



CANDIDATES FOR AOSA REGION IV REPRESENTATIVE

Mandy Gunter

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

I see Orff Schulwerk as a vital part of the music classroom. Using this approach, teachers can craft lessons to benefit each student and adhere to national, state, and local standards. The Orff Schulwerk approach is an engaging process that enhances a spiral music curriculum. Students naturally become better musicians by using the developmentally appropriate sequence of concepts and music-making. By using the Orff Schulwerk Approach, music classrooms come alive with creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. I have found this approach gives me freedom to create lessons based on student needs and to tailor my teaching strategies for the concepts being taught.

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

My leadership strengths include organization, effective communication, and leading by example. I love planning and organizing! I have been involved with many events and programs that need proper time management and delegation. Working with other teachers and committee members on a task is one of my favorite aspects of my teaching position and being President of the Atlanta Orff Chapter. Additionally, every organization needs effective communication. I will communicate the goals and objectives of the endeavor that my group will be working to fulfill. Leading by example is one of the characteristics that define dynamic leaders. It is my goal to model examples of honesty, a positive attitude, and an appreciation of the work done by AOSA and its members.

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 National Board of Trustees is the backbone of AOSA. I see my role as a region representative to be a liaison between the National Board and local chapters. Our local chapters need a representative that will serve to communicate the goals of AOSA as well as lend a helping hand for any hardships that local chapters may experience. As a member of the National Board of Trustees, I would be committed to fulfilling the goals and objectives of the National Board.

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

My vision for AOSA is filled with success! AOSA already does a wonderful job providing teachers with necessary instructional practices for their classrooms. I would love to reach more students in college courses to start learning the Orff Schulwerk Approach. My focus would also be to continue to encourage more teachers to attend local workshops, become members of local chapters, and attend National Conference.



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Eric Young

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

Orff Schulwerk is the voice and vision of not only music education, but education in American. We as Orff-Schulwerk practitioners has been doing 21st century skills since the mid 20th century. In an education culture that is increasing emphasizing testing and data, our students are losing the connections to others that makes the human experience so special. Orff-Schulwerk gives all students a place to belong and connect with others through music. That is magical and special. Every second in our classroom engages our students to think critically, work with others, create, and explore all while creating and sharing music and movement. This approach is essential to not only the musical development of our students, but the emotional development of the next generation of leaders.

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

Undeniably, enthusiasm would be my greatest attribute as a leader. I had been told that my enthusiasm is contagious. Share music and Orff-Schulwerk with others is one of the greatest joys of my life. Whether in my classroom, workshop, or board meeting, I am passionate about what I do and want to share that with others. Through my enthusiasm, I have been able to inspire other teachers to take levels course and get involved in our local chapters. Making connections with others is so vital to being a good leader. It is through relationships with others that people begin to see that what they do is important. I care deeply about the good work that we as music educators are doing. You can't fake passion.

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 essential role is to be an advocate for our members and local chapters. This is the heart of AOSA as an organization. Each workshop throughout the year is representing AOSA and is vital to the growth and success of AOSA. As a national board trustee, I would hope to be able to assist chapters in planning and marketing all the great work that is going on at chapter events. This comes from building relationships with each person. I can see myself hoping in my car on the weekends and visiting all of the fantastic chapters. By talking to others, sharing a cup of coffee, and seeing others face to face, this is the greatest way to build these relationships. In reality, isn't that what Orff-Schulwerk is all about?

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

The more I read about different educational philosophies, the more I fall in love with Orff-Schulwerk. We have been doing 21st century skills for over 50 years. AOSA and Orff-Schulwerk are what inspire me as an educator. I have never seen a more creative and caring bunch of people... maybe this is what has drawn all of us to the Schulwerk. We have been able to maintain a sense of wonderment that can be lost in adulthood. We know the value of dancing in the rain and dramatic play. We know that our kiddos are so much more than a statistic. That is why I am an Orff-Schulwerk teacher.



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Eric Young (continued)

I would like to see AOSA reach out and share what is special about this approach to others outside the music arena. An excellent place to start is with Physical Educators. Watching a PE teacher is an excellent experience. I am fortunate to work with a great colleague who is inspiring. They are moving is creativity, purpose, levels, and direction. It is essential that we as an organization “let out” out our well-kept secret of Orff-Schulwerk. If others can take a teaspoon of what we do and love back into their own teaching, the education community as a whole will be better for it.

In addition, I would like to see AOSA have a stronger social media presence. The Facebook page has really become a great networking and idea bank for teachers. We need to branch out into Twitter, Instagram, Google+, Flickr, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Vine... just to name a few. AOSA needs to be the source for our Professional Learning Networks (PLN). The more we as an organization can connect others together, the more we will be relevant. We should embrace how people communicate and connect. This requires us as an organization to constantly be learning to adapting how we are connecting with other people.