

Fall 2026 Newsletter

Greater Cincinnati Chapter AOSA



Ready for Fall Workshops!

Online Registration: The quickest and most painless way to sign-up for workshops. Online registration is open!

[Register Here](#)



Email Us



Website



Like Us



Follow Us



Follow Us

2026-2027 Workshops:

9-26 Matthew Stensrud

10-24 Charissa Duncanson

2-6 BethAnn Hepburn

3-13 Michael Vasquez



President's Message

GCCAOSA Chapter,

Happy new school year! I hope these fresh beginnings have brought you and your students plenty of joy as we begin furthering their musical growth each day. Classes filled with laughs and giggles have filled my heart over the past few weeks.



As I now step into the role of Chapter President, it is one of the greatest honors I can imagine. How lucky am I to be supported by such a loving community of music educators who have truly shaped me from my very beginning? I took Level I in 2018 before starting my Orff Ensemble in Fairfield with Ed Wooten, later joining the chapter the following year. This organization has meant the world to me for the years since then and I will do my best to serve you and continue our legacy as one of the strongest chapters in the nation!

Looking ahead, we have two meaningful opportunities to formally gather and make music together this semester. On September 26th, we will welcome Matthew Stensrud for our first workshop of the year. Then, on October 24th, we will welcome Charissa Duncanson. These days are about more than professional learning; they are about connection, renewal, and finding joy through shared musical experiences. Both workshops will be held from 9:00 AM to 1:45 PM at South Lebanon Elementary School. Be sure to register for National Conference in Richmond, VA as well at aosa.org!

On another note, I look forward to increasing our non-workshop social events throughout my time as President. We have so much fun together already, so there is no reason why the fun has to stay in the South Lebanon Elementary cafeteria! I have some fun ideas in mind and will happily take recommendations for fun times that will strengthen our bonds and community together.

Whether you are a longtime member of our chapter or joining us for the first time this year, your presence and time matter. In times that feel uncertain or overwhelming, our Orff community remains a place of creativity, support, and belonging. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at president@cincinnatiorff.org if you have questions, ideas, or simply want to connect. Who else is gonna be on team bass recorder with me this year?

We are unstoppable when we are together! Viva la musica!

Mike Holz

Greater Cincinnati Orff Chapter President



Upcoming Workshops

September 26th

**Matthew
Stensrud**

Effortless Play: Using the Schulwerk to Enhance Creativity

There's always a place for creation - a folk dance with a twist, a chance to explore the xylophone, or an opportunity to see what your body can do with one word - but pulling these ideas from our students can be challenging. Let's go back to the Schulwerk roots of playfulness, discovery, and wonder as we explore these ideas and more through student-led choices, improvisation, risk-taking, and more. We'll unearth the unexpected, so join us on the journey!

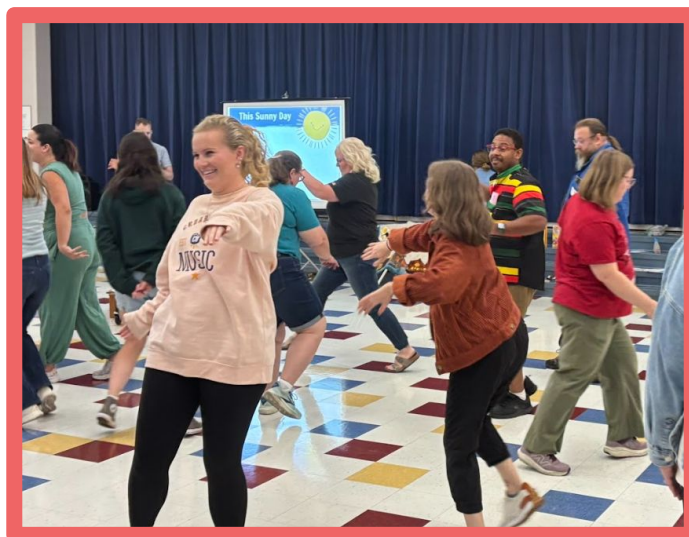
Create Windows and Sliding Doors

Through Children's Literature

Learn how to incorporate an inclusive space for literature to teach musical concepts in your classroom. Teachers in this session will be able to encourage social and emotional learning by understanding the differences between creating mirrors, windows, and sliding doors through children's lit. Charissa will bring several book recommendations for the music classroom written and illustrated by People of the Global Majority; Black & Indigenous People/Persons of Color (BIPOC). Be ready to create, play, and add movement to bring new classroom stories to life!

October 24th

**Charissa
Duncanson**



Scholarships & Grants

Professional Development Conference Scholarship:

The Greater Cincinnati AOSA Assistance Fund provides financial aid to persons who are interested in furthering the growth of Orff Schulwerk. These persons must need financial aid to further their education in Orff Schulwerk.

- The funds must be used to cover the cost of registration at AOSA Professional Development Conference
- The applicant must show personal financial need.
- In addition, \$500 of other expenses (housing, travel, food) will also be covered.
- The applicant must be a current member, in good standing, of AOSA and the Greater Cincinnati chapter.

