

Candidate for AOSA National Board of Trustees Region V:  
Karin Puffer



**BIOGRAPHY**

*Karin Puffer is currently teaching K-6 general music specialist in Westborough, Massachusetts. As President of the New England Chapter, she promotes the Schulwerk within her chapter and beyond. Karin has published in a local music journal and is a frequent presenter on topics such as process, recorder and movement.*

**CANDIDATE FORUM**

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

The Orff Schulwerk classroom offers a child centered education where we explore the uniqueness of each child and empower them to express themselves freely and joyfully. As Orff facilitators, we create an environment within our classrooms that allow students to achieve goals, show empathy toward each other, and create strong relationships. All of these things support Social Emotional Learning (SEL). With the trauma our children have faced in recent years, our work as Orff educators has never been more needed.

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

My dedication to being a leader within the music education community runs deep. From my ten years as a chapter board member to my three years serving on the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Educator Advisory Council, I am dedicated to promoting the Schulwerk. My leadership style is positive and altruistic. I have a passion for encouraging and mentoring new executive board members. I am well organized and have a strong attention to detail. As president of the New England chapter, I strive to build a culture of family, community, and fun.

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

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." - Maya Angelou I understand that I do not know everything. I have taught in schools that have been classified as diverse and those which have not. Although I will never fully understand the struggles of others, I can continue to educate myself and do better for all of my students. I can seek out authentic experiences through literature that I read for my own education and choose appropriate literature that reflects all the students in my classes. I can commit to update the repertoire that I teach so that I am promoting each of my student's narratives.

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

AOSA can meet the needs of their teachers by continuing to expand their membership offerings. National Conference, additions to the AOSA website, and social media presence allow members access to an amazing array of relevant musical materials. AOSA must use its voice to advocate for music education for all. I strongly support having an active diversity committee at the national level and I envision that AOSA continues to help its members financially by growing their scholarship and grant programs. In order for this wonderful organization to flourish, we need to be attracting new members constantly. I would be honored to serve.