# CMEA Sessions - Thursday

**The Power of the Individual in Advocacy and Systems Change**
***Laurie T. Schell***
**4:00-4:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall 207-209**

Arts education thrives when we speak up. Every day, music and arts educators advocate—for our students, our schools, our communities, and often for ourselves. This work is deeply personal: it begins with our own beliefs, language, and lived experiences. In this session, we'll explore how to transform individual conviction into collective action, share findings from statewide arts education advocacy efforts, and rally music educators to join a growing coalition dedicated to ensuring every student has access to the arts. Presenter: Laurie T. Schell, Advocate for Arts & Cultural Education and Founding Principle, ElevateArtsEd.

**New Jazz Reading Session**
***Darin Kamstra***
**4:00-5:00PM**
**International Center North**

**Boulder High School, High Altitude**
***Kelly Carmichael, director***
Concert
**4:30-4:55PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Creating Connections and Viewing Content followed by Opening Reception**
***Casey Cropp***
**5:00-6:30PM**
**Bartolin Hall Exhibits**


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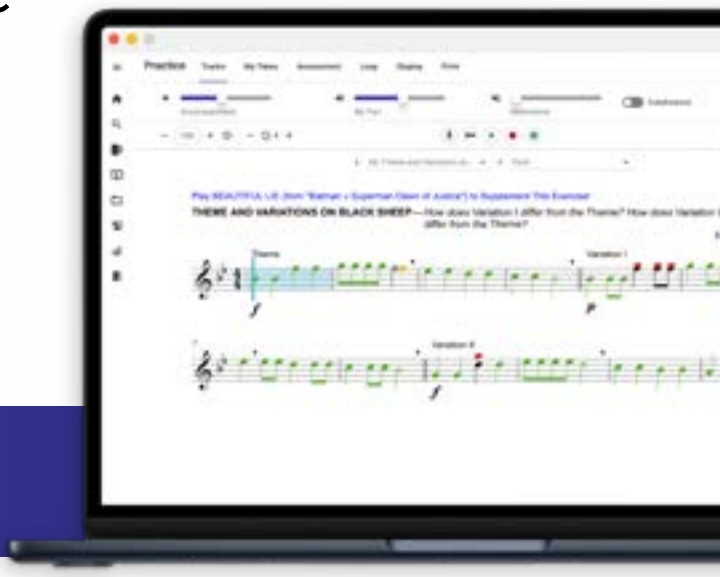

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# Friday, January 30, 2026

## Highlights

7:30am-3:30pm **Registration Open**

9:00am-5:00pm **Exhibits Open**

5:30-6:45pm **Out-of-State & In Good Company Reception** - Main Ballroom

5:30-6:45pm **University Receptions**
Adams State University - Crystal Room
Colorado Christian University - McGrew Room
Colorado Mesa University - Pompeiian
Colorado State University - Lower Level Lake Terrace Dining Room
Colorado State University - Pueblo - Fountain Froom
Metropolitan State University of Denver - West Tower Lobby
University of Colorado Boulder-College of Music- Broadmoor Hall A
University of Denver - Lamont School of Music - Robert Trent Jones
University of Northern Colorado School of Music - West Ballroom

7:00-9:30pm **Salsa Nights** - We have a limited number of tickets remaining for Salsa Night (event only; dinner not included).

- Cost: $30 per ticket
- Entry time: 7:30 PM
- Payment options:
  - Credit card: https://cmeaonline.org/conference/cmea-salsa-nights-tickets/
  - Cash at the door (as available)

# Friday Day at a Glance Schedule

| Friday, January 30, 2026 | West - Divide Room | West - Louis Stratta Room | West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom | Broadmoor Hall A | Broadmoor Hall B | Broadmoor Hall C | Broadmoor Hall D/E | Broadmoor Hall F | Main - Theatre | Colorado Hall A/B | Colorado Hall D/E | Colorado Hall C | Bartolin Hall E-213/214 | International Center North | Bartolin Hall 207/208/209 | Bartolin Hall Exhibits | Broadmoor Hall A Lobby |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | CMEA Conference Registration 7:30am-3:30pm |
| 8:00 AM | Love, Understanding, Positivity: Tenets for building a choral program *Eric Posada* 8:00-8:50 | Winning Warm-Ups! (for Choirs of Any Age) *Andy Beck* 8:00-8:50 | | | | Beyond the Warm-up: Maximizing fundamental growth in a wind band rehearsal *Jayme Taylor 8:00-8:50* | Thriving on Spreadsheets and Good Ideas: Tools for a successful choir program *Bethany Meyer* 8:00-8:50 | ASBDA Meeting *Kevin Larson* 8:00-8:45 | All-State Band Steering Committee Meeting *Casey Cropp* 8:00-8:45 | Come and Join in Our Shadow Play *George Halley* 8:00-8:50 | Pass IT-Favorite Passing Games; ROCKE Presents: *Melissa Stouffer* 8:00-8:50 | What Do You Mean You Want My Data? Aptitude Testing and Differentiation in the Music Room *Jeff Ogden* 8:00-8:50 | | | | | |
| 9:00 AM | From Poetry to Praise: Teaching words to dance *Victor Johnson* 9:00-9:50 | Sequins & Strategy: Inside the mind of state champion show choir directors *Shawna Holland and Ryan Walter* 9:00-9:50 | | | | Inspiring Youth in the Art of Music Making and Mariachi Culture *Isahar Mendez* 9:00-9:50 | Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Music Classroom *Sarah Off* 9:00-9:50 | What Can My Students Hear? Developing Aural Skills and Tuning Independence in Orchestra *Michael Hopkins* 9:00-9:50 | CBA Marching Meeting *WL Whaley/Rick Shaw* 9:00-9:50 | Stop Spinning Your Wheels... Start Using Circle to Build Community *Amy Abbott* 9:00-9:50 | Where's The Hip In Your Hop? *Roy Bailey* 9:00-9:50 | Listen, Learn, & Play: Using recorded music to reinforce music concepts *Michael Chandler 9:00-9:50* | RESEARCH #1 *Krissie Weimer* Presiding 9:00-10:30 | Janitell Junior High Jazz Cats *Alfredo Junior Molina-Nogal* 9:00-9:30 | | Exhibits Open 9:00am-5:00pm | |
| 10:00 AM | Learning the Language of Jazz Jennifer Barnes 10:00-10:50 | Does It Take a Superhero to Teach Middle School Choir? (Spoiler: No cape required—but it helps!) *Margie Camp* 10:00-10:50 | Palisade High School Aria *Matt Doty* 10:00-10:25 | | Fountain Middle School Symphonic Winds *Nicolas Darpino* 10:00-10:30 | Music in the City!: An Overview of CU Denver's Music & Entertainment Industry Studies Program *Kassandra Lopez 10:00-10:50* | Recording for the 21st Century Classroom *Craig Edgar* 10:00-10:50 | | | PROCESS MATTERS - Using Rhymes with your Students *Thom Borden* 10:00-10:50 | Alfred Bloom: Children's Choir Music to Grow On *Andy Beck* 10:00-10:50 | Turn the Beat Around from Body Percussion to Orff instruments and Drums *Dena Byers* 10:00-10:50 | | CO ASTA New Orchestra Music Session 1 *Chris Bernotas* 10:15-11:00 | Survive, Stabilize, Thrive: Going beyond making ends meet *Thomas Chen* 10:00-10:50 | | |
| 10:30 AM | | | Denver School of the Arts High School Chorale (SATB) *Ryan Garrison* 10:30-10:55 | | | | | Upbeat! The Power Within *Matthew Arau* 10:30-11:20 | | | | | CO Music Educators Roundtable *Martina Miranda* Presiding 10:30-11:00 | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | Low Voices, High Results: Tips for growth, tone, and teamwork in TB choirs *Victor Johnson* 11:00-11:50 | Fully Independent Rehearsal a Few Weeks Into The School Year *Ian Henning* 11:00-11:50 | Fox Ridge MS Select Choir *Shannon Schell* 11:00-11:25 | | | The Immense Hidden Value of a Music Degree University of Denver Lamont School *Brian Pertl* 11:00-11:50 | | | Defunded. Not Defeated. *Kabin Thomas* 11:00-11:50 | Harnessing the Wiggles with the Littles; Rocky Mountain Orff presents *Kris Olson* 11:00-11:50 | Keep the Song Alive: Building a singing community in the upper Grades *Tanya Lejeune* 11:00-11:50 | Diverse Children's Literature for Your Music Classroom *Jennifer McIntyre* 11:00-11:50 | | CO ASTA New Orchestra Music Session 2 *Chris Bernotas* 11:15-12:00 | | | |
| 11:30 AM | | | Erie MS Tiger Lilly Treble *Abby Martinez* 11:30-11:55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | Building a Choral Curriculum-How to Make Your Students Excel! *Meaghan Quigley* 12:00-12:50 | HS Treble Reading Session *Kaia Monson and Nicole Ceciliani* 12:00-12:50 | | | Fountain Ft Carson Wind Ensemble *Josh Race* 12:00-12:45 | | Retired Luncheon *Kirk Vogel*, Chair 12:00-1:30 | Preparing for Your Year One Orchestra Concert *Michelle Ewer* 12:00-12:50 | | A Little More Drumming, Please! *Tony Hartman* 12:00-12:50 | | Music and Children's Books: A harmonious duet *Jennifer McIntyre* 12:00-12:50 | CNAfME Session: Maintaining healthy relationships with performance *MB Krueger* 12:00-12:50 | | The Art of 2-Part: Choral rep for any age *Andy Beck* 12:00-12:50 | |
| 12:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | **VMC Visit Exhibits** 1:00-2:00 | | | | | Solving Drum Set Problems In The Classroom - Q&A With Berklee Professor *Henrique De Almeida* 1:00-1:50 | | Keyboard Percussion Fundamentals for the Music Educator *Shilo Stroman* 1:00-1:50 | Edge of Your Seat Rehearsals: Engage all students always *Matthew Arau* 1:00-1:50 | Orff Schulwerk and Body Percussion; Rocky Mountain Orff presents: *Kris Olson* 1:00-1:50 | Teller Elementary, Tiger Voices *Jennifer Bartos* 1:00-1:30 | Avoiding the Worst Compliment: "That was cute!" *Joshua Brink* 1:00-1:50 | Visible, Valued, and Heard: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students Through Music *Derek Hebert* 1:00-1:50 | Montrose High School Advanced Jazz Ensemble *Sheridan Loyd* 1:00-1:45 | Less effort, more energy - Learning and maintaining effortless-ness in violin playing *Sarah Off* 1:00-1:50 | |
| 1:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | Growing Musicians: Teaching music in middle school and beyond *Bridget Sweet* 2:00-2:50 | | Voces de México: Building cultural understanding through authentic programming *Jill Burgett* 2:00-2:50 | | Denver School of the Arts Advanced String Ensemble *Enrique Lasansky* 2:00-2:45 | Save More Time and Make More Music With CutTime! *Rick Ghinelli* 2:00-2:50 | Empower, Engage, Innovate: The future is student-led *Kyle Liss* 2:00-2:50 | Inspirational Movement for Ensemble Directors: A conducting refresh *Matthew Roeder* 2:00-2:50 | Rockin' the Clarinet *Beth Fabrizio* 2:00-2:50 | **GMC Visits Exhibits** | | | The Empty Classroom *Michelle Meyer* 2:00-2:50 | | Successful Student Teacher/Mentor Teacher Experiences *Krissie Weimer* 2:00-2:50 | | |
| 2:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | "T&T": Texts and tunes to "ignite" your middle school choir *Victor Johnson* 3:00-3:50 | Less Is More: Economizing your conducting gesture *Brian Murray* 3:00-3:50 | | | | What's New at QuaverMusic? *Graham Hepburn* 3:00-3:50 | Audio Gear 101: Cables, microphones, speakers, and more *Justin Hubbard* 3:00-3:50 | | More Than Music: Crafting Connection, Culture, and Character *Phuong Nguyen and Peter Toews* 3:00-3:50 | PROCESS MATTERS - Using Movement with Your Students *Thom Borden* 3:00-3:50 | Orff the Charts: Engaging lessons for the upper music classroom *Mackenzie Sutphin and Max Waters* 3:00-3:50 | Purposeful Play Through Small-Group Games & Centers *Danielle Bayert* 3:00-3:50 | Come and Learn Field Repair and Inventory Management! *Golden Music Staff* 3:00-3:30 | University of Colorado Boulder Jazz Band *Paul Romaine* 3:00-3:45 | Using AI to Boost Teacher Productivity & Effectiveness in the Music Classroom *Martin Gilmore and Stacey Gilmore* 3:00-3:50 | | |
| 3:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | From Process to Product: An Orff and Choral Breakdown *Dena Byers* 4:00-4:50 | | Colorado State University Concert Choir *Nathan Payant* 4:00-4:45pm | | University of Denver Lamont School of Music Symphony Orchestra *Bryant Denmark and KeYuan Hsin* 4:00-4:45 | | Mic and Mix Tips for Jazz and Modern Band *Alex Entin* 4:00-4:50 | | Soundings: Developing Beautiful Tone (pertains to All areas) *Ray Cramer* 4:00-4:50 | | Thunder Vista P8, Thunder Struck Percussion Ensemble *Mackenzie Sutphin* 4:00-4:30 | | | | How Retired Do You Want to Be? *Michelle Ewer* 4:00-4:50 | | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | University Receptions - Various Rooms - Check CMEA App Schedule 5:30-6:45pm | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Salsa Night IC SOUTH (ticket required) 7:00-9:30pm | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# CMEA Sessions - Friday