Deadline to apply is September 30th, 2026

**Interested in applying for a scholarship
or grant?**

[Apply Here Now](#)



Diversity & Inclusion

AOSA is committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive membership, promoting an understanding of issues of diversity and inclusion, and providing teaching and learning resources that respect, affirm, and protect the dignity and worth of all. The Greater Cincinnati Chapter has begun working with our diversity committee to address some of these concerns and topics within our own organization. If you are looking for more resources on song selection and presenting music from various cultures for your classroom, check out the AOSA website. There are many resources available to help you!

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

GCCAOSA Endowment Fund

The endowment fund is a great way to support your chapter and all the things it provides. Give a donation in honor of a special teacher who has helped you develop into the educator you are, or in memory of a loved one.

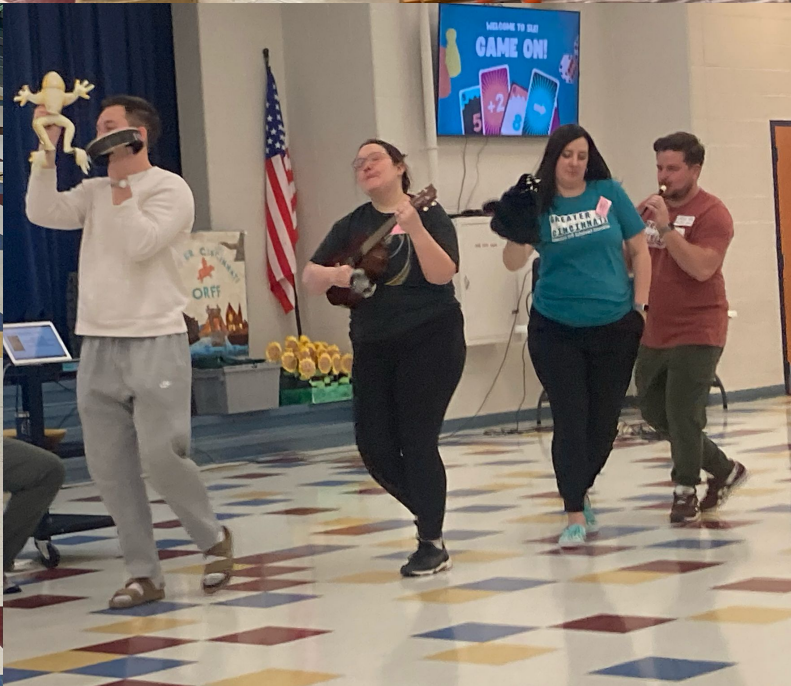
See Anna Calhoun for more information about donating.



A reflection on last year's season...

The 2025-2026 workshop season was one to remember. We hosted David Row, Fauna Woolfe, and Scott Roether, in addition to our Chapter Share. What wonderful experiences we shared together!







Thank you for a fantastic year!

Workshop Information

Where: All workshops are held at South Lebanon Elementary School.

**50 Ridgeview Ln.
Mainville, OH 45039**

When: Workshops run from 9:00am - 1:45pm.
Refreshments and registration begin at 8:30am.

Who: All teachers are invited to attend. Want to bring a friend? Check out the guest pass online.

Join: Membership to GCCAOSA includes: national and local memberships, 4 workshops, access to Video Library and an Orff Echo subscription.

Prices listed as

Cash/Check and (Card)

Regular Member: \$157 (\$163)

Local Member (with AOSA prepaid): \$60 (\$63)

Retired Member: \$96 (\$100)

Student Member: FREE

Single Workshop: \$50 (\$52)

Retired Workshop: \$25 (\$26)

First Time Member: (Local portion half off!) : \$127 (\$132)

Reciprocity Admission (with AOSA membership) : \$25 (\$26)

Want to know more about what package works best for you? Check out the website:

Workshop Packages

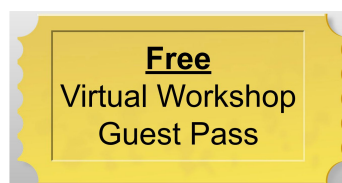
Video Library

Digital Access to Previous Workshops Now Available!!

We now have our video library stored on Google Drive! Members will be able to access most workshops dating back to 2005. Notes for previous workshops will be included with videos as we receive permission from presenters. Access to videos will be granted to all paying members. This will be connected to the email address they register with. Each member will have access for 1 year (access will renew with memberships). Contact cinciorfflibrary@gmail.com with any questions or troubleshooting.

GUEST PASS

Want to join us for the first time??
You can FOR FREE!!!
Just sign up for a guest pass online:



Greater Cincinnati AOSA Board Members:

President: Mike Holz

President Elect: Dagny McEwen

Secretary: Sarah Singer

Treasurer: Leslie Hicks

Program Chair: Christina Reardon

Membership Chair: Erika Pfeuffer

Hospitality Chair: Trinity Kanipes

Facilities Liaison: Melanie Sherby

Boutique: Janelle Sergeant and Katy Moffat

Digital Manager: Annie Hobson

University of Cincinnati Liaison: Amy Beegle

Miami University Liaison: Julie Froude

Video Librarian/Website: Connor Hendrickson

Scholarship/Endowment Chair: Anna Calhoun

Past President: Allison Croskey

Member-at-Large: Adam Depew, Bri Hendrickson, Ed Wooten



Boutique News

The Boutique will have many unique items this Fall: plenty of picture books, manipulatives, chapter merchandise, Orff literature, and take-and-use lessons and activities. As always, if you have any ideas for items, please feel free to reach out!