

Sarah Fairfield: Treasurer



BIOGRAPHY

Sarah Fairfield actively supports the American Orff-Schulwerk Association through servant-leadership. Currently, she is a National Conference Chair, along with Al Heary, for the 2018 Professional Development Conference in Cincinnati. Sarah also served on the National Board of Trustees from 2010-2013, and as President/President-Elect of her local chapter from 2005-2009.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

An Orff-Schulwerk classroom is a place of musical experimentation and expression, community building, creative thinking, movement and of course, joy! Yet these attributes, common to the Schulwerk, are too often missing from the typical classroom. I see the role of Orff-Schulwerk as integral to a child's development as we prepare children for an increasingly complex and demanding world. Orff-Schulwerk offers a necessary balance to a child's education by providing experiences in those aspects of human life that are most important: the ability to innovate, work effectively with others, and express one's own ideas in a productive and artistic manner.

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

I am organized, dependable, and able to carry out tasks in a timely manner, with a focus on quality. I value the ability to collaborate with others and see the benefits of sharing opposing ideas, but always in a positive and professional manner. Perhaps my greatest strength as a leader is the ability to listen intently to others and see multiple sides of a complex issue.

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 believe that the role of the NBT is to serve the membership of the organization. When acting in the role of NBT, I would carefully consider all sides of an issue, and reflect on the possible outcomes, before making a decision. Inherent in the position is the need to keep the organization thriving in terms of membership, finances, and quality professional development and access to resources. As such, I would strive to maintain or even improve each of these areas for our members.

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

My goal for AOSA is to become an advocate for the importance of children's access to high quality music and movement education in America. I hope to see AOSA provide increased resources for teachers to address the changing needs of 21st century classrooms, which are more diverse and more dependent on technology, all while maintaining a strong philosophy about the Schulwerk based in its roots. I see AOSA as a responsive organization, and I hope to help keep it on a path towards quality professional development, meeting the needs of the membership, and sharing the philosophy of the Schulwerk with other educators and administrators.