

The Broadsider

Newsletter of the New England Chapter of AOSA

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Message from the President

Dear NE/AOSA Members,

Time flies when you are having fun! I can't believe my term is almost up. It feels like just yesterday when I introduced a clinician for the first time.

I am always amazed and inspired by your commitment to music education, and the sacrifices you make for your own professional development. I am especially grateful to the devoted members of our Executive Board, all of whom volunteer their time and effort throughout the year to make our workshops happen. We couldn't provide such outstanding professional development without their hard work. And, as always, a special thanks to those of you who help move chairs and instruments after each workshop and step up in other ways, large or small, to help us out. I assure you we don't take it for granted!

Please take a moment to remember the incredible clinicians who shared their skills and wisdom with us this year: Meg Tietz, Cindy Hall, Sofia Lopez-Ibor, Barbara Watson, David Frego, and of course our own members who generously participated in Chapter Sharing. Consider the wealth of ideas you have been given. Ask yourself how many lesson ideas, teaching strategies, and specific materials have enriched and informed your own teaching.

As I have mentioned before, AOSA (our parent organization) plays a vital role in our chapter's success. **Please consider supporting AOSA by becoming a national member!**

In addition to the current benefits of AOSA membership – two great publications, access to members-only scholarships and online resources, an amazing professional support network, and the opportunity to attend a truly inspirational conference – this is a time of meaningful change for AOSA. The National Board of Trustees is in the process enhancing member benefits, updating our public and professional image, and

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Upcoming Workshops...

September 28, 2013

Betsy Kipperman

October 26, 2013

Donna Fleetwood

December 7, 2013

Chapter Sharing

February 1, 2014

Anne Puckett

March 8, 2014

Joyce Stephansky

April 12, 2014

Jo Ella Hug



It is an experience of long standing that wild flowers always prosper in places where carefully planned and cultivated plants often produce disappointing results. ~Carl Orff



Why Our Schools Need the Arts

Jessica Hoffmann Davis
Book Review by Jill Hogan

When music educators congregate at conferences or workshops, it is not an unusual occurrence to hear frustrations about administrators, school colleagues, and even parents who see music classes as niceties, less important than the valued work in other more “academic” and test-accountable subjects. Even when music teachers feel acknowledged for an extracurricular status or for vague reasons like promoting well-roundedness or helping students do better in other subjects, it seems easy for a music teacher to sometimes question why many in our communities seem to have trouble understanding the full value of our discipline.

Published in 2008, *Why Our Schools Need the Arts* seeks to create clear language and logical arguments about why the arts are valuable not because they promote other areas, but rather because they provide unique understandings that can be experienced only through artistic encounters. A “manifesto” created by Jessica Hoffmann Davis, a cognitive developmental psychologist and founder of the Arts in Education program at Harvard Graduate School of Education, the book was created for the audience of administrators and other musical laypeople.

The book is comprised of four sections, the first of which includes brief descriptions of different types of inclusion of the arts in schools, and a discussion of seven different arguments currently used as objections to arts education. The second section is the true heart of the book, an impassioned plea to justify the arts not for non-arts reasons like improved math scores, but for the unique qualities that only exist in music, art, dance, and theater. There are five fundamental features unique to the arts described, each with two sub-parts. 1) In the arts, there is a tangible product, created through imaginative thinking, and allowing the creator to feel he is an agent of change, 2) There is a focus on emotion in the arts, including expression of one’s own emotion, and empathy for the emotions of others, 3) The arts are

ambiguous, open to interpretation and encouraging respect for differing opinions, 4) Process is stressed in the arts, motivating students to inquire about what they want to know, and reflect on their progress, and 5) The arts are “intrinsically human,” (p.74) creating connections by fostering both engagement and responsibility to further those connections by students. Orff-Schulwerk teachers may feel particularly drawn towards any of these features based on what they see in their own classrooms, though a few seem particularly notable: the imagination students convey during composition and improvisation activities in the Orff-Schulwerk room, along with the agency a student feels when given the responsibility to create his own music clearly relates to the first feature. Other Orff teachers may feel most drawn towards the fourth feature, given the heavy emphasis of the approach on process. The final two sections conclude the book, offering advice about advocacy in general and the author’s thoughts towards the future.

