



CANDIDATES FOR AOSA REGION I REPRESENTATIVE

Cindy Schmid

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk in music education today?

I see a background in Orff Schulwerk as an essential part of quality music education in this country. It is essential that every teacher has a background in some type of pedagogy, and I think Orff is the best for my students. I encourage music majors at my local community college to get a background in Orff and to participate in our local chapter workshops. The Orff pedagogy helps to ensure quality teaching. As a National Board member I will do everything in my power to promote Orff Schulwerk as an essential part of a quality music education.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?

I have been a Chapter President and my state's NAFME Advocacy Chair. As an advocate for music education I worked with four different state arts advocacy groups and succeeded in getting the fine and performing arts added as options to Wyoming's college scholarship requirements. This scholarship is available to any student who graduates from a high school in this state. Before the addition of the fine and performing arts as a requirement, secondary music classes were losing enrollment due to students taking other classes required for the scholarship. The inclusion of fine and performing arts has helped alleviate this situation for students interested in studying music.

3. What is the role of the National Board of Trustees as it relates to the general membership and how would you fulfill this role?

The role of the National Board of Trustees is to make decisions for the good of the membership. It is also necessary to listen to feedback from the membership and consider what direction(s) the Board should take to meet the needs of the members. That said, there is also a responsibility for the members to comment whenever the Board asks for feedback.

4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

My vision for AOSA is three-fold. First, I would like to reach out to colleges and universities who do not already do so to encourage the addition of Orff pedagogy in their teacher training. Second, I would like to see members reach out to colleagues to encourage them to attend workshops. I joined my local chapter because I was asked to attend a workshop and recognized the quality of the presenter and materials. Third, there are ways to reach teachers using a variety of venues, including technology. In the Rocky Mountain region, there are small, isolated communities. Perhaps more teachers could be included in workshops through the use of Skype or a similar technology. Granted, it would not be as good as being in the same room as the presenter, but could be a viable option in the case of long distance and/or bad weather. This could also be a way to encourage membership.



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Jill DeVilbiss

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk in music education today?

Orff Schulwerk is a critical player in music education today. This method of teaching children should be used through out our education system because of its developmentally appropriate approach. It fosters children's natural curiosity and creativity. Educators who want to help children gain the tools they need "to be tenacious, team oriented, problem solvers" should embrace Orff Schulwerk. It helps children make connections to the world around them, while giving them skills to be successful in the 21st century, whether they become musicians or not.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?

I am passionate about music education and Orff Schulwerk. Spreading the "good word" of Orff Schulwerk is an honor and pleasure for me. I'm a happy doer and it would be a privilege to follow through on any assignment I'm given.

In leadership positions I often listen first, before offering my opinion. I enjoy working with and learning from people. I often work to build consensus while guiding groups to stay focused on the task. I'm organized and committed.

3. What is the role of the National Board of Trustees as it relates to the general membership and how would you fulfill this role?

I see the role of the National Board of Trustees as being to serve music teachers and students, to be their advocate and support system. They should be a voice in national education decision-making. Being aware of best practices in education, they should continually change to meet the needs of teachers and students, while honoring the past.

As a member of the AOSA board, I would fulfill any assignments given me. I would also listen to the chapters in my area to understand their needs. Communication is key. I will do all I can to facilitate communication between the AOSA and the local chapters and its members.

4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

My vision for AOSA is to continue to offer quality professional development to music educators, on the local and national levels. AOSA must have a voice in all national educational discussions, from creating curriculum standards to advocating for arts education. They should continue to be a team player with other arts organizations to advance music education for all children.