

Kaethe Grabenhofer: Region VI Representative



BIOGRAPHY

Kaethe Grabenhofer teaches K-8 music at First Immanuel Lutheran School in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. She holds degrees from Concordia University, Wisconsin and the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, where she completed Level III OS training. She is a member of the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble and is past-president of the Greater Milwaukee Orff Chapter and plays the organ for church. Kaethe just became a Nationally Board Certified Teacher.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Creating opportunities in improvisation and being creative is essential in the 21st century and a part of the Orff-Schulwerk. This approach gives students experiences in singing, dancing, and playing in order to be successful music makers in the world today and in the future. It allows teachers to reach students where they are at, guide them through the process to enrich their lives, express themselves through music and movement and grow. The collaborative nature of the Orff-Schulwerk fosters communication skills which is so vital to being human. Orff-Schulwerk is timeless, organic and has the ability to adapt to various cultures, situations and environments. The heritage of pieces from the volumes given to us from Orff and Keetman and the pieces created today enrich our lives as we work together to create music.

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

Having been a fan of the Orff approach for the past 20+ years, I believe that my leadership strengths are passion for the Orff approach, my ability to listen to other people's ideas and a love for learning. I like to think and ponder sides of an issue. As AOSA forges into the future, these skills are necessary as we collaborate to plan our progress in a stronger membership base, and providing quality professional development opportunities to support the music teachers in America.

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 understand the vital role National Board of Trustees are to AOSA as they actively communicate with the local boards the feedback, questions and information about the membership and activities of AOSA. As new ideas are shared between the local boards through the National Board of Trustees, this

communication is essential to the success of the greater membership. The NBT also has a challenging role to hold the vision for the long-term growth and financial stability of AOSA. My role would be to share the goals and availability of resources of AOSA with the local chapters, help guide the chapters to grow their membership and to listen to each chapter's needs and wants. I am committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of the NBT for Region VI.

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

I see a large community of people all across America engaging in active music making through the use of the Orff approach. My vision includes an enormous growth in membership, though reaching out to music teachers by sharing what we do well including 21st century skills. My vision includes music teachers, new and old, learning the Orff-Schulwerk and choosing to use this music-making approach with their children. Through a deepened awareness, knowledge and experience of the approach, music teachers reach out to AOSA to learn more about our approach through workshops and training and to share with others to create playful musical children. AOSA must continue to plant the seeds to create joyful collaborative learners of all ages.