

Candidate for AOSA National Board of Trustee Region II:
David Hayden



BIOGRAPHY

Greetings! I am a native of Illinois, where I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Music. I taught briefly in Illinois and moved to Arizona where I have been teaching K-6 General Music and Band in Mesa since 1996. I completed all of my Orff Levels and Master Class at Arizona State University and have been teaching Recorder for the same course since 2016.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

I strongly believe Orff Schulwerk plays an important role in our students' music education, but also in their Social-Emotional Learning. The Schulwerk Method teaches children through active music making and participation. Students begin with playful learning and develop important relationship and communication skills as they learn to make music together. As we teach children music in an elemental way, they discover that they are an important element to their class through artful collaboration.

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

One of my leadership strengths is to analyze various outcomes before reaching consensus. I often place myself in various situations to properly analyze and consider all avenues in an attempt to properly instruct individuals or groups of students. By deploying this method of thought, I am able to work well with groups and strive to synthesize various opinions or concerns to create solutions. I prefer to be proactive rather than reactive; considering the big picture helps me facilitate a positive learning environment. I like to look at how various ideas can be worked into a bigger picture. I work well in committees and enjoy hearing differing points of view. I am willing to tackle my share of the workload or lead where the need arises.

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

This past November, I was able to participate in the CTE Diversity training with Dr. Nicole Robinson. I applied this training at our CTE Summit, where we discussed ways to become more inclusive, including diversifying the way we teach the Schulwerk in our Levels courses. I have taught at a title one school for the past 24 years. During this time, I have seen our cultural demographics shift, learned to adjust, and supplement how I teach. I know these skills will be valuable as AOSA continues to re-evaluate practices in order to match our current cultural awareness and shifts.

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

I believe that AOSA is already actively engaged in evolving to meet current cultural shifts. We are evaluating our Teacher Education Curriculum and materials to include a wider variety of cultures, while eliminating bias and stereotype. We are currently experiencing a radical shift in the way we teach as a necessary response to distance learning. Orff Schulwerk teachers have already been collaborating together, by generating creative ideas to meet the challenges of technology and distance. As technology advances, it will be critical for us to continue to incorporate it into our teaching and learning. I know the collective creativity of AOSA will turn this challenge into another creative tool in our process of evolution.