

## Michelle Fella Przybylowski: Vice President



### BIOGRAPHY

*Michelle Fella Przybylowski, B.S., M.Ed., NBCT, Orff Schulwerk, Teacher Educator, Choral Music Experience, and Kodaly Certification. Cheltenham Elementary School k-4, The Orff Echo 2011-17, Trustee for The American Center For Elemental Music. Course Director and Level III UARTS; Level II & III, Baldwin Wallace University, Adjunct Senior Professor University of the Arts. Major instrument is harp.*

### CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Orff Schulwerk encompasses musical experiences that develop aural, visual, kinesthetic, creative skills, and enhances the intellect. It supports musicians dedicated to the art of making music, building bridges, connecting and illuminating Music education for everyone which includes:

Intellectual: critical thinking and problem-solving,

Social: a group model where social intelligence is developed through the learning process.

Emotional: expressing oneself through the process

Aesthetic: a learning environment offering a consciousness of feelings that related to the experience.

Orff Schulwerk effortlessly bonds academic instruction through integration of music and the arts. Music is the tool that facilitates global learning and understanding. Orff Schulwerk is music making that entails; preliminary play, imitation, exploration, and creation, 21st century learning through educational equity; music for everyone. It is through the Orff Schulwerk Approach that educators discover elemental music making through the art of play.

It has been my ambition as a music educator in the public school – teaching Kindergarten through 4th grade for over 27 years, encompassing, early childhood and school age children, University undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students to explore teaching and learning through imitation, exploration, and creation. It is through Orff Schulwerk that teachers offer a learning environment that exposes and opens the eyes and minds of everyone. Orff Schulwerk is limitless regarding age. It is through the growth and development of Music Education in the Orff Schulwerk Approach that the understanding of elemental music making is heightened. It is music for children, and music making for ALL. It is through ongoing professional development that ensures the Orff

Schulwerk philosophy continual growth throughout the world both inside and outside of educational settings.

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

Jack Welsh, CEO of General Electric clearly states; "A good leader creates a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision and relentlessly drive it to completion." I see myself as a leader based on the leadership skills of; vision, integrity, dedication, magnanimity, humility, openness, creativity, fairness, assertiveness, and a sense of humor.

My leadership vision entails a clear picture and a firm grasp on what success looks like and how to achieve, share, and act on it. Establishing a vision and moving toward the concept is my strength which motivates others to do the same. It is my ambition to continually inspire others through the work I lead and establish in AOSA.

Integrity is the amalgamation of outward actions and inner values. It is through integrity that I will strive to ensure the trust of the NBT and AOSA members. My dedication to AOSA as a leader would entail doing whatever it takes to complete the next step towards each vision. My role is to ensure a deep commitment and adhere to the ethical principles of AOSA through my obligation to the mission of the organization.

Key to working with members of the organization is magnanimity, giving credit where it is due. Humility is closely linked with magnanimity, as a leader I am no better or worse than the other members and my undertaking is to make the effort to elevate everyone. This is an important leadership attribute that will help to ensure all members have an equal voice in the association. Openness is being able to listen to others, opening the doors to new ideas. It is through openness that judgement is suspended while listening to others ideas, as well as accepting new ways of doing things that someone else thought of. Openness builds mutual trust and respect and will preserve the organization's vision and mission.

As a leader, I have discovered that creativity allows for the ability to think differently and go "outside the box", to see things that others have not seen, and the opportunity to take on new directions helping to foster AOSA in a continual growth meeting the needs in the 21st century. It is through creativity that I have discovered the "What if?" Fairness is a crucial leadership skill. Being fair is something I strive for in my life.

Fairness is the ability to deal with others consistently and justly. It is through this that relationships are developed building loyalty and dedication to the organization.

Assertiveness brings with it the ability to clearly state expectations as a leader. It is through assertiveness I can offer my responsibility to clearly understand what the members expect.

The most important leadership skill is a sense of humor. This is vital to relieve tension and boredom and help defuse hostility. In essence, it is a form of power that provides control over the work environment. Humor fosters camaraderie.

## 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 National Board of Trustees works to achieve communication between The Executive Board, Advisory Board, and general Membership. The NBT continually works to achieve a deeper communication through many committees that support the growth and mission of AOSA; to

demonstrate the value of Orff Schulwerk and promote widespread use; to support professional development of the members; and inspire and advocate for the creative potential of all learners. (AOSA mission statement).

Having the opportunity to serve on the NBT as Region V Representative, I have a deeper understanding of the organization and the intricate components. The board fosters the mission and growth of AOSA and links the members through a larger connection first; with the local chapters uniting the advisory board and second; enhancing the ongoing mission of the chapters to promote a professional learning community for the membership. As a leader, I would continue to promote, support, and encourage all levels of governance, to continue to build bridges with all members, and seeking out new members with the effort of the NBT while continuing to foster a perpetual growing community of elemental music makers. It is through the leadership opportunity that new innovative ideas can be explored and implemented with the support and assistance of the NBT.

My ongoing mission as a leader for AOSA in the 21st century includes, embracing, guiding, and supporting the NBT to continue to preserve, develop, build, and strengthen; the general membership, Teacher Education programs, outreach programs, community connections, scholarship programs, AOSA publications; The Orff Echo, Reverberations, and the many present and future programs of AOSA. In fulfilling my role as a leader in tandem with the NBT, I look forward to continuing to promote a community relationship between the NBT and the Advisory board through 21st century tools of technology, persistently fostering a profound understanding of the Schulwerk and how it is an intricate part of AOSA.

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

In defining AOSA; it is a professional organization of educators committed and dedicated to the creative music and movement approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. My future vision of AOSA lies in 21st century learning skills. This vision entails building a collaborative, culturally diverse, and a critical thinking community of elemental music makers and educators, curious, and dedicated to the Orff Schulwerk Approach. It is my vision to build from the past, learn from the present in continuing to foster and strengthen ASOA into the future. My mission is to continue to foster a strong connection through communication and collaboration between the Organization and the members through the world of music education. This much larger world which includes many philosophies such as; Kodaly, Dalcroze, and Music Learning Theory. It is through the connection of these and other organizations that my vision for AOSA will continue to support and interconnect a stronger global foundation for Music Education.

Music has a huge impact on human nature. Music is the heart and soul of human existence with the significance of music and a focus on Mindfulness and Social and Emotional Intelligence. It is my vision through AOSA to ensure Music education is sustained, recognized, and acknowledged as fundamental core curriculum through the implementation of the Orff Schulwerk Approach. It is through my vision of building, supporting, and strengthening ASOA that I will steadily reach to achieve and acknowledge "new" innovative and future endeavors while facilitating to strengthen the role music education in America.

It is through these innovative concepts that I will deepen my understanding in developing and exploring 21st century transformations and the means with which they drive and impact AOSA. My vision for AOSA is to continuously maintain a conscious awareness to the past, present, and future while preserving and strengthening the organizations roots.