**Registration Open**
***William Kohut***
**7:30AM-3:30PM Broadmoor Hall A Lobby**

**ASBDA Meeting**
***Kevin Larson***
**8:00-8:45AM Broadmoor Hall F**

**All-State Band Steering Committee Meeting**
***Casey Cropp***
**8:00-8:45AM Main - Theatre**

**Thriving on Spreadsheets and Good Ideas: Tools for a successful choir program**
***Bethany Meyer***
**8:00-8:50AM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

The Falcon High School Choir program is slated to exceed 300 seats filled this year. The program has also grown from one to two full-time vocal music teachers. Managing a program of this size demands organization, clear communication, and lots of spreadsheets! Following las year's session on recruitment and retention, this session will focus on methods and tips for organizing auditions, tracking program growth, budgets, and more. There will be time set aside for questions and conversation throughout the presentation. Although these tools were developed to promote a stable vocal music program, teachers from any secondary music program should be able to walk away with a few tips & tricks to help build and manage their programs!

Customizable spreadsheets and documents will be available by request after completion of the session.

**Come and Join in Our Shadow Play**
***George Halley***
**8:00-8:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**

Come and learn about using a shadow screen in your classroom. This session will include a blueprint for how to construct a kid friendly, portable shadow screen as well as strategies for using one in the general music classroom. We will also be exploring the performance opportunity through storytelling, music making and shadows creation with the book "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Mole."

**ROCKE Presents: Pass IT-Favorite Passing Games**
***Melissa Stouffer***
**8:00-8:50PM Colorado Hall D/E**

Get ready to play! In this session, we will play some student favorite passing games with easy, inexpensive materials. Using sticks, stones, and other inexpensive tools, we'll play games, identify where these can fit into your curriculum, and send you back with music you can use next week.

Attendees will learn games that can be played immediately without a costly investment. Attendees will learn what games cover conceptually within grade-level parameters. Attendees will learn how to teach passing games for the first Time.

**Love, Understanding, Positivity: Tenets for building a choral program**
***Eric Posada***
**8:00-8:50AM West - Divide Room**

A successful choral program fosters an energized, inclusive, and safe culture that merges the director's vision, core values, and style with the synergy and realities of the students served. To achieve this, one must rely upon five tenets to create, build, and innovate the choral program and support, motivate, and welcome all students. Dr. Posada will share diverse and relatable strategies for educators of all levels. Topics addressed include articulating a clear philosophy; building upon core values; creating innovative themed rehearsals; participating in meaningful bonding activities; learning each learner; selecting engaging, artistic repertoire; inviting trust and empathy, and maximizing potential.

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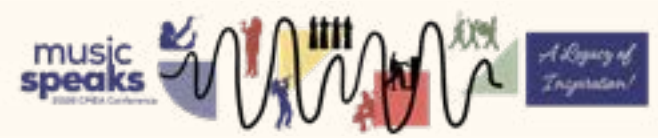

**Winning Warm-Ups! (For Choirs of Any Age)**
***Andy Beck***
**8:00-8:50AM West - Louis Stratta Room**

Make the most of those crucial first moments—the warm-ups! Join clinician Andy Beck as he presents innovative and engaging ideas for the opening of your rehearsal. Includes effective warm-ups for breathing, posture, vowels, tone quality, diction, expression, ear-training, intonation, and more, plus rounds, silly songs, and choir games—all designed to bring out the very best in any level choral ensemble, from beginners to advanced.

**Beyond the Warm-up: Maximizing fundamental growth in a wind band rehearsal**
***Jayme Taylor***
**8:00-8:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**

Bands often begin rehearsal with group warm-up exercises, from long tones to scales to baroque chorales. While warming is important, time can be wasted. This session provides insights and strategies for focused wind band warm-ups that physically prepare students for rehearsal and lay the foundations for developing individual tone, ensemble blend, and balance. Through a combination of recorded demonstrations, ideas for in-the-moment tools, and a survey of published materials, the session explores goal-oriented processes for strengthening several fundamentals that a band may seek to improve, as well as timelines for different-length rehearsals.

**Research Session #1**
***Krissie Weimer, chair Martina Miranda, Madison Joy, Carla Aguilar, Margaret Berg, and Linda Thornton***
**9:00-10:30AM Bartolin Hall - E213/214**

- Martina Miranda: Lasting Impacts of Covid-19 on General Music Teachers Who Experienced the Pandemic During Their Degree Program.
- Madison Joy: From Coursework to Classroom: The Relationship Between Undergraduate Teacher Training and Multicultural Music Education Practices in Colorado
- Carla Aguilar, Margaret Berg, Linda Thornton, Krissie Weimer: Upgrading with Ungrading: Four Stories in Music Teacher Education

**Janitell Junior High School, Jazz Cats**
***Alfredo Junior Molina-Nogal***
**9:00-9:30AM International Center North**

Concert

**Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Music Classroom**
***Sarah Off***
**9:00-9:50AM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

Generative artificial intelligence has had an immediate and palpable impact on many industries in our society, including music education. Many are asking how AI may benefit students and teachers in the classroom while others are concerned by the potential downsides of such a powerful tool. How will AI impact our artistic perspectives and the very parameters and paradigms that are foundational in music? How do we deal with generative AI and its potential impact on academic integrity, intellectual property law and ethics within education? This session will examine some of the exciting potentials and primary concerns of AI in music education and will provide information, resources and dialogue to help educators and students navigate generative AI.

**What Can My Students Hear? Developing Aural Skills and Tuning Independence in Orchestra**
***Michael Hopkins***
**9:00-9:50AM Broadmoor Hall F**

The teacher needs to tune the student's instrument on the first day of instruction. Eventually, all the students in the orchestra must be able to tune their instruments independently, without any assistance from the teacher. How do we get from Point A to Point B? This session describes the process of helping

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# CMEA Sessions - Friday

students' develop tuning independence and offers strategies teachers can use to teach tuning and develop aural skills. I will offer answers to common questions by providing an overview of my research findings on approaches to teaching tuning and aural skills development.

**Stop Spinning Your Wheels... Start Using Circle to Build Community**
***Amy Abbott***
**9:00-9:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**

Fostering a collaborative and positive classroom environment is at the heart of effective music teaching—but it's not always easy, whether you're a seasoned educator or just beginning your journey. This interactive session explores how the simple act of gathering in a circle can create a safe, inclusive space where students feel empowered to take creative risks and connect through music. Participants will learn engaging techniques for teaching rounds, songs, and musical games within a circle formation. The presenter will share practical strategies and a clear, effective sequence for getting students up, moving, and participating with confidence. Come discover how circles can transform your music room into a vibrant community of learning and joy!

