



CANDIDATES FOR AOSA TREASURER

Amy Fenton

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

The arts are important in providing children with a well-rounded education that includes self-expression, citizenship and appreciation of culture. In recent years, scientific studies have shown that the arts, and music in particular, are valuable to the learning process in more than just aesthetics. Studies indicate that music instruction can help students better understand advanced math concepts, develop higher thinking skills and increase communication skills. Students who have studied music have higher SAT scores than those who have not studied music. Therefore, music should be an integral part of every child's education.

In my opinion, Orff Schulwerk is the most child-centered way to develop musical skills, promote musical literacy and inspire a life long love of music in children. Orff Schulwerk is an approach that is based on things that children do naturally: chant, sing, dance, and play. These fundamental acts, through Orff Schulwerk, are channeled into experiencing and learning about the elements of music. Music literacy is achieved through the learning process of imitation, followed by exploration, and finally creating and improvising. The Orff Schulwerk approach provides high quality instruction to students in a cooperative, supportive, child-centered environment. What more could one ask for within 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?

First and foremost, I have a strong belief in the effectiveness of the Orff Schulwerk teaching approach. There is an inherent magic that is created through Orff Schulwerk that can be life changing to our students and to us. I have an enthusiasm for teaching through this approach and am passionate about sharing the experience with others.

As for skills that I would bring to the National Board of Trustees as Treasurer, they are as follows; I am highly organized. I am a diligent and hard worker and will put a great deal of effort into any task entrusted to me. I am an effective communicator with an outgoing, friendly personality. I am easily approached and am a good listener. I enjoy problem solving and pride myself on examining all sides of any given conflict or situation.

I have served as treasurer for two AOSA chapters, the Southern Arizona and the Mid-Michigan chapters. Although the job of chapter treasurer is smaller in comparison to that of AOSA Treasurer, it gave me a foray into job requirements. I have a working understanding of banking and investment procedures and am willing to spend time to acquire more knowledge and skills. I use technology on a daily basis and am quick to learn new programs and tools.

I have served on the AOSA National Board of Trustees as Treasurer and as a Regional Representative. While a Regional Representative, I served as Professional Development chair. I also served on the Leadership, Development and Nominations committee, the Personnel Committee and then the Membership committee. Being part of these committees gave me great insight into how the organization, as a whole, works.



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Amy Fenton (continued)

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 provide support for its members. Being attentive to the needs of the members and the local chapters fulfills this role. Providing quality professional development via conferences and levels courses and providing mentoring opportunities for our members is vital to the growth and vitality of AOSA.

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

My vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk...

I see an organization that listens and responds to the needs of its current and future membership. I see a financially sound organization that searches out and employs new ways to market and grow a diverse future membership. I see an organization that continues to provide quality professional development and mentoring opportunities for its members.

Richard "Dick" Reed

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

Orff Schulwerk should be taking a much larger role in contemporary music education. It is the ideal way to reach the young child through play and gently directed learning, the perfect route to encouraging creative movement, and a joyful approach to development of the child's natural inclination to spontaneity and exploration of sound. We should be exposing the entire gamut of music and movement education available through the Orff Schulwerk approach by demonstrations, workshops, and student "informances" at NAFME conferences and state music educator conventions. The difficulty lies in exposing the inner joy of our children as they perform elemental music, because the public audience is more accustomed to a showy final product than a subtle demonstration of artistic growth.

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

A few of my strengths are organization, analytical reasoning, balancing viewpoints, and listening carefully. I enjoy searching for the most efficient path to a desired outcome, and then collaborating on successfully traveling that path. The work of AOSA is a search for ways to expand the influence of Orff and Keetman by balancing the motivations of creative right-brain practitioners with the expectations of budget-conscious left-brain administrators.



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Richard "Dick" Reed (continued)

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?

Leaders who serve our association on the National Board of Trustees must be mindful of the needs of individual chapters. Local chapters are the strength of the Association. Local chapters are the primary membership! Unfortunately, in many states music teachers are a diminishing resource, and overburdened classroom teachers are the only access for students to discover and explore the arts. I live in one such state, and I understand some of the difficulties faced by chapters facing shrinking membership. I will stand for these chapters in our mutual struggle to advance the practice of Orff Schulwerk.

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

As goes AOSA, so goes Orff Schulwerk – without our leadership, our superbly productive process will have no head, no direction, and no centrality. We must be open and inclusive by reaching out to all alliances of OS practitioners, from purists to modernists and from classicists to explorers, if we are to maintain a vibrant and growing organization.