

Candidate for AOSA Vice President: Josh Southard



BIOGRAPHY

Josh Southard teaches K-5 music in Carmel, IN. He presents nationally at Orff workshops, and he also teaches Level I and II Orff Certification. He authored "Sing and Play, Stories All Day," published by Beatin' Path Publications. Recently, he served as a Region Representative on the National Board of Trustees.

CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Orff Schulwerk gives you freedom. I mean this in the sense that we, as Orff Schulwerk teachers, are not bound by textbooks that map out what we present, when we present, and even what we say when we are presenting concepts to our students. A quarter note can be presented and experienced in hundreds of different ways, and WE can make the decision in which way we choose. Orff Schulwerk gives you the freedom to be creative in your classroom and pushes you to think of ways to reach all of our students. I feel that I have always been a creative person, but it was Orff Schulwerk and my levels training that brought that side of me out and showed me how to use that in my classroom to make meaningful, engaging, and fun lessons for my students.

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

I feel that my biggest strength is my ability to listen. Being able to listen allows me to think about all of the possibilities and scenarios before coming to a decision. I am always willing to change my mindset if I feel that another way is better for the organization. I am hardworking and able to quickly put things into motion as well. With the help of others, I was able to take a great idea about AOSA presenting Tech Mondays and put it into motion for our members during the nationwide shutdown.

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

As a representative on the NBT, I helped work on the AOSA Mission statement and the Diversity statement, as well as Song Repertoire Selection guidelines. I was present when Dr. Nicole Robinson worked with the board on two occasions, and also attended her Master Class. I serve on the Diversity and Inclusion committee at my school as a teacher representative. I believe that AOSA has been doing great work when it comes to Diversity and Inclusion, and I appreciate that they know we still have ways to go and are willing to have discussions and make decisions in order to be better.

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

I am writing this response in the midst of COVID 19, and already, Orff Schulwerk looks different! So many wonderful members have presented and shared what an Orff classroom could look like through a digital classroom experience. Much of this is because our younger members are so willing to share their knowledge of the vast amount of available technology. My vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk is to include all of this, but not forget that the magic that is music-making truly happens in a community setting and in a classroom with children. We chose this profession because we love music and we love being around children. What this pandemic has shown us is that, yes, we can still use the Orff process through digital learning, and that is something that has not been present before. With this in mind, I see AOSA providing more remote-learning possibilities, all while staying true to the idea that true music-making happens in a community/classroom setting.