**Listen, Learn, & Play: Using recorded music to reinforce music concepts**
***Michael Chandler***
**9:00-9:50AM Colorado Hall C**

A wealth of engaging and diverse popular music exists that can provide opportunities for students.

**Where's the Hip In You Hop?**
***Roy Bailey***
**9:00-9:50AM Colorado Hall D/E**

This session uses the rhythmic foundations and poetic power of Hip Hop to help participants explore personal identity, build confidence, and develop expressive delivery/flow through the art of rap. Grounded in culturally responsive pedagogy, this session invites participants into the creative process of MCing/Rap-lyrical storytelling, and DJing too!
Through structured movement, rhythm exercises, and rhyme challenges, participants actively learn internal rhyme, flow patterns, and freestyle techniques in a supportive and playful environment. The session is less about perfection and more about authentic self-expression: channeling the improvisational spirit of the cypher and the rich poetic lineage of HIP HOP.

**From Poetry to Praise: Teaching words to dance**
***Victor Johnson***
**9:00-9:50AM West - Divide Room**

Great choral music starts with great text. In this session, participants will explore how to craft and set words effectively for both sacred anthems and school publications. From understanding the natural rhythm and phrasing of poetry to aligning text with musical expression, you'll gain practical strategies for making words sing and resonate with your choir. Learn how to preserve meaning, enhance clarity, and create settings that inspire both performers and audiences.

**Sequins & Strategy: Inside the mind of state champion show choir directors**
***Shawna Holland and Ryan Walter***
**9:00-9:50AM West - Louis Stratta Room**

Ready to take your show choir to the next level – or start one from scratch? In this dynamic session, two state champion show choir directors share the exact systems, strategies, and lessons they've learned building award-winning programs. Whether you're a seasoned choral educator looking to add competitive edge, or you're just beginning to envision a show choir at your school, you'll walk away with practical tools for structuring rehearsals, choosing and sourcing music, creating a team culture, working with choreographers or teaching simple choreography, managing travel and costumes, and navigating the real-world logistics of running a successful

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show choir. This session is designed to inspire and equip directors at all stages – because with the right vision and framework, your program can be built to win.

**Inspiring Youth in the Art if Music Making and Mariachi Culture**
***Isahar Mendez***
**9:00-9:50AM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

The Colorado Youth Mariachi Program (CYMP) empowers Denver-area youth through culturally rooted mariachi education–preserving tradition while cultivating discipline, confidence, and artistic excellence. This session will feature a live student mariachi performance and an engaging presentation on CYMP's impact on students, schools, and community identity.
Learn how this grassroots program has grown into a vital platform for cultural expression and youth development, and how mariachi can be a powerful tool for equity and engagement in music education. Participants will leave inspired by real student stories and equipped with ideas to expand culturally responsive music programs in their own communities. Join us as we celebrate the music, the mission, and the movement toward equitable access to mariachi education in Colorado and beyond.

**CBA Marching Band Meeting**
***WL Whaley and Rick Shaw***
**9:00-9:50AM**
**Main - Theatre**

**Exhibits Open**
***Richard Shaw, Chair***
**9:00AM-5:00PM**
**Bartolin Hall Exhibits**

**Palisade High School, Aria**
***Matthew J. Doty***
Concert
**10:00-10:25AM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Fountain Middle School, Symphonic Winds**
***Nicholas Darpino***
Concert
**10:00-10:30AM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

**Survive, Stabilize, Thrive: Going beyond making ends meet**
***Thomas Chen***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**Bartolin Hall E 207-209**

Not only do music teachers face the everyday challenge of educating students, but they also face the never-ending tasks of making ends meet. This session is aimed at helping and empowering music teachers to go beyond surviving paycheck to paycheck. It provides ideas for building a simple, but solid, foundation of how to stabilize finances and how to thrive to make our lives more fulfilling. Come learn ways to improve your financial, and entire, life as a music educator.

**Recording for the 21st Century Classroom**
***Craig Edgar***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

We know the value of recording as a rehearsal tool, but often get stuck on the 'why' and 'how' to do it. In this session, Sweetwater's Craig Edgar will demystify the process of recording in the classroom, and demonstrate how recording can be used as a tool to help flip your classroom in an authentic way, boost student ownership and engage your parent and administrator community.

**PROCESS MATTERS - Using Rhymes with your Students**
***Thom Borden***
**10:00-10:50AM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

This session will focus on the sequenced process to teaching pieces from the Music for Children VOL 2. Language, rhythm and body percussion all prepare for a successful transition to playing and improvising with these "gems."

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# CMEA Sessions - Friday

**Turn the Beat Around from Body Percussion to Orff instruments and Drums**
***Dena Byers***
**10:00-10:50AM Colorado Hall C**

Participants will explore the developmental process of coordination, pulse, and rhythm through the transfer of speech to body percussion, Orff instruments, drums, recorders and unpitched percussion instruments.

**Bloom: Children's choir music to grow on**
***Andy Beck***
**10:00-10:50AM Colorado Hall D/E**

Sow the seeds of musicianship with the stepping stones found in well-crafted 2-part choral repertoire. In this session, we'll explore a range of strategies to nurture blossoming voices and inspire artistic growth. Clinician Andy Beck will offer a bouquet of possibilities to help children's choirs flourish! A complimentary music packet will be given to each director in attendance.

**Does It Take a Superhero to Teach Middle School Choir? (Spoiler: No cape required—but it helps!)**
***Margie Camp***
**10:00-10:50AM West - Louis Stratta Room**

Teaching middle school choir can feel like dodging vocal curve-balls, redirecting off-task behavior with Jedi mind tricks, and inspiring musical growth—all before lunch. This lively session embraces the reality of the middle school choir room and equips directors with a utility belt full of strategies to survive and thrive. Through humor, storytelling, and research-backed practices, participants will walk away with tools for managing behaviors, engaging developing singers, and preserving their own well-being.

**Learning the Language of Jazz**
***Jennifer Barnes***
**10:00-10:50AM West - Divide Room**

For many educators, traditional classical music feels like a "native language," and the idea of learning a new one can be daunting. This session will spark new ways of thinking and offer practical tools to help both teachers and their students build their "jazz vocabulary". Topics will include incorporating listening into rehearsals, choosing repertoire that supports language development, and rehearsal techniques.

**Music in the City!: An overview of CU Denver's Music & Entertainment Industry Studies Program**
***Kassandra Lopez***
**10:00-10:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**

**CASTA New Music Reading Session #1**
***Chris Bernotas***
**10:15-11:00AM International Center North**

**Denver School of the Arts, High School Chorale**
***Ryan Garrison, director***
Concert
**10:30-10:55AM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Colorado Music Educators Roundtable**
***Martina Miranda, moderator***
**10:30-11:00AM Bartolin Hall - E 213/214**

Be part of the discussion about issues that are pertinent to Colorado music educators.

**Upbeat! The Power Within**
***Matthew Arau***
**10:30-11:20 AM Broadmoor Hall F**

We often look outside of ourselves for the solutions and answers to the challenges we face. Dr. Matthew Arau reminds us that despite the hurdles, we can make a significant difference by tapping into the power within ourselves and our students. Through choosing our personal upbeat and being intentional with how we teach and lead, we can create a positive, inclusive culture by design and elevate the level of learning, performance, joy, belonging, empowerment, motivation, recruitment, and retention.

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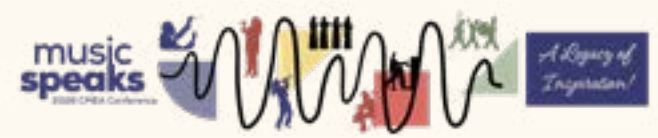


**Fox Ridge Middle School, Select Choir** — **11:00-11:25AM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**
***Shannon Schell, director***
Concert

**Rocky Mountain Orff Presents: Kris Olson; Harnessing the Wiggles with the Littles** — **11:00-11:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**
***Kris Olson***
Conceptual musical knowledge begins with the body. As tempting as it is to quickly move to visual/decoding, we must remember to give plenty of time to process the aural/physical understanding to build musicality and artistry. Participants will experience activities designed for pre-school through primary aged classes.

**Diverse Children's Literature for Your Music Classroom** — **11:00-11:50AM Colorado Hall C**
***Jennifer McIntyre***
Are you looking to include more diversity in your elementary music program? Come learn about books that feature musicians from various countries, diverse races and ethnicities, and include plenty of women. Attendees will receive an annotated bibliography of books shared in the session.

**Keep the Song Alive: Building a singing community in the upper grades** — **11:00-11:50AM Colorado Hall D/E**
***Tanya LeJeune***
What inspires 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to keep singing throughout the final months of the school year? In this session, we'll explore engaging, classroom-tested strategies that support continued vocal development and build a strong singing culture in the upper elementary grades. Teachers will leave with a toolkit of energizing games, solo and group singing activities, and motivational techniques that foster confident, connected student musicians. Come ready to sing, play, and re-ignite your older students' love of music!

**Fully Independent Rehearsal Just a Few Weeks Into The School Year** — **11:00-11:50AM West - Divide Room**
***Ian Henning***
What if your beginner students could run a successful high-level rehearsal from start to finish without any help from you? If you could snap your fingers and make that a reality, would you? If you could put just a few weeks of class time into building the skills that would allow them to do this for the rest of their lives, would you? Come learn the process: how to create the opportunity, scaffold the skills, let them fly, and debrief afterwards. This session will cover tools and strategies to give your students for when they get stuck, common pitfalls to help them avoid, and teaching strategies that encourage independent problem-solving. These concepts will be discussed through the lens of a 6-12 choir classroom, but are applicable to other age levels and instrumental ensembles.

**Low Voices, High Results: Tips for growth, tone, and teamwork in TB choirs** — **11:00-11:50AM West - Divide Room**
***Victor Johnson***
Working with Tenor-Bass choirs presents unique challenges and rewarding opportunities. This session offers practical strategies to help directors develop tone, technique, and ensemble cohesion within low-voice sections. Participants will explore effective warm-ups, rehearsal techniques, and repertoire choices specifically designed to engage and inspire TB singers. Emphasis will be placed on building confidence, fostering teamwork, and achieving a rich, balanced sound, even with developing or changing voices.

