



Coronado School of the Arts
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Coronado School of the Arts Welcomes New Instrumental Music Director Luke Schulze

By Jill Coste

As a pianist, trumpeter, and composer with a deep appreciation for all artistic pursuits, Luke Schulze is right at home at Coronado School of the Arts. Luke takes the place of former Instrumental Music director Matt Heinecke, who recently moved to Colorado with his family. As the new director of the program, Luke is excited to start getting to know all of the musicians at CoSA and to bring his own passion for creativity to his classes.

A born teacher, Luke has always had an appreciation for music education, and he credits his own mentors growing up in helping him get to where he is now. "I have had the good fortune of having really wonderful teachers," says Luke. "I want to continue that circle and be part of that mentorship." Luke majored in music at Lake Forest College in Chicago, his hometown, and he continued his education at UC San Diego, where he earned master's and doctorate degrees in music composition.

After acquiring his PhD, Luke began his teaching career at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano, where he ran the instrumental program for three years. He was then recruited by Loyola High School in Los Angeles to build their instrumental music program. At Loyola, Luke doggedly tracked down the music-minded students and encouraged them to participate in the instrumental program, which Luke built to include a chamber group, jazz band, and pep band. Additionally, he worked individually with students who were interested in solo performance and, in some cases, matched those students with other expert musicians to further their training.

When Luke's wife was accepted to Cal Western School of Law, the couple left Los Angeles, and Luke pursued new opportunities in the San Diego area. In addition to teaching at InterAmerican University in National City, Luke taught courses at UC Riverside and took a long-term substitute position at La Jolla Country Day. He also wrote classical music reviews for the Union Tribune and gigged as a keyboardist.

Luke is no stranger to pounding the pavement in the name of the arts, and he brings that experience to his teaching philosophy. "I want my students to know that the subject they most care about personally and existentially is actually something they can pursue for a lifetime," Luke says. "Artists often have a lot of plates spinning, but if you work hard, you can make a career doing what you love."

Luke's teaching style walks the line between exploring the joy of music and instilling the discipline necessary for a career in the arts. "I want to help my students make their own

creativity part of their own scholarship and learning,” says Luke. “I think a connection with music can be life-changing, and I love seeing those lights of self-discovery go on.”

Luke is happy to have found a permanent home at CoSA and eagerly anticipates working with the musicians and other CHS artists. “It’s inspiring how much creativity and talent there is here,” he says. “I’m looking forward to cultivating that creativity and helping CoSA become an even bigger draw.”

About Coronado School of the Arts:

CoSA is a public arts conservatory for high school students that embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence. This pre-professional arts program reaches out to talented students from all over San Diego County and offers a nurturing environment focused on individual growth, opportunity, and diversity.

CoSA is supported by Coronado School of the Arts Foundation, a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation whose stakeholders are passionate about supporting Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA), improving community awareness of CoSA, and securing funds to perpetuate, improve and expand the school’s programs.

For more information on CoSA or the Foundation, call 619.522.4050 or visit www.cosafoundation.org.