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Effective advocacy resources often contribute to a large portion of a music teacher’s library. Even for those who need not actively advocate, looking at the arts through the lenses provided in *Why Our Schools Need the Arts* can be personally meaningful. This book creates a well-researched resource for quantifying the place of music and music teachers in our educational landscape and a useful text for passing along into an administrator’s mailbox.

From teaching and learning to world shaking and moving, creativity spans as many arenas of human thought as human beings can invent. ~Jessica Hoffmann Davis

President's Message Continued...

redesigning our website. I am particularly excited about a members-only digital media library that will include videos from past conference sessions spanning many years. AOSA members will now be able to learn from past and present masters “on demand” from the comfort of their own living rooms!!! I am also delighted that AOSA will be offering free online memberships for college students, providing full access to the same digital services and information available to regular members, including the digital media library. The new website will also feature journal articles, local workshop calendars, summer course information, special features on individual members, and organizational history. Check the website regularly (aosa.org) to stay up to date with these changes and take advantage of these great new features and member benefits!

I look forward to seeing all of you again in September and welcoming Jenn Dennett as President. Please take advantage of your free guest pass and bring your friends and colleagues, too! We have another great lineup of clinicians for you, so don't forget to register early and get the discounted rate. Also please let us know if, in addition to NE/AOSA, you join AOSA for the first time – we will recognize your extra commitment to Orff Schulwerk with an additional discount on your NE/AOSA membership.

Wishing you a fun and restful summer!

Sincerely,

Nick Wild



No summer plans yet? Consider taking a levels course or pursuing post level III professional development. Many of the local courses are being taught by NE/AOSA members! For more information on Orff Levels courses approved by AOSA please visit <http://www.aosa.org/approvedcourses.php>

Orff Level Courses

Boston University, Levels I and II, July 29 - August 9
The Hartt School-University of Hartford, Hartford CT, Levels I and II, July 1 - 12
Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater MA, Level I and Level II July 22 - August 2.
Villanova University, Villanova, PA, Levels, I, II, III, July 8 - 19

Post Level III Courses

Anderson University IN
George Mason University VA
University of St. Thomas MN
Hofstra University NY
VanderCook College of Music IL
University of Memphis TN

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NEAOSA Celebrates 40 Years!

The 40th anniversary of our chapter's induction to AOSA is this year! To commemorate this event, we are asking members to contribute their favorite moments and memories from 1973 to present to be included in the next Broadsider. Please forward your contributions to jillian.a.hogan@gmail.com.

Find Us On Facebook!



NEAOSA has created a facebook group to provide you with information on workshops and other special events. Search for the New England Orff Schulwerk Chapter or click on this link <https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandOrffSchulwerkChapter>

NE/AOSA members are now entitled to ONE FREE GUEST PASS per school year!

We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity to introduce a colleague or administrator to Orff Schulwerk. Please use the link on our website (neaosa.org) to download and print your free pass.

*Whoever has skill in music is of good temperament and fitted for all things.
We must teach music in schools. ~ Martin Luther*



Rocky Mountain Hi!

Mark your calendars for this year's
AOSA National Conference

November 13-16, 2013

For more information go to:

www.aosa.org/conference.html



Join AOSA and save \$\$\$\$

Did you join AOSA for the first time this year, or for the first time in 5 years or more? Bring your AOSA receipt to the next workshop and we will refund \$10 of your NE/AOSA membership dues in recognition of your commitment to supporting and promoting Orff Schulwerk.

Become a member of NEAOSA!

www.neaosa.org

With your membership you are able to attend all six chapter workshops, \$125.00 less than if you paid the day workshop price for all six workshops!

Regular Member (includes all six workshops).....	\$85.00
One day- Non-member price.....	\$35.00
Retired Member.....	\$30.00
Student Member.....	FREE (with student ID)

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our scholarship recipients. They will be working towards completing an Orff level this summer!

Katie Quann
Hallie Stone
Cathy Ward

Read about what they learned when they share their experiences in the Fall *Broadsider*.