

Candidate for AOSA National Board of Trustee Region I :  
Shirley Van Paepeghem



**BIOGRAPHY**

*In addition to teaching 36 years and serving on multiple education boards, Shirley co-chaired the first Idaho State Honor Orff Ensemble in 2020. She currently teaches at North Star Charter School in Meridian Idaho. She performs as a Jazz artist throughout the Northwest and Disneyland.*

**CANDIDATE FORUM**

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

Just as it did when it started, Orff Schulwerk process can provide a process of play and learning that allows the child to connect with creativity, intrinsic beat, rhythm, and melody. It helps provide an opportunity for expression to be felt and shared. In today's world of disconnection through technology, the need for the Orff classroom is that much more vital to every human.

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 served in many leadership roles on many boards and honor groups at the state and national level over the years. I feel a leader needs to be a role model in diplomacy, integrity, work ethic, and inclusion, and professionalism. These values would be my priorities and I feel confident that I would do my utmost to achieve what serves our community best.

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

Communication with those of us in the trenches is vital in knowing what our community of music educators needs, and then sharing what we are accomplishing in our efforts. I am quick to respond to those who reach out to me and would make myself as available as possible to be a listening ear or mentor as needed. Those who have gone before me have set a great example of this. It would then be an honor to pass those reflections on to the board of trustees as it may assist them in where to direct their efforts and planning.

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

Orff Schulwerk stands as a model for all educators. My vision is to continue to do all possible through AOSA to be accessible to those brave men and women who bring music into the classroom. Not all who teach are given the necessary tools to succeed. Not all schools have qualified music instructors. AOSA outreach is vital to helping each child find the music within them.