Joshua Southard
Candidate for Region VI

Josh teaches K-5 music at Smoky Row Elementary in Carmel, IN.

He completed all three Orff levels, as well as courses in Orff curriculum, technology, and composition. Josh teaches Level I Basic in Gwinnett County in Atlanta, GA and DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

He is also Past President of the Indiana Orff chapter.

CANDIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk?
I truly feel that the role of Orff Schulwerk goes beyond music education. When it comes to music education, the Schulwerk allows children to be free to make their own choices, their own judgements, and take ownership and pride in something that they have created. It doesn't come from learning lines or learning parts of a piece. It comes experiencing the joys and pride from hearing something that they have taken an active part in creating. However, the role of the Schulwerk goes beyond that. It creates community. A safe community. A community where mistakes are not only allowed, but encouraged in the music making process. A community in which the boundaries extend far beyond the music classroom and into the halls of the school, and hopefully, even the neighborhoods. By showing the children that they have to work together and alongside each other as equals, building off of each other's strengths, we are not only teaching children how to work in our classrooms, but in their everyday life.

2. What are your leadership strengths and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?
One of my biggest strengths is that I know my weaknesses. I know that there is much more out there for me to learn and improve upon. I enjoy listening to many sides of a conversation and am always ready to ask more questions! I think another strength is my sense of humor and outgoing personality. This can be seen through my students and how they handle themselves in my classroom. They know how to have fun while still accomplishing the necessary tasks.

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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 feel that the role of the NBT is to take the ideas and suggestions that they receive from AOSA members and put them into action. I have served as the History Committee chair and have seen firsthand what a positive role the NBT plays in keeping AOSA a high functioning organization. As committee chair, I was contacted often by the NBT representative for our group, and she played a key role in taking our thoughts and concerns back to the Board. Her support and willingness to help make changes is what I see myself doing in this position.

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

Going through the Orff Schulwerk certification process, you hear of there being "two schools of thought" when it comes to the Schulwerk. I feel that we cannot truly be the leaders in music education that AOSA can be when we are ourselves divided. I would like there to be more meaningful conversations in the future regarding this so that we can continue making our great organization stronger and united.