

## Mary Claxton

2020 NAFME All-National  
Modern Band

Mary Claxton has spent her professional life at the joyful intersection of music performance, teaching and advocacy. Her early passion for music led her to be involved with every musical ensemble possible - band, choir, jazz band, pit orchestra and drumline, as well as informal experiences with various genres of pop bands. In the classroom, Claxton went on to teach nearly every one of those same ensembles and later was pulled particularly towards the modern band movement that emphasized the songwriting and student-centered aspects that had made music so meaningful to her throughout the years.



She joined the Little Kids Rock team full-time as the Colorado Director of Programs in 2017. In this role, she works directly with teachers and administrators across the state and is thrilled to be a major partner in the Take Note initiative, started by former Governor John Hickenlooper and Isaac Slade of the Fray, to bring the gift of music to every child in Colorado. This initiative brings together schools, libraries and other community partners to meet students where they are with culturally responsive music opportunities.

Claxton has been honored to be a presenter and clinician for organizations such as the Association of Popular Music Education, the Modern Band Summit, the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival and the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, the institution where she received her Bachelors of Music Education.

She continues to perform often on drums, vocals and ukulele - working hard to further her skills and continue the conversation with her community and students about the role music plays in reflecting and changing our world.



All-National  
Honor Ensembles