**University of Denver Lamont School of Music The Immense Hidden Value of a Music Degree** — **11:00-11:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**
***Brian Pertl***
Join Brian Pertl, recently named Director of the Lamont School of Music, for

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# CMEA Sessions - Friday

discussion of the value of a college music education in today's world and how music educators can engage students as they consider continuing their music study beyond high school.

**Defunded. Not Defeated**
***Kabin Thomas***
**11:00-11:50AM**
**Main - Theatre**

In a 50-minute session, CPR Classical's morning host/producer examines why public media—especially Colorado Public Radio—remains essential for culture, connection, and truth. We'll show how classical radio is adapting amid streaming and distraction while staying mission-focused on service to every listener. For Colorado music teachers, we'll explore how radio can support your work: using broadcast stories and performances to build listening skills and cultural literacy; framing music as resilience, healing, and shared memory; and connecting students to real-world careers. We'll outline pathways for interested students—broadcasting, storytelling, and audio production—with suggested preparatory studies (music history, communications, journalism, performance). We'll also discuss practical ways classrooms and ensembles can engage with public media and why community partnership sustains the arts on the air. At its heart, this session argues that public media survives through public support—and that music educators are crucial voices in keeping the arts audible for all.

**CASTA New Music Reading Session #2**
***Chris Bernotas***
**11:15AM-12:00PM**
**International Center North**

**Erie Middle School, Tiger Lily Treble Choir**
***Abby Martinez, director***
Concert
**11:30-11:55AM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Retired Member Luncheon (pre-registration required)**
***Kirk Vogel, host***
**12:00-1:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

**Fountain-Fort Carson High School, Wind Ensemble**
***Joshua Race, director***
Concert
**12:00-12:45PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

**Preparing for Your Year One Orchestra Concert**
***Michelle Ewer***
**12:00-12:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**

Performance Time is coming, and you want to ensure your concert selections will be accessible for all of your string students. Discover flexible exercises and arrangements to reach everyone on your concert stage, from absolute beginners to your advanced private lesson students. Learn how to break down simple folk songs to ensure success at all levels. Most importantly, walk away with ideas that you can take to your classroom tomorrow.

**A Little More Drumming, Please!**
***Tony Hartman***
**12:00-12:50PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

Tony Hartman is a musician, educator, and composer based in Middle Tennessee. As an educator, Tony has been recognized as a CMA Music Educator of Excellence, and is a two-time Teacher of the Year for Murfreesboro City Schools. He teaches K-6 general music, beginning band, jazz band, and is also director of Steel de Boro: a 4-6th grade steel pan program. He is an Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Middle Tennessee State University. He has presented sessions at the Tennessee and Iowa Music Education Conferences, Tennessee Arts Academy, the Colorado Kodály Institute, Sierra Nevada Association of Kodály Educators (SNAKE) and the Middle Tennessee Association of Kodály Educators (MTAKE).

As a composer, Tony has compositions published through Row-Loff Productions, the premier publisher of percussion literature.

Tony continues to compose for his students, creating catchy cross-curricular content to tie in social studies and science content for learners.

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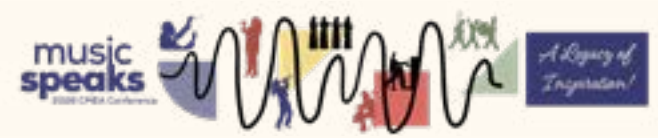


**Music and Children's Books: A harmonious duet**
***Jennifer McIntyre***
**12:00-12:50PM Colorado Hall C**

Are you looking for some great new books to support your music curriculum? Come discover books that focus on musicians, music genres, rhythm, and more. Attendees will receive a list of books discussed in this session.

**Building a Choral Curriculum-How to Make Your Students Excel!**
***Meaghan Quigley***
**12:00-12:50PM West - Divide Room**

How do we as choral directors ensure that we are meeting all of the Colorado State Music Standards AND produce excellent performances? This session will help new and experienced teachers build a unique choral curriculum that suits the needs of all of their ensembles and students individually and as a performing group regardless of level or ability. This session will primarily discuss: sight reading and how to differentiate and teach reading skills for students of differing levels, musicianship and how to teach and build aural skills, how to address every one of the "Big 4" CO state music standards every week, scheduling of lessons and curriculum within differing school structures to guide you in utilizing your unique approach in building a program to create and maintain excellence. Many resources will be provided.

**HS Treble Choir Reading Session**
***Nicole Ceciliani and Kaia Monson***
**12:00-12:50PM West - Louis Stratta**

**The Art of 2-Part: Choral rep for any age**
***Andy Beck***
**12:00-12:50PM West - Louis Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

Dive into a carefully curated selection of 2-part pieces that transcend age or grade level. Whether you're nurturing beginners or refining seasoned singers, the repertoire in this reading session will ignite your choir's passion for singing and elevate their skills. Find fresh, exciting 2-part music that resonates with any age group! A complimentary music packet will be given to each director in attendance.

**CNAfME Session: Maintaining healthy relationships with performance**
***MB Krueger***
**12:00-12:50PM Bartolin Hall - E 213/214**

As college students, we are required to perform solo juries and participate as ensemble members in concerts throughout our degree. How can we continue the momentum of being passionate about performing even as we transition to becoming teachers, so that our students can see our love for performance being reflected? Join the CNAfME chapter and Professor MB Krueger of MSU Denver for a discussion about what it means to be a performer and teacher, and how we can be performance role models for our students.

**Teller Elementary, Tiger Voices**
***Jennifer Bartos***
**1:00-1:30PM Colorado Hall D/E**

Concert

**Montrose High School, Advanced Jazz Ensemble**
***Sheridan Loyd***
**1:00-1:45PM International Center North**

Concert

**Less Effort, More Energy - Learning and maintaining effortlessness in violin playing**
***Sarah Off***
**1:00-1:50PM Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

Drawing from traditional violin pedagogies, Kenny Werner's "Effortless Mastery", meditation techniques and personal experience, Dr. Off will guide attendees through performance approaches and practice techniques that can help violinists utilize natural energies, body weight, release and breath instead of force and tension in their playing. This session will explore the concepts of effortless playing and a meditative and fearless approach to

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music making. Attendees will be given exercises to continue this exploration in their own practice and to help their students develop a foundation of effortless playing.

**Visible, Valued, and Heard: Supporting LGBTQ+ students through music**
**1:00-1:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall E- 213/213**
***Derek Hebert***

Music classrooms should be places where every student feels seen, valued, and safe. This session will explore how music educators can better support LGBTQ+ students through intentional representation, language, and inclusive practices. After a brief presentation outlining key strategies and challenges, a panel of LGBTQ+ musicians and educators will share personal stories about how identity shaped their experiences in music education. Attendees will engage in an open Q&A to gain practical, actionable ideas to create more welcoming classrooms. Participants will leave with tools they can immediately apply to foster environments where students can thrive authentically.

**Keyboard Percussion Fundamentals for the Music Educator**
**1:00-1:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**
***Shilo Stroman***

Learn the fundamentals of keyboard percussion instruments (bells, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba) including: equipment purchase, mallet choice, playing position, sound production, typical issues and how to fix them.

**The Rocky Mountain Orff Chapter Presents: Kris Olson; Orff Schulwerk and Body Percussion**
**1:00-1:50PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**
***Kris Olson***

Using the elegant scaffolding characteristic of the Orff process, participants will learn a rhythmic piece for body percussion. We'll discover ways to utilize compositional tools to challenge musicianship, bringing awareness to musical concepts, extend form, and create a performance piece. Geared toward upper elementary.

**Avoiding the Worst Compliment: "That was cute!"**
**1:00-1:50PM**
**Colorado Hall C**
***Joshua Brink***

While generally a well-meaning sentiment, hearing that a performance was "cute" often cuts deep. What we want audiences to applaud is how great our student musicians are, because little kids can do big things, too! Whether 5th grade, kindergarten, or anything in between, students can be marvelous musicians, & that is what we want to showcase.

Concert design & planning play an integral role in how audiences perceive students as musicians. During this session, participants will better understand the steps to plan a well-designed concert program that'll shine a spotlight on their student musicians. Along with concert design, participants will better understand the steps to take to execute their plans on concert day, leaving audiences with a meaningful memory of their student performer. Let's get audiences shouting that your concert was amazing, not cute! (okay...maybe a little cute, too!)

**Edge of Your Seat Rehearsals! Engage All Students Always**
**1:00-1:50PM**
**Main - Theatre**
***Matthew Arau***

Discover rehearsal strategies that will actively engage, energize, and elevate the level of performance of every student, leading to successful recruitment, retention, and personal fulfillment. Edge of Your Seat rehearsals are fun, exciting, and filled with growth and inspiration. Students are empowered to contribute, collaborate, and lead. Be prepared to add to your rehearsal techniques toolbox, find meaning and purpose in your repertoire, welcome more students into your music program, and reimagine how music can be taught. Get ready to implement many of these ideas at your next rehearsal.

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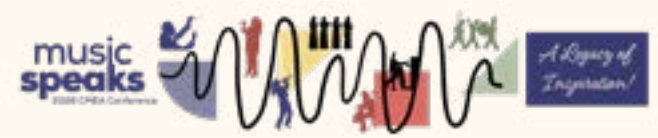


### Solving Drum Set Problems In The Classroom - Q&A With Berklee Professor

**1:00-1:50PM Broadmoor Hall C**

***Henrique De Almeida***

Henrique will discuss topics related to proper drum set setup, tuning suggestions, gear choices, and techniques to produce a good sound on the instrument. He will also leave time for you to get answers to your questions.

