

## Candidate for AOSA Vice President: Lisa Sullivan



### BIOGRAPHY

*Besides her 31 years of classroom teaching, the last three at Madison School in Skokie, IL, Lisa Sullivan served three years as the Region VI representative for AOSA; presented at state and national conferences, and spent summers teaching Orff Schulwerk Levels and Curriculum. A career highlight was being named the 2017 Elementary Music Teacher of the Year by Indiana MEA.*

### CANDIDATE FORUM

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

Orff Schulwerk is an integral part of music education. It not only provides a process that allows children the outlet to express their thoughts and dreams through music, but offers higher level thinking while giving children freedom from the much more structured and demanding setting in the general classroom. The materials used in Orff Schulwerk also offer music theory that can be consumed at a much younger age, preparing students for life-long musical experiences.

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

First and foremost, my passion for the Schulwerk and what it can do for children is my sole motivator. I am a highly organized and sequential thinker. My leadership style focuses on open channels of communication, transparency, positive encouragement, and allowing every voice to be heard. This helps to build unity within a group and empower its members to more effectively promote 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?

During 2019-20 I served on our District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) and I will continue to do so for the 2020-21 school year. DELT is currently working on offering professional development opportunities to teachers in cultural and racial equity. In conjunction with being a member of DELT and working with the district to create an equitable community, I personally am now on a journey of understanding my race and how I can advocate for equality for all races. I see education, particularly music education, as a vital element that illustrates our common humanity and as a cornerstone of the bridge of change that can join all cultures and races.

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

During my 30 years as a member of AOSA, the world as a whole and the education world specifically, has evolved incredibly. I have seen tremendous growth in AOSA as an organization especially in terms of music education resources, expansion of professional development opportunities, and the community of Orff teachers. This growth has made Orff Schulwerk a vital component of the music education community. My vision moving forward is to maintain this vitality by promoting Orff Schulwerk's value and relevance to today's generation of educators through mentorship, continued development of strong resources, and the advancement of the Orff Schulwerk "brand" on current and future media platforms.