Lisa Hewitt
Candidate for Vice President

Lisa Hewitt, K-5 music specialist at Westbrooke Elementary School, has led music educators at the district, chapter, state and national levels in various roles.

She completed her term as a Region Representative in 2015. Lisa currently serves as FMEA All-State Orff Ensemble Coordinator.

Lisa has been Teacher of the Year at four schools and was an OCPS District Finalist in 2010.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

   I believe the Schulwerk offers the best model/approach for teaching the diverse student population and handling challenges that educators are faced with in today’s music classrooms. It is invaluable to the blending of cultures, genres, and for providing key problem-solving experiences as it promotes creativity and mutual respect from within the group and the class. Communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking are benchmarks within the education world and are natural components of the Schulwerk. By providing enriching and engaging lessons based on Orff Schulwerk and its heritage/folk repertoire focus, teachers can begin to develop the artist within each child.

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 stem from my belief that a leader should be first and foremost a servant. This principle inspires me to encourage, organize, and mentor with the needs of the stakeholders as the top priority. Being a people person, I desire to build confidence in others so they will feel comfortable taking on small, yet important roles. These seeds of ownership prepare them to take on larger roles later. I strive to bring people together for the benefit of the group because a stronger team builds stronger individuals. I have found using communication that was encouraging, informative, inclusive, and accessible is an important ingredient to success. Clear communication along with fine-tuned organization is a large part of getting the team to pull together.

   My passion for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk is the strongest contribution I can offer. I don’t mind being the silent worker or jumping in to fill a task when needed. AOSA has offered me the opportunity to develop not only my skills as a musician and an educator, but as a leader in the role of chapter president, course coordinator and NBT Regional Representative. It would be a privilege to give back to the organization that has meant so much to me in my career.

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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?

The role of the National Board of Trustees is to:

- Provide essential professional development by supporting and listening to the membership concerning their needs
- Provide essential professional development that addresses issues at the forefront of music education including research, technology, and the latest trends
- Advocate the value of Orff Schulwerk and promote its use
- Oversee teacher training courses
- Generate quality presenters for national conference and local chapters
- Be the visionary momentum of the organization

My role is to be guided by these priorities and be ever mindful of the voice of the membership the board brings while assisting in its work in a positive way.

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

It is my hope that AOSA will continue to grow and evolve based on the changing needs of today’s classrooms and teachers while maintaining the integrity of the Schulwerk. Teachers are faced with growing behavioral needs of students, lack of social skills, population changes, and difficult scheduling situations due to the emphasis on testing and accountability. Many are leaving the profession or are struggling to survive due to frustrations and lack of support. Providing encouragement and understanding through mentorship and relevant professional development at conference and on the website are ways AOSA can assist and build membership. Finding ways to reach out to music education programs in colleges and universities is a place of potential growth. Teacher Education Courses are a wonderful tool to build excitement for the Schulwerk and to create a pathway into the university setting. Supporting teachers as they find ways to combine technology with Orff Schulwerk is another area to explore for the future.

At the chapter level, it is important that AOSA develops high quality presenters and teacher trainers who can model how the Schulwerk meets the challenges these changes present. Exploring a membership option for local chapter members that delivers content online and on-demand would meet the needs of our digital natives and bring more members to AOSA. Local chapters could then provide the professional development verification. This would create a stronger local and national connection and collaboration. I believe that Orff Schulwerk empowers and enables the teacher and the student to become creative problem-solvers within their community. This is the key to the future.