### Denver School of the Arts, Advanced String Orchestra

**2:00-2:45PM Broadmoor Hall B**

***Enrique Lasansky, director***

Concert

### Successful Student Teacher/Mentor Teacher Experiences

**2:00-2:50PM Bartolin Hall - W 207-209**

***Krissie Weimer***

Student teaching is a capstone experience often considered one of the most valuable parts of preservice teacher preparation. The purpose of this panel discussion is to share strategies and ideas that promote a positive and successful student teaching experience for both student teachers and mentor teachers. The panel will be facilitated by a university supervisor and include three mentor teachers representing elementary, middle, and high school, and three of their former student teachers. Panelists will share ideas, tips, and strategies on maximizing the overall experience from pairing to completion, including what they have learned about preparing for the experience, communication expectations, collaborating and building relationships, being active and committed, giving and receiving feedback, and other topics. Participants will be invited to ask questions and engage in discussion.

### The Empty Classroom

**2:00-2:50PM Bartolin Hall - E 213/214**

***Michelle Meyer***

The Empty Classroom is about highlighting area programs in need for whatever reason and reimagining how we search for our first job, place our music majors, and find a teacher for every student. This session was first presented at KMEA in 2024, with 87.5% of those positions filled before the start of the next school year. We invite music majors and their professors to take a closer look to identify potential needs in their area and explore ways they can contribute. Teachers from the school districts mentioned will be invited to speak briefly and/or be available to answer questions about their opening directly.

So, whether you're looking for your first job, seeking a change, or want to explore what you can do to help, please attend so that you can see this in a new light. Instead of an empty classroom, let's fill them up!

### Empower, Engage, Innovate: The future is student-led

**2:00-2:50PM Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Kyle Liss***

Student learning at the Innovation Center of St. Vrain Valley Schools transcends the traditional classroom and offers transformative learning opportunities. The student-led Symphonation Project Team has been guiding the creation of a new music pathway at the Innovation Center, while engaging in powerful projects that blur the lines between music, technology, science, and design. From biodata sonification, to music-driven chatbots that help the user understand their emotional state, to instructional opportunities for instrument repair and music production, the team is building a truly multidisciplinary vision for their pathway and work. Join us for this special panel session with the student designers from the Symphonation Team, where they'll share their unique experiences, groundbreaking ideas, and how you can be an innovative change-maker within your own music education role.

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# CMEA Sessions - Friday

**Inspirational Movement for Ensemble Directors: A conducting refresh**
***Matthew Roeder***
**2:00-2:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall F**

Providing inspirational and clear non-verbal communication is a priority for ensemble directors at any level. This interactive workshop session will offer an opportunity for attendees to participate in refreshing their gesture and movement skills while enhancing their effectiveness as musical leaders.

**Rockin' the Clarinet**
***Beth Fabrizio***
**2:00-2:450PM**
**Main - Theatre**

**Growing Musicians: Teaching music in middle school and beyond**
***Bridget Sweet***
**2:00-2:50PM**
**West - Divide Room**

This session will address many considerations of adolescent music students, including physical development, identity development, cognitive and brain development, emotional aspects, empathy, and humor. Adolescence will be approached as a glass-half-full time of life, during which music classes can make a powerful, meaningful, and lasting difference for middle and high school students.

**Voces de México: Building cultural understanding through authentic programming**
***Jill Burgett***
**2:00-2:50PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

This session is a collaboration between the University of Northern Colorado Chamber Choir and the UNC Latin Beats Latinx ensemble, and their conductors. Designed to offer practical suggestions for responsibly programming and presenting music representing the diverse musical heritage of Mexico, this session includes music that is rich, diverse, yet accessible. A historical context of these works will be discussed, with an overview of rehearsal and programming strategies. Musical examples adaptable for all ages will be provided by the Chamber Choir and Latin Beats Ensemble, along with valuable resources for expanded programming. The musical material will be organized in four categories:

1: "Lenguas indígenas de pueblos originarios"(Indigenous language of indigenous people)
2: Novohispanic Music
3: Mexico – Contemporary Composers
4: Mexican Folk Music

**Save More Time and Make More Music With CutTime!**
***Rick Ghinelli***
**2:00-2:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

Learn how CutTime's new software platform can help you tackle the growing administrative demands of your program. You can count on our more comprehensive and modernized app and tool set to collectively manage inventory, library, communication, financials, fundraising, and other tasks so you can spend more time teaching

**University of Colorado Boulder, Thompson Jazz Studies- Concert Jazz Ensemble**
***Paul Romaine***
**3:00-3:45PM**
**International Center North**

Concert

**Using AI to Boost Teacher Productivity & Effectiveness in the Music Classroom**
***Stacey Gilmore and Martin Gilmore***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

In today's educational landscape, teachers are being pulled in countless directions. Time is short, yet expectations for teachers continue to rise. This session will introduce music teachers to the power of artificial intelligence (AI) as a practical, creative co-teacher. This session explores practical ways music educators can use AI to streamline lesson planning, simplify concert prep, and generate engaging classroom

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materials. You'll also learn how to use AI tools to support differentiated instruction, enhance student practice, and spark creativity. Whether you're new to AI or ready to take your integration to the next level, you'll leave with time-saving strategies, inspiring project ideas, and ready-to-use resources tailored for the music classroo

### Come and Learn Field Repair and Inventory Management!

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall - # 213/214**

*Golden Music Staff*

Instrument repairs are a daily part of a director's life. Learn the things you can fix and when to send an instrument to the shop. Learn band repairs including trumpet valves, clarinet side keys, emergency tape repair, spotting and fixing bad pads, mouthpiece and ligature adjustment, identifying a bad trombone slide and making a tool box. Learn string repairs including string health & changing, ill fitting pegs, fine tuners & sound post setting, bridge positioning/ signs of warping, how to deal with buzzing and tailpiece, chin rest & bow issues. Also covered, managing your inventory. Whether you're brand new or have been teaching a while, everyone has a closet full of musical instruments that don't get touched or dealt with. These aren't good for anyone. Let's turn them into even one good instrument to help one student play for the rest of his life, isn't that worth it? We think it is!

### Audio Gear 101: Cables, microphones, speakers, and more

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

*Justin Hubbard*

Whether you have no experience with audio gear or just need a refresher, this session offers a survey of several core concepts needed for basic audio work. We will discuss different cables and their purposes, signal types, microphones and their best uses, types of speakers and their placement, sound boards/PA systems, and noise/ interference.

Whether you want to record your ensembles to improve rehearsal outcomes, improve your students' audition recordings, get better sound from your existing equipment, or start planning your first sound system, we hope you leave this session with enough basic concepts to get started.

### PROCESS MATTERS - Using Movement with your Students

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Colorado Hall A/B**

*Thom Borden*

This session will provide participants with the opportunity to participate in a few familiar and new folk dances from around the United States. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a partner and friends are always welcome.

### Purposeful Play Through Small-Group Games & Centers

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Colorado Hall C**

*Danielle Bayert*

Discover how small group games and center games can bring elementary general music to life! This session will explore fun, engaging activities that teach key music concepts—rhythm, melody, note names, and more—while also fostering essential social skills like cooperation, turn-taking, and respectful communication. Learn practical strategies for choosing groups, setup, classroom management, and organization. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas that make music class both educational and joyful through purposeful play.

### Orff the Charts: Engaging lessons for the upper music classroom

**3:00-3:50PM**
**Colorado Hall D/E**

*Mackenzie Sutphin and Max Waters*

Pop music, intentional technology use, and culturally responsive lesson planning - Competing for the attention of your upper elementary and early middle school students in 2026 can be a challenging but rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Come learn about arranging music for Orff instruments, harnessing the raw

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# CMEA Sessions - Friday

power of the Chromebook to enable students to produce their own music and arrangements, and learn new ways to create lessons that meet your students where they are at. Have fun diving into pop culture with your students while they have fun making music in your classroom.

**More Than Music: Crafting connection, culture, and character**
***Phuong Nguyen and Peter Toews***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**Main - Theatre**

What draws kids to their music programs—and what keeps them coming back? At the heart of a thriving music program are three key elements: connection, culture, and character. These are the foundations not only for recruiting new students but also for retaining them year after year.

In this session, we'll explore how meaningful relationships between teachers, students, schools, and communities create a positive and lasting environment for music education. We'll share practical routines and techniques that help establish a culture of excellence and inspiration—one that keeps students engaged and excited to return.

Ultimately, we are driven by two core passions: making music and helping students grow into responsible, compassionate, and capable members of society.

**"Ignite" your Middle School Choir (Middle School Tried and True Literature)**
***Victor Johnson***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**West - Divide Room**

Join Johnson for an "electrifying" reading session as we discover fresh, engaging choral works in a wide range of styles and voicings (SATB, Three-Part Mixed, SSA, Two-Part Treble, and TB) guaranteed to spark enthusiasm, inspire young singers, and bring new energy to your choral program.

**Less Is More: Economizing your conducting gesture**
***Brian Murray***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**West - Louis Stratta Room**

Economy-sized seats, cars, and luggage can often be exasperating, but a sense of minimalism in your conducting gesture can exhilarate your rehearsals and performances. Bigger conducting isn't always better; often less communicates more. Through that shift of priorities, we will explore conducting techniques that will empower you to communicate your musical ideas with subtlety and refinement, engendering a positive experience for your singers.

**What's New at QuaverMusic?**
***Graham Hepburn***
**3:00-3:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

Join us for an exciting session as we delve into the latest developments in QuaverMusic! In this session, we will unveil the newest features, upgrades, and enhancements to engage your learners in music class. This session provides insights, inspiration, and a glimpse into what's next in the world of QuaverMusic.

**Thunder Vista P8, Thunder Struck Percussion Ensemble**
***Mackenzie Sutphin***
**4:00-4:30PM**
**Colorado Hall D/E**

Concert

**University of Denver-Lamont School of Music, Symphony Orchestra**
***Bryant Denmark, Ke-Yuan Hsin and Lawrence Golan***
**4:00-4:45PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

Concert

**Colorado State University- Fort Collins, Concert Choir**
***Nathan Payant***
**4:00-4:45PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

Concert

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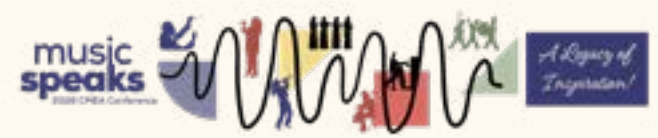


**Mic and Mix Tips for Jazz and Modern Band** — **4:00-4:50PM, Broadmoor Hall D/E**

***Ryan Unangst***

Your Ensemble sounds great, but does that translate through your sound system? What more can be done to invite the audience into every detail you painstakingly rehearsed as a group? With his experience as a technology specialist, Ryan Unangst will explore equipment choices and mixing techniques to ensure the best of every student is heard through your sound system!

