

Candidate for Recording Secretary: Karen Petty



Biography:

Karen Petty loves working with people tall and small. An Orff Specialist for 30+ years – in NYC and Colorado – she currently teaches Music K-5 at Gold Rush Elementary in Parker, Colorado and in Orff-Schulwerk Teacher Education courses. Her service includes multiple offices in RMC-AOSA, NYC chapter plus AOSA Region Representative.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

As we approach our 50th anniversary as an organization, it's harder to think of Orff Schulwerk as really brand new, but it is still innovative and fresh. It is a truly unique approach to music and movement education and as such, I see Orff Schulwerk leading the way in innovative arts education. All of the current buzz words for 21st Century Learning – Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking - are embodied in Orff Schulwerk. The beauty of the Orff process is that it is not a regimented “cookie-cutter” music method, but rather open, playful, evocative and creative while still providing structure and artistry. In Orff Schulwerk music making and music literacy evolve in a natural, creative, elemental journey that parallels the way any language is acquired – through imitation, exploration and improvisation, with reading and writing developing in due time. The importance of movement and improvisation within this approach make it unique from other takes on music education. Orff Schulwerk benefits music and movement educators, but most importantly impacts students – helping and allowing them to become active, creative, independent, focused,

playful, and collaborative music makers and enthusiastic appreciators of music and the arts. As such, Orff process teaching leads the way in active music education. We can partner with others in music education without losing what makes Orff Schulwerk unique.

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

My strengths include positive attitude, organization, flexibility, and the desire and ability to work collaboratively. I love learning and challenges. I enjoy working with people. I am passionate about Orff Schulwerk. I love the synergy created by thinking and working together as a group, but I can get work done independently too. I listen carefully. I am very task-oriented and can prioritize to get work done on time. I bring experience from working at the local level in two very different Orff chapters (the Rocky Mountain Chapter and the New York City Chapter). With my work in these two chapters, I have served in every possible leadership role. I have worked on the national level as a Regional Representative and on two off-board AOSA committees. Teaching adults in workshops and in Orff Schulwerk teacher education courses has broadened my perspective to other teaching situations and the variety of needs music teachers face in different settings. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve on the NBT again and to helping to make a positive impact on music education. I believe that my many years of experience and continued love for Orff Schulwerk will help to further the work of AOSA.

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?

AOSA's NBT are volunteers - servant leaders elected to represent the membership by listening to and addressing their needs. The National Board of Trustees has the responsibility to preserve and grow Orff Schulwerk and to guide the organization in a thoughtful, progressive way while facilitating communication and providing for quality professional development and teacher training. If elected, I would work as part of a collaborative team to ensure that the organization can function smoothly and effectively while fulfilling the role of Recording Secretary. My priority would be timely communication - promoting responsiveness to our membership and within the NBT and Executive Board.

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

I envision AOSA thriving and becoming even more vital in promoting Elemental music teaching – reaching out to new members while supporting the continued growth and learning of existing members. My vision is that Orff Schulwerk would have a greater role in undergraduate music education programs. I see AOSA continuing on the strong

path we have established of providing training and professional development, forums for the exchange of ideas, supporting research in music and movement education, and becoming financially secure. I would like to see an even more diverse membership – varied by culture, teaching situations, age, and experience. I picture an organization that makes use of current means and technologies to make Orff Schulwerk accessible and attractive to upcoming generations of teachers. I also see AOSA taking a leading role in active music education – working cooperatively with other music organizations in this country, and in concert with other international Orff associations.