

Candidate for Region II Representative



Terri Scullin

Terri Scullin graduated from Boston University in 1988 and wisely spent the next three summers getting her Orff-Schulwerk training and certificate.

Terri presents teacher training workshops nationally and publishes lessons in Activate magazine.

She currently teaches music and drama at the Rio Grande School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk?

One of the most important roles Orff Schulwerk has in music education today is continuing to be a strong advocate for the “student-centered” approach to learning. Many of the current trends in education are just beginning to use strategies that the Orff approach has been modeling for many years. Cooperative learning for example, having students work in small groups to improve their understanding of a subject, has always been an essential part of the creative process in an Orff-Schulwerk classroom. Orff teachers have also been pioneers in being the kind of educators who are “guides on the side” of their students, allowing them much greater ownership for their learning.

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

Most of my strengths as a leader I can credit directly from my experience working as a performer and director in community and professional theater. For example, because I am a performer, I am not shy in front of large crowds. I can speak, sing and even dance in front of an audience if necessary and would be very willing to do so to promote something I feel so strongly about such as, Orff Schulwerk. I am also a strong collaborator and an “outside of the box,” thinker. A play or a musical only succeeds if

the cast works together, and I feel that my creative contributions would help AOSA projects flourish as well.

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?

When I served as president of my local chapter, one of the tasks I found most difficult was explaining to local members why it was important for them to join AOSA. They all thoroughly enjoyed the chapter workshops, and could see the strong benefit they received from their local membership dues, but often found it easy to justify not joining national. Most of them felt disconnected from the national group, and one of the reasons for that is because they had never attended a national conference. One important task that I think the National Board of Trustees should work on is to continue to make the joining the national organization just as appealing to the general membership as joining their local chapter. I think that the National Board of Trustees play a very important role in bridging the gap between the local and national groups, and they should work to further promote attendance at the conference. One way I would like to do this is to look for opportunities for funding scholarships to the conference for first time attendees and attendees from low income schools.

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

My level one training in Orff Schulwerk was an “Alleluia” moment for me. I was fresh out of college. I had a degree in music education, but I really wasn’t feeling quite ready to walk into a classroom in just a few months. The two weeks I spent training in Orff Schulwerk changed my mind. First of all I discovered that I could improvise. I also found out that I could compose. I left at the end of those two weeks feeling like a musician again, inspired and energized. That was almost 30 years ago, but I still feel that way whenever I attend a Orff Schulwerk workshop. My vision for AOSA’s future is that this kind of experience is brought to as many teachers and students as possible. I would like to see colleges and universities including more training in Orff Schulwerk in their music education programs as well as offering levels courses during the summer. I think local chapters should also reach out to teachers, new and experienced, who have never been to a local workshop and offer them their first workshop for free. I would love to serve on the National Board of Trustees so that I can help to make sure that others have the opportunity to have their own “Alleluia” moment with Orff Schulwerk.