**From Process to Product: An Orff and choral breakdown** — **4:00-4:50PM, West - Divide Room**

***Dena Byers***

Participants will explore the developmental process of coordination, pulse, and rhythm through the transfer of speech to body percussion, Orff instruments, drums, recorders and unpitched percussion instruments

**Soundings: Developing beautiful tone (pertains to all areas)** — **4:00-4:50PM, Main - Theatre**

***Ray Cramer***

Is there a day that passes in our professional lives where the word "TONE" is not spoken? Quite literally, the actual "tone" can be heard in every musical setting of winds, strings, voices, or percussion. Hopefully, this session can offer either a "reminder" or "renewal" of the always present striving to help produce tonal satisfaction.

**How Retired Do You Want to Be?** — **4:00-4:50PM, Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

**Michelle Ewer**

Are you currently retired or thinking about it in the near future? Do you have a plan for what retirement looks like for you? Come and discover ways to stay active and still be within PERA Rules. Gather ideas on volunteer positions as well as those that may pay. Learn the basic PERA regulations and how to avoid getting fined.

**University Receptions** — **5:30-6:45PM, Various Locations**

Rooms for each reception will be posted in the conference app.

**Out-of-State and In Good Company Reception** — **5:30-6:45PM**

For music educators attending our conference who did not graduate from a Colorado college or university, please join our Out-of-State & In Good Company

**Salsa Night** — **7:00-9:30PM, International Center South**

***La Orquesta Bailenque***

Registration for Salsa Nights were available on the conference registration page through January 3rd. The $30 cost for this event includes a buffet dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m., followed by music and dancing from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. If you would like to dance but don't know how—no problem! We have invited a professional dance instructor to teach us some basic Salsa dance steps at around 8:00 p.m. Whether you prefer an energizing evening of listening or an invigorating evening of dancing, we hope to see you there!

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# Saturday Day at a Glance Schedule

| Saturday January 31, 2026 | West - Divide Room | West - Louis Stratta Room | West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom | Broadmoor Hall A | Broadmoor Hall B | Broadmoor Hall C | Broadmoor Hall D/E | Broadmoor Hall F | Main - Theatre | Colorado Hall A/B | Colorado Hall D/E | Colorado Hall C | Bartolin Hall E-213/214 | International Center North | Bartolin Hall 207/208/209 | Bartolin Hall Exhibits | Broadmoor Hall A Lobby |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00 AM | | | | | | | State Assembly Meeting 7:00-7:45 | All-State Orchestra Board Meeting 7:00-7:45 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:45 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM | | | | | | All Thumbs? Exercises for Tackling the Left-Hand in the Classroom *Meredith Blecha-Wells and Jacqueline Skara* | | | Colorado Bandmasters Association Membership Meeting *Karen Gregg* 8:00-8:45 | | | | | | | | CMEA Conference Registration 8:00 - 10:00 am |
| 8:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 AM | Mixed & Mingle: A high school reading session *Andy Beck* 9:00-9:50 | Music Theatre for the Middles- Upper Elementary to Middle School Music Theatre *Krystal Myers* 9:00-9:50 | | | Rocky Heights Middle School Orchestra *Scott McGowen* 9:00-9:30 | Repair Tips and Tricks for the Instrumental Music Teacher *Angela Roehl* 9:00-9:50 | CNAfME President's Meeting *Ethan Barker and Elise Ehlert* 9:00-9:50 | A.I. is Coming, But Not For Your Job! *James Frankel* 9:00-9:50 | Inclusive Student Leadership, Lead From Any Chair *Matthew Arau* 9:00-9:50 | Meaningful Movement! The Movement Games of Dalcroze Eurhythmics *Jake Elam* 9:00-9:50 | | Creating Lifelong Musicians: Pedagogical practices for secondary general music *Carla Aguilar and Luke Wachter* 9:00-9:50 | RESEARCH #2 *Krissie Weimer* Presiding 9:00-10:30 | Colorado Mesa University Jazz Band *Sean Flanigan* 9:00-9:45 | Teacher Attrition and Strategies for Maintaining or Reigniting Passion for the Profession *Tim Cox* 9:00-9:50 | Exhibits Open 9:00am-12:30pm | |
| 9:30 AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | A Critical Hit: Innovative and collaborative concerts for all *Caroline Aylward* 10:00-10:50 | Keep on Keeping On: Tips for maintaining energy and drive throughout your ministry career *Victor Johnson* 10:00-10:50 | | | | What the Tech? Lessons Learned from 20 Years of Implementing Technology *Matt Ferry* 10:00-10:50 | CNAfME Membership Meeting *Ethan Barker and Elise Ehlert* 10:00-10:50 | Demystifying Latin Jazz: A practical guide to teaching Latin Jazz *Alejandro Castano and Victor Mestas* 10:00-10:50 | Untangling the Metal Spaghetti: Debunking common horn myths and mysteries *Nicholas Gledhill* 10:00-10:50 | Move, Groove, and Create *Tony Hartman* 10:00-10:50 | Johnson Elementary School, Husky Choir *Breanne Mathias* 10:00-10:30 | Music, Moves, and Mindfulness: A creative spin on behavior support *Sarah Volk and Rhonda Blair* 10:00-10:50 | | | The Hand You're Dealt: Flipping Limits into Leverage in Music Programs *Andrew Bajorek* 10:00-10:50 | | |
| 10:30 AM | | | Grand Mountain School Girls Choir *Carlos Gonzalez* 10:30-10:55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | Thinking Outside the Voice Box: Adolescent voice change *Bridget Sweet* 11:00-11:50 | Exercises to Empower Singers Through Kinesthesia *Zacharia Smith and Alice Del Simone* 11:00-11:50 | Cherokee Trail HS Cut Time *Aaron Jaramillo* 11:00-11:25 | | Denver School of the Arts Wind Ensemble *Michael Paulez* 11:00-11:45 | Making Practice Happen: Tools, strategies, and inspiration for modern learners *Megan Lewin* 11:00-11:50 | Tech Tools for Modern Band *Mary Claxton* 11:00-11:50 | | | Moving a Song; Rocky Mountain Orff presents: *Kris Olson* 11:00-11:50 | Alfred: Sing, Move, Play! Music & Materials for Kids *Andy Beck* 11:00-11:50 | Behavior as Communication: Decoding student needs with choice theory *Amber Salaz* 11:00-11:50 | Demystifying Woodwind Teaching *Sam Post* 11:00-11:50 | Arvada West High School Chamber Orchestra *Jesse Vanlandingham* 11:00-11:45 | | | |
| 11:30 AM | | | Grandview HS Jazz Choir - *Teresa Newman* 11:30-11:55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | How to Practice Improvising Using Solfège - Connecting Our Ears to Jazz Harmony *Hannah Rodriguez* 12:00-12:50 | | | | | | MuseScore Studio for Music Educators *Marc Sabatella* 12:00-12:50 | | | What's So Fetch About Solfege? ROCKE Presents: *Melissa Stouffer* 12:00-1:00 | Musicians for Life: An SEL approach to musicianship *Rachel Lesser* 12:00-12:50 | | | | Those Who Dream: Empowering underrepresented voices in music *Chue Vue and Xareny Polanco* 12:00-12:50 | | |
| 12:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | | | All-State Jazz Choir Concerts Mixed Jazz Choir - Jeremy Fox Tenor/Bass Jazz Choir - Ryan Deignan Treble Jazz Choir - Jennifer Barnes 1:00-3:00 | | Concert Band Reading Session UNC Wind Ensemble *Wesley Broadnax* 1:00-1:50 | | | | Colorado ASTA General Membership Meeting *Lindsay Genadek* 1:00-1:50 | | | | | | | | |
| 1:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | | | | CEASC choir warm-ups 2:00-3:00 | | | | | | | | | | All-State Jazz Band Concerts Small Schools *Annie Booth* Large Schools *Caleb Chapman* 2:00-3:30 | | | |
| 2:30 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:30 PM | | | | CEASC photo | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | Colorado Elementary All-State Choir Concert Vivace Choir - *Dena Byers* and Presto Choir - *Michael Chandler* 4:30-5:30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | | | | CEASC Student Pick-Up | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Saturday, January 31, 2026

## Highlights

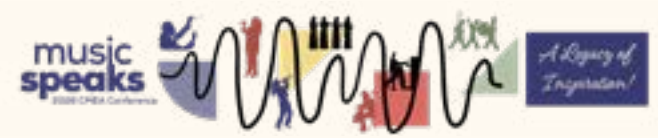
8:30-10:30am **Registration Open**

9:00am-12:30pm **Exhibits Open**

1:00-3:00pm **All-State Jazz Choir Concerts**
- **Mixed Jazz Choir**
- **Tenor/Bass Jazz Choir**
- **Treble Jazz Choir**

2:00-3:30pm **All-State Jazz Band Concerts**
- **Small School Jazz Band**
- **Large School Jazz Band**

4:30-5:30pm **Colorado Elementary All-State Choir Concerts**




**CMEA State Assembly Meeting (current and new council members)** — **7:00-7:45AM, Broadmoor Hall D/E**
*Casey Cropp*

**All-State Orchestra Board Meeting** — **7:00-7:45AM, Broadmoor Hall F**

**Registration Open** — **8:00-10:00AM, Broadmoor Hall A Lobby**
*William Kohut*

**Colorado Bandmasters Association Membership Meeting** — **8:00-8:45AM, Main - Theatre**
*Karen Gregg*

**All Thumbs? Exercises for Tackling the Left-Hand in the Classroom** — **8:00-8:50AM, Broadmoor Hall C**
*Meredith Blecha-Wells and Sacqueline Skara*

If teaching vibrato in a heterogeneous classroom keeps you up at night, you're not alone! This session offers practical, adaptable exercises to help students develop a fluid, tension-free left hand—no matter which string instrument they play. Focusing on early setup, shifting, and vibrato, this session explores the unique characteristics of each instrument while identifying versatile exercises that can be effectively used with all students simultaneously in a classroom setting.

