

Candidate for AOSA Treasurer: Betsy Sebring



BIOGRAPHY

Betsy Sebring is passionate about communities, working with students and educators to help them discover and share Orff-Schulwerk. Elementary music teacher, Level I and II Teacher Educator for AOSA Orff-Schulwerk Certification courses, and frequent clinician, she loves contributing to the organizations that gave her so much.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Music education, like everything, seems to evolve with the times. Orff Schulwerk allows educators to adapt to new situations and seemingly new priorities in the classroom. Some constants remain: creating based on resources available, creating using various media, using the strengths of all of those in the community (especially within the classroom community), recognizing all voices within the ensemble, working together to recognize and experience artistic moments, taking risks based on experience and new information in order to grow. Regardless of the changes within music education I see Orff Schulwerk's role as a constant because of the flexibility it offers and the integrity of the art it supports.

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

I have a lot of experience working with different groups of people - including AOSA board experience. I recognize the value of collaborating and working with a group of people who bring different strengths to the table. I am a good listener which is valuable as a musician, a board member and as someone who works closely with the local chapter members. I love collaborating with and learning from others. I value the history of AOSA and still see the need to move the organization into the future. I hope these strengths would help AOSA and the promotion of Orff Schulwerk.

3. AOSA is committed to diversity and equity. What experiences and/or skills do you possess to strengthen our organization as we move forward?

I am committed to continued growth in this area. I have been and will continue to read, attend webinars and lectures, participate in discussion groups centering diversity and equity. Most importantly I will listen and continue to reevaluate my teaching practice through this lens. I will use my voice to advocate for all voices to be heard and work on recognizing and dismantling my own biases. I hope that my actions will inspire more people to do the same.

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

I hope that AOSA will continue to be a resource and a "meeting place" for all interested in pursuing and practicing their artistry and their teaching craft. Orff Schulwerk is a practice that never is finished. There is always more to learn, to experience and to share, and I hope AOSA can help foster growth for all and to advocate for that growth to continue and be shared with many.