

Candidate for Recording Secretary



Karen Petty

Karen Petty loves working with people - tall and small. An Orff Specialist for 35+ years – in both NYC and Colorado – she currently teaches Music K-5 in Parker, Colorado; and in Orff-Schulwerk summer courses.

Her service includes multiple offices in RMC-AOSA and NYC-AOSA plus AOSA Regional Representative and current Recording Secretary.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Orff Schulwerk remains an invigorating and innovative approach to teaching music and movement. As such, its role is to lead the way in creative and active music education. AOSA partners with other active music making organizations without losing what makes Orff Schulwerk unique. The importance of movement and improvisation within Orff Schulwerk set it apart. The beauty of the Orff process is that it is not a regimented, “cookie-cutter” music method, but with structure and artistry provides an open, playful, evocative and creative approach to music learning. Each lesson may unfold in a fresh new way as each group of learners bring their own unique spark to the mix. In Orff Schulwerk, music making and music literacy develop in a natural, creative, elemental journey that parallels the way any language is acquired – through imitation, exploration and improvisation – with music literacy developing naturally over time. A big benefit of Orff Schulwerk is its effect on music and movement educators and most importantly, the way it impacts students – helping them become active, creative, independent and collaborative music makers and enthusiastic appreciators of music and the arts. Orff Schulwerk embodies the 21st Century Learning buzz words – Creativity, Communication, Collaboration and Critical Thinking. Orff Schulwerk has made a huge impact on me personally - not only in my teaching, but also on me as an individual - learning from and connecting with amazing people who embody this child-like philosophy. As AOSA celebrates its 50th anniversary as an organization, we can honor our strong beginning and look forward to a brilliant future and the next 50 years.

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 a positive attitude, organizational skills, 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 synergistic energy created by thinking and working together as a group. I am very task-oriented and work well independently, prioritizing to get work completed in a timely manner. I listen carefully. I bring varied experience from working at the local level in two very different Orff chapters (the Rocky Mountain Chapter and the New York City Chapter) and on the national level over different point in time - both as a Regional Representative, two off-board AOSA committees and as Recording Secretary. Teaching adults in workshops and in Orff Schulwerk Teacher Education courses has broadened my perspective to the variety of needs music teachers face in different settings. I am very excited about the opportunity to continue to serve on the NBT and help 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 National Board of Trustees are volunteers - servant leaders - elected to represent the membership. It is important to listen to and address their needs and also keep things running smoothly behind the scenes so that events and opportunities they have come to count on, such as amazing Professional Development Conferences, Teacher Education Courses and online resources, continue to happen and improve. The National Board of Trustees has the responsibility to preserve and grow Orff Schulwerk and to guide the organization in a thoughtful, progressive way - facilitating communication and supporting local chapters. If elected, I would work as part of a collaborative team to ensure that the organization can function smoothly and effectively, and fulfill 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, enjoying unified membership, and growing more vital in promoting Elemental music teaching – reaching out to new members while supporting the continued growth and learning of existing members. 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 remaining financially secure. I welcome and envision an even more diverse membership – varied by race and ethnicity, teaching situations, age and experience. My desire is that Orff Schulwerk will come to take a greater role in undergraduate music education programs. I picture an organization that makes use of current means and technologies making Orff Schulwerk accessible and attractive to upcoming generations of teachers. I also see AOSA taking a leading role in active music education as we work cooperatively with other active music organizations in this country, and in concert with other international Orff associations.