**Research Session #2** — **9:00-10:30AM, Bartolin Hall E-213/214**
*Krissy Weimer, chair Bridget Sweet, Jeremy Manternach, and Christy Go*

- Middle and High School Musician Fatigue in a Summer Music Camp
  - Jeremy Manternach, University of Iowa
  - Bridget Sweet, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
  - Mike Vecchio, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign .
- Motherhood in the Music Education Academy
  - Bridget Sweet, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
  - Kate Fitzpatrick-Harnish, University of Michigan
- Christy Go: "Building the Staircase as We Go": Ethnography of a K-pop Dance Cover Crew

**Rocky Heights Middle School, 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra** — **9:00-9:30AM, Broadmoor Hall B**
*Scott McGowan, director*
Concert

**Colorado Mesa University, Jazz Ensemble** — **9:00-9:45AM, International Center North**
*Sean Flanigan, director*
Concert

**Inclusive Student Leadership, Lead From Any Chair** — **9:00-9:50PM, Main - Theatre**
*Matthew Arau*

Traditionally, student leadership has been reserved for the select few. Just imagine what a difference it would make if every student in your ensembles learned principles of leadership, team building, communication skills, goal-setting, and high-level musicianship. When we empower all students, everyone is elevated to their full potential.

**Teacher Attrition and Strategies for Maintaining or Reigniting Passion for the Profession** — **9:00-9:50AM, Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**
*Tim Cox*

The issue of teacher retention has gained significant prominence in recent years, reflecting a growing concern within the education community. With over three decades of experience as a band director, Cox will present research on prevalent factors leading to teacher attrition and offer some practical strategies for maintaining or reigniting passion for the

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# CMEA Sessions - Saturday

**Repair Tips and Tricks for the Instrumental Music Teacher**
**9:00-9:50AM Broadmoor Hall C**
***Angela Roehl***
Quick fix help in the band room. Tips and tricks on band aid repairs in an emergency. Which tools to use and how to set up fix kits.

**A.I. Is Coming, But Not For Your Job!**
**9:00-9:50AM Broadmoor Hall F**
***James Frankel***
Artificial Intelligence seems to be everywhere. Despite what you might read or hear, A.I. will not be replacing in-person, human-to-human instruction. Instead, A.I. is far more likely to be a tool to help save your precious time, leaving more room for 'the good stuff' like making music. For students, A.I. can assist with scaffolding to help with learning and creativity, not replace it. In this session, we will explore an array of A.I. powered tools for music and music education. Appropriate use of A.I. for both teachers and students will be at the center of the conversation.

**CNAfME Presidents Meeting**
**9:00-9:50AM Broadmoor Hall D/E**
***Elise Ehlert and Ethan Barker***

**Meaningful Movement! The Movement Games of Dalcroze Eurhythmics**
**9:00-9:50AM Colorado Hall A/B**
***Jake Elam***
What a joyous and beautiful thing it is to have movement in the classroom!
Emile Jaques-Dalcroze believed the body was the first instrument, and developed a pedagogy around using movement to build connections between the body and the mind called Eurhythmics. In this hands-on session, you will learn about fun and engaging movement activities that you can bring right to your classroom! Come join us, stretch your legs, and move your bodies with Eurhythmics!

**Creating Lifelong Musicians: Pedagogical practices for secondary general music**
**9:00-9:50AM Colorado Hall C**
***Carla Aguilar and Luke Wechter***
Music educators in secondary settings are being asked to teach more than ensemble. Many are being asked to teach courses on music theory, music appreciation, guitar, piano, and technology. Music educators may have the content skills to teach these courses; however, they could benefit from understanding pedagogical approaches beyond rehearsal techniques to teaching these courses. In this session, the presenters will describe and introduce pedagogical approaches that are applicable to general music teaching for secondary music teaching settings. Connections to the Colorado Academic Standards in Music, creativity projects, and assessment will be included.

**Mixed & Mingle: A high school reading session**
**9:00-9:50AM West - Divide Room**
***Andy Beck***
Discover solid concert, contest, and pop repertoire designed to bring out the very best in your mixed choral ensembles. But it's not just about the literature—we'll also explore new choral resources designed to build musicianship and spark joy. Join fellow directors in an atmosphere of collaboration and inspiration. A complimentary music packet will be given to each director in attendance.

**Music Theatre for the Middles-- Upper Elementary to Middle School Music Theatre - Parker Core Knowledge Charter School Choir**
**9:00-9:50AM West - Louis Stratta Room**
***Krystal Myers***
Diving into Music Theatre can feel overwhelming! Yet, with almost twenty-five years of teaching at Parker Core Knowledge and over thirty-five productions, Krystal is thrilled to share her experience with everything from choosing

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the musical production and its content to obtaining performance licenses, budget planning, running auditions and casting, ticket sales, pro-audio and tech aspects, and more!
This session will conclude with a special performance from the cast of the Parker Core Knowledge Charter School's Spring production of "Tuck Everlasting."

**Exhibits Open** — **9:00AM-12:30PM**
***Richard Shaw, Chair*** — **Bartolin Hall Exhibits**

**Johnson Elementary School, Husky Choir** — **10:00-10:30AM**
***Breanne Mathias, director*** — **Colorado Hall D/E**
Concert

**The Hand You're Dealt: Flipping limits into leverage in music programs** — **10:00-10:50AM**
***Andrew Bajorek*** — **Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**
You can't change the cards you're dealt—only how you play the hand. If your ensemble looks nothing like a textbook roster, this session is for you. We'll explore how to build strong, engaging ensembles around the students you do have—not the ones you wish would sign up. Discover how to craft high-quality, enriching musical experiences that make your current students shine—and make prospective students clamor to be part of it. From programming to presence, every public performance becomes a recruiting tool. Stop waiting for the perfect ensemble—start using your current one to grow the next.

**What the Tech?! Lessons Learned from 20 Years of Implementing Music Technology** — **10:00-10:50AM**
***Matt Ferry*** — **Broadmoor Hall C**
After two decades of tech roll-outs, one truth stands out: the hardest part isn't the tech—it's the people. In this candid session, we'll explore 10 key lessons from 20 years of implementing everything from metronomes to ProTools. Learn why pilot projects matter, how to use vendors to your advantage, and how to communicate with non-music administrators. Packed with real-world stories, practical insights, and a few cautionary tales, this talk is for anyone who's ever struggled to turn great technology into real-world results.

**CNAfME Membership Meeting** — **10:00-10:50AM**
***Elise Ehlert and Ethan Barker*** — **Broadmoor Hall D/E**

**Demystifying Latin Jazz: A practical guide to teaching Latin jazz** — **10:00-10:50AM**
***Alejandro Castaño and Victor Mestas*** — **Broadmoor Hall F**
Demystifying Latin Jazz: A Practical Guide to Teaching Latin Jazz
Latin Jazz is widely used but often misunderstood. This session gives music educators a clear, practical approach to teaching its rhythms and styles. Explore Afro-Cuban and Brazilian roots as they merge with jazz. Topics include clave, tumbao, rhythm section roles, grooves, and ensemble strategies for stylistic authenticity. Learn specific patterns for piano, bass, drums, percussion, and guitar. Live demos reinforce concepts and offer classroom-ready tools. Educators will gain a deeper understanding of Latin Jazz and how to teach it in an authentic, accessible way to students of all levels.

**Move, Groove, and Create** — **10:00-10:50AM**
***Tony Hartman*** — **Colorado Hall A/B**
When students create in the music room, it fosters high level thinking, collaboration, and it gives them what they crave the most, MUSICAL FREEDOM! In this session, participants will experience activities that sequence creation in the general music classroom from kindergarten to your oldest learners in Kodály and Orff inspired contexts. Through movement, instruments, and

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# CMEA Sessions - Saturday

dramatization, come experience how to normalize creation, composition, and improvisation in your classroom.

**Music, Moves, and Mindfulness: A creative spin on behavior support**
***Sarah Volk and Rhonda Blair***
**10:00-10:50AM Colorado Hall C**

As teachers we've seen it all, behavior-wise. We've been to multiple trainings, we've tried different techniques, and we do our best to help our students when those behaviors show themselves in our music classrooms.
In this session, participants will engage in different technique that have been tried and tested, not only in the music room, but in the general and Special Needs classrooms as well.
In addition, participants will learn how to bring the energy in their rooms to a manageable level and will also learn how to regulate their own emotions in order to best teach and nurture their students. (This session goes hand-in-hand with "You Matter, Too," the other proposal that was submitted).

**Untangling the Metal Spaghetti: Debunking common horn myths and mysteries**
***Nicholas Gledhill***
**10:00-10:50AM Main - Theatre**

The issue of teacher retention has gained significant prominence in recent years, reflecting a growing concern within the education community. With over three decades of experience as a band director, Cox will present research on prevalent factors leading to teacher attrition and offer some practical strategies for maintaining or reigniting passion for the profession.

**A Critical Hit: Innovative and collaborative concerts for all**
***Caroline Aylward***
**10:00-10:50AM West - Divide Room**

Performing Arts faculty often find themselves staying in their hallway or classroom due to the busy nature of our job. This can be isolating for us and our students. So what if we started inviting others to join us? This presentation demonstrates how you can easily incorporate collaboration within your department, building, and community through innovative concert structures! The main subject of today's talk will be an interactive Dungeons and Dragons concert that featured concert bands, choir, theatre, and stagecraft all on one night! I breakdown how this concert was formed, and offer suggestions on how to make this work for you and your particular school setting. This talk will also feature future plans to collaborate outside of the Performing Arts Department, including Visual Arts for a Studio Ghibli theme, an earth science focus, poetry with Creative Writing, and more.

