

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### The Impact of Peer-Assisted Learning on Social Responsiveness and Music Achievement in Persons with Autism

**Purpose of this study:** The purpose of this study is to determine the impact of peer-assisted learning on music learning and social engagement in adolescents with autism. Peer-assisted learning has been shown to be a successful way to learn for a wide range of adolescent students.

**Researchers – this study will be conducted by:**

Erik Johnson, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Music Education

Blythe LaGasse, Ph.D., MT-BC

Associate Professor of Music Therapy



**Who:** To be eligible for participation, individuals must:

- Use English as a primary language (either spoken or used in the home/school environment)
  - Be enrolled in middle school/junior high school
  - Have high functioning autism with no other known cognitive disability
- or-
- Have no known disability and play in the band, orchestra, or choir

**Where:** University Center for the Arts, 1400 Remington Street, Fort Collins

**What you will do:** Middle school student participants will be randomized into three groups where they will play rhythms, melodies, or free play on a marimba. Participants in Group 1 will receive instruction alone from a video. Participants in Group 2 will have a peer in the room and will follow a video for instruction. Participants in Group 3 will learn music concepts and then teach the same concepts to a fellow peer with autism. Participants will receive training on how to interact with persons on the autism spectrum before the music lesson begins. All participants will be interviewed after the music lesson to see how they think the lesson went. There is no cost to participate. Parents of students with autism will be asked to complete two short assessments of their child's social behaviors.

**If you wish to volunteer for this study, please contact:**

Erik Johnson (Music Educator) (970) 491-4806 or [e.johnson@colostate.edu](mailto:e.johnson@colostate.edu)  
Blythe LaGasse (Music Therapist) (970) 491-4042 or [blagasse@colostate.edu](mailto:blagasse@colostate.edu)



**Colorado State University**

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE