

## Rachel Grelle Cecil: Region IV Representative



### BIOGRAPHY

*I am a music specialist at Brentwood Elementary in Jacksonville, Florida. I have a Bachelor of Music Education from Louisiana State University and a Master of Music Education from Florida State University. I am certified through level two of Orff-Schulwerk and currently serve as the President of the North Florida Orff Chapter.*

### CANDIDATE FORUM

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

The role of Orff Schulwerk is to develop well-rounded, musically minded children through a creative and collaborative music experience and to show the value of that experience to a broader audience. The strength of the Orff Schulwerk process lies in improvisation, creativity, and collaboration. It empowers music educators to step into the realm of inspiration without the confines associated with other more traditional methods. The use of music and movement allows children to explore the limits of their creativity while simultaneously laying a foundation of musical experience that can grow into a life-long appreciation for the arts. Orff Schulwerk is also instrumental in the development of skills that are not just for the classroom but also for life. These skills such as curiosity, teamwork, and critical thinking, serve as building blocks for a successful future.

AOSA stands at the forefront of the movement to educate schools, teachers, and students on the exciting and gratifying Orff Schulwerk process. I have experienced, first-hand, the transformative power the Orff process can have on both a personal and professional level. It is my sincere desire to help AOSA achieve continued success in its stated goals and to maintain its national reputation for excellence.

#### 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 organization, collaboration, and effective communication. I have learned through various leadership roles that programs and events, organizations or groups, and even meetings all run successfully the more they are organized. Looking at every detail, making to do lists,

delegating tasks to responsible people, and coming prepared contribute to keeping things organized. It is also important to make sure that you are collaborating with others as a way of acknowledging all perspectives, learning new ideas, and to keep yourself invigorated about what you are doing. I love hearing from other educators about what and how they teach. I find that sharing successes and failures helps to improve my own teaching and educational growth. However, it does not matter the amount of organizing one does or with whom one collaborates if you are not communicating effectively. I make it a point to acknowledge all communication positively and respectfully. I think it is important that people feel that they have been heard. Being a good leader comes from the passion you have for the thing you are leading. I believe in Orff Schulwerk and I have seen the effects it can have on teachers and students. Therefore, I will use my skills and my passion to help continue 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?**

As a region representative I will be a liaison between the National Board of Trustees and local chapters. I will make sure that the chapters are following the rules and procedures set forth by the board. I will be an advocate for the needs of the chapters acting as a guiding force to help them with challenges and share their successes. I will represent the general membership by listening and addressing their needs. I will help to keep the governing body of AOSA functioning behind the scenes so that our membership can see and experience all that our organization has to offer.

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

My vision for AOSA is to continue to spread the word about this wonderful organization, the benefits it provides, and educate people on the process of the Orff Schulwerk. Throughout my years of attending national conventions, I have seen the awareness of AOSA grow across the country, but I feel there are still many who do not know about our organization. I want to increase our promotion of AOSA at the collegiate level, exposing students to the organization's benefits before they begin their teaching careers. Additionally, I feel it is important to help chapters advocate and encourage national membership by relaying all of the resources provided to national members. I want to help chapters find ways to advocate and send their membership to national convention, so they can see presentations of the Schulwerk, collaborate with peers about the process, and bring ideas back to their chapters about spreading the Orff Schulwerk into their community of educators.