**Keep on Keeping On: Tips for maintaining energy and drive throughout your ministry career**
***Victor Johnson***
**10:00-10:50AM West - Louis Stratta Room**

Sustaining a long and meaningful career in music ministry requires more than talent- it calls for balance, resilience, and a deep sense of purpose. This session offers practical strategies for staying motivated and energized in your work, even through the inevitable challenges of ministry life.

**Grand Mountain School, Girls Choir**
***Carlos Gonzalez, director***
Concert
**10:30-10:55AM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Cherokee Trail High School, Cut Time**
***Aaron Jaramillo***
Concert
**11:00-11:25AM West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Arvada West High School, Chamber Orchestra**
***Jesse Vanlandingham***
Concert
**11:00-11:45AM International Center North**

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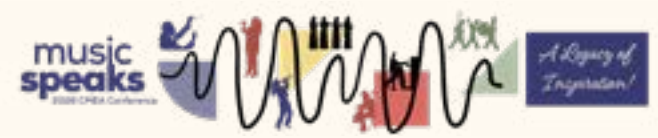


**Denver School of the Arts, Wind Ensemble** — **11:00-11:45AM, Broadmoor Hall B**
***Michael Paulez***
Concert

**Demystifying Woodwind Teaching** — **11:00-11:50AM, Bartolin Hall - E 213/214**
***Sam Post***
Unravel the mysteries of teaching woodwinds in this dynamic and practical clinic designed for music educators and conductors alike. Discover engaging strategies to build foundational skills with confidence—no prior woodwind experience required! We'll explore innovative approaches using Nuvo instruments, making woodwind instruction more accessible and manageable in the band room. Attendees will learn clear embouchure breakdowns and curriculum formats tailored for success in diverse and heterogeneous band classrooms. Let's break down the barriers to woodwind success together!

**Tech Tools for Modern Band** — **11:00-11:50AM, Broadmoor Hall D/E**
***Mary Claxton***
This session examines the many useful and practical tools found online that can help us utilize popular music in the classroom. Many avenues will be discussed for online resources, including DAWs, beat-making, virtual instruments, and AI. This fluid and comprehensive integration of technology into the music education classroom is a necessity for educators who seek to utilize all that online music technology has to offer students.

**Rocky Mountain Orff Presents: Kris Olson; Moving a Song** — **11:00-11:50AM, Colorado Hall A/B**
***Kris Olson***
Experience two ways to incorporate movement into your singing activities. In one example we'll learn teacher created choreography to perform with a canon. In the other, students create their own movement to abstractly illustrate the text of a simple song. Geared toward mid to upper elementary.

**Behavior as Communication: Decoding student needs with choice theory** — **11:00-11:50AM, Colorado Hall C**
***Amber Salaz***
Why do some students act out during class or rehearsal, constantly seek attention, or withdraw from group activities? This session introduces Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory as a powerful framework for understanding student behavior through the lens of five basic needs: Survival, Love & Belonging, Power, Freedom, and Fun. Tailored specifically for music educators, this session offers practical tools to build stronger relationships, foster a positive classroom culture, and support all learners—on stage and in the classroom.

**Sing, Move, Play! Music & Materials for Kids** — **11:00-11:50AM, Colorado Hall D/E**
***Andy Beck***
Prepare to be dazzled by the latest publications from Alfred Music! Discover new 2-part chorals, vibrant songbooks, accessible musicals, classroom collections, and other fantastic resources tailor-made for your energetic young singers. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your library and ignite your students' passion for music. A complimentary music packet will be given to each director in attendance.

**Thinking Outside the Voice Box: Adolescent voice change** — **11:00-11:50AM, West - Divide Room**
***Bridget Sweet***
The purpose of this session is to promote a holistic approach to working with adolescent singers who are navigating estrogen-dominant and testosterone-dominant voice change. Discussion will pertain to topics of vocal anatomy and physiology, overall physical growth and coordination, and the impact of hormone fluctuations

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# CMEA Sessions - Saturday

on vocal function. We will also consider how popular knowledge, understanding, and misunderstanding of voice change is largely perpetuated by mainstream media, impacting singing experiences of both music students and music educators. Strategies for working with singers experiencing voice change will be woven throughout the session.

**Exercises to Empower Singers Through Kinesthesia**
***Zachariah Smith and Alice Del Simone***

**11:00-11:50AM**
**West - Louis Stratta Room**

As singers, we all play similar instruments; but due to our physical differences, they are not exactly the same. As a result, students can feel frustrated or discouraged when prescribed metaphors do not resonate with their singing experience. This creates a challenge in implementing a vocal-pedagogy curriculum to guide ensembles. Our session will give choral educators strategies to help students experiment with cause and effect in their voice. We will explore elements of respiration, resonance, and posture through group activities, games, and dialogues which can be easily implemented in the choral classroom. By utilizing these body-mapping and mindfulness tools, we can offer students a wider view of singing technique and foster a positive relationship with the voice.

**Making Practice Happen: Tools, strategies, and inspiration for modern learners**
***Megan Lewin***

**11:00-11:50AM**
**Broadmoor Hall C**

Turn practice into a purposeful and motivating part of your students' musical journey. This session explores how MakeMusic Cloud's assignments, real-time feedback, and challenges promote consistent practice. We'll also explore ways to spark intrinsic motivation, encourage accountability, and make practice feel personal, purposeful, and possible for every learner.

**Grandview High School, Jazz Choir**
***Teresa Newman***
Concert

**11:30-11:55AM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**Those Who Dream: Empowering underrepresented voices in music**
***Chue Yeng Vue and Xareny Polanco***

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Bartolin Hall - E 207-209**

This presentation explores the lived experiences of underrepresented music educators, examining how identity, culture, and systemic barriers shape their careers, pedagogy, and impact. Through qualitative narrative analysis, we highlight the challenges, triumphs, and defining moments in their professional journeys. We also assess demographic data to contextualize representation in classical music and identify areas for growth. By integrating personal stories with broader research, we identify effective strategies—such as mentorship and inclusive practices—and persistent obstacles. The goal is to inform pedagogical and institutional reforms, contributing actionable insights to advance diversity and equity in music education.

**MuseScore Studio for Music Educators**
***Marc Sabatella***

**12:00-12:50PM**
**Broadmoor Hall D/E**

MuseScore Studio is the world's most popular music notation program. Since version 4.0, it is also considered to be in the top tier in terms of engraving and playback quality as well as usability. MuseScore Studio includes a robust set of features for use in music education.

In this session, we will explore how you can use MuseScore Studio to prepare worksheets and other class materials as well as create ensemble arrangements. We will start with a basic introduction to the program, and then move on to demonstrate a series of typical educational projects such as flashcards,

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scale/exercise sheets, theory handouts, quizzes, etc.

Presenter Marc Sabatella is one of the developers of the software and the author of a number of educational resources that can be found on his website, Outside Shore Music (https://outsideshore.com)

**Hey Kid, Take a Solo... Now What?** — **12:00-12:50PM** — **Broadmoor Hall F**
***Eric Hitt***
Jazz improvisation is often mysterious to approach for students and directors alike. This clinic will explore simple techniques that inspire positive results for students taking an improvised solo in jazz band or jazz combo.

**ROCKE Presents: What's So Fetch About Solfége?** — **12:00-12:50PM** — **Colorado Hall A/B**
***Melissa Stouffer***
It's totally gonna happen. Solfége is the key to kicking up your class, but what more is there to it than teaching "Do-Re-Mi"? For new & seasoned teachers alike, this session will refresh as well as give you activities, games, and engaging student lessons to make solfége a real tool for your classroom. Teach ear training to even your youngest students, or use with upper el and middle school musicians making solfége a tool that works for you. No experience required. All your kids can do this!
Attendees will learn how students can use solfége to be self-sufficient reading age appropriate music.
Attendees will learn how to use solfége to enhance student-led learning, and use solfége as a tool for student creativity.
Attendees will learn a variety of engaging games, centers and student activities to enhance learning.

**Musicians for Life: An SEL approach to musicianship** — **12:00-12:50PM** — **Colorado Hall D/E**
***Rachel Lesser***
What does it really mean to be a musician? So often we say that we don't care if our students grow up to be musicians, just experiencers of music. But what qualities do musicians have that can help our students as they grow into people? And how can we teach them these skills in a way that is meaningful and lasting? Come explore with me what it really means to be a musician and an artist. We will focus on how to build a student's musical identity for a lifetime through SEL and identity safe practices.

**How to Practice Improvising Using Solfége - Connecting Our Ears to Jazz Harmony** — **12:00-12:50PM** — **West - Divide Room**
***Hannah Rodriquez***
This clinic is a guide on using Solfége to connect our ears to jazz harmony. The session is designed for musicians who are familiar with major and minor solfége and are interested in improvisation, whether as a beginner or advanced player. We will explore simple and complex chord changes through the lens of a tonal center, and use our knowledge of Solfége to approach jazz harmony in a familiar way. Together, we will understand common tones and feel the tension of non-diatonic notes. Through this method, we can contextualize harmony in order to have a confident understanding of chord tones while soloing!

**All-State Jazz Mixed Choir Concert** — **1:00-1:30PM** — **West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**
***Jeremy Fox***
Concert

**New Concert Band Music Reading Session** — **1:00-1:50PM** — **Broadmoor Hall B**
***Wesley Broadnax***

**Colorado ASTA General Membership Meeting** — **1:00-1:50PM** — **Main - Theatre**
***Lindsay Genadek***

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# CMEA Sessions - Saturday

**All-State Tenor/Bass Choir Concert**
***Ryan Deignan, director***

**1:45-2:15PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**All-State Jazz Band - Small Schools Concert**
***Annie Booth***
Concert

**2:00-2:45PM**
**International Center North**

**All-State Jazz Treble Choir Concert**
***Jennifer Barnes, director***
Concert

**2:30-3:00PM**
**West - Rocky Mountain Ballroom**

**All-State Jazz Band - Large Schools Concert**
***Caleb Chapman, director***
Concert

**2:45-3:30PM**
**International Center North**

**Colorado Elementary All-State Choir Concert**
***Dena Byers and Michael Chandler, directors***
Concert

**4:30-5:30PM**
**Broadmoor Hall B**

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