

The Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg, an international network of Orff-Schulwerk associations and associated schools/institutions

1. Orff-Schulwerk associations (OSA) and their origin

OSA are professional associations with and for music and dance pedagogues. Their members are mostly teachers who have been inspired and motivated by the elemental music and dance pedagogy according to Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. They work with adapting the principles of language and culture in their own countries.

ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS⁸

In general, students and pedagogues participate in introductory courses about Orff-Schulwerk. Their newly awakened interest then leads to more in depth studies at the Orff Institute of the Mozarteum University in Salzburg (Baccalaureate, Master, Post Graduate University Course) or Levels Courses in other countries.



After returning to their own countries, graduates begin with their own courses in their familiar pedagogical and social environments of speech, country and culture.



Through this pioneer work, the circle of interested colleagues broadens. Courses are offered with teachers from the Orff Institute or a well-known OSA



Colleagues or students decide for more in depth studies, the circle of specialists grows larger and there is the necessity for a working community to exchange experiences and to discuss questions that arise.



Contact is made with the Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg related to advice for founding an association.⁹



After comprehensive preparations, building up a team of collaborators from dedicated and well-trained members, after the recognition of the association's governmental laws of their own country and after the approval of the Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg, a national Orff-Schulwerk association will be founded.



Today there are officially 45 associations. The number of members lies between 20 for newly created associations and 3,500 for well-organized associations of many years with many offerings for their membership.

Tasks for the Orff-Schulwerk associations

- a) Professional development and guidance for their members,
- b) Application of all aspects of an elemental music and dance pedagogy with well-trained teachers, therapists or those who accompany diverse target groups and occupational fields, publishing educational texts, collecting materials, etc.,
- c) Publishing digital newsletters or a magazine,
- d) Presenting conferences, competitions, concerts, etc.

In addition the individual OSA go their own ways. One can read about the different associations on the website: <http://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/english/orff-schulwerk-associations.html>. (see p. 69 ff.)

a) Many countries offer occasionally or at regular intervals training for teachers from specific institutions like kindergartens, primary schools, music schools, and institutions for disabled persons and senior residences among others. Elsewhere there are regular summer courses, or in associations with large memberships, level courses that offer an intensive training in two week sessions or more over a period of two to three years.

b) The associations attempt to influence the educational structure of their country by offering regular lessons, occasional projects or continuing events with music and dance pedagogy within or outside schools, social and therapeutical areas. They work on conferences and forums, direct TV programs with children or young people and release publications among others.

c) A few associations send a digital newsletter several times during the year with information about events, new publications, training programs, etc. (Italy, Austria, Switzerland, the USA and others).¹⁰

d) According to the ideas and initiative of the individual associations, children's groups take part in festivals, Orff-Schulwerk conferences or Symposia or participate in competitions.¹¹

2. Associated schools and institutions

In many countries there are the so-called associated schools/institutions (ASI) of the Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg which are also recognized and remain in contact with the respective Orff-Schulwerk association of their country. These are schools in which the profile sets a clear accent on the Schulwerk and operates with a team of teachers in this area. These teachers have had an intensive training

in the area of elemental music and dance pedagogy at the Orff Institute, at related training institutions or in level courses. The special artistic and humanistic spirit according to the concept of Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman is furthered in these schools.¹²

Such schools function as a kind of model and are often visited by interested teachers and parents as "model schools". Right now there are internationally¹¹ such schools with a few others interested in becoming an associated school.

3. International network of the Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg (OSF)

The OSF represents the centre of the network of all national Orff-Schulwerk associations and offers the following:

a) Through much correspondence it gives advice and suggestions on different questions.

b) Once a year representatives from the leadership of Orff-Schulwerk associations and associated schools/institutions are invited to a 4-day conference.¹³ Each year current and interesting themes for all associations and institutions are presented. They are sketched out in stimulating addresses and discussed thoroughly in workshops to find solutions to questions and problems. These conferences offer the possibility for meeting and exchanging, for getting to know other opinions and for the future development of Orff-Schulwerk in our times.

c) Together with the Orff Institute of the Mozarteum University, a biannual magazine, ORFF-SCHULWERK HEUTE is published in German and English. It is free for students and teachers of the Orff Institute, for members of the German speaking and

the leadership boards of all international associations. Others can buy a copy for a minimal cost. In each issue, a topic is introduced in theory and practice. Authors prepare a list of recommended literature and there is a readers' forum about the theme and articles in the rubric PRO AND CON. Reports from Around the World bring information about the work of different associations and associated schools. In addition, there is information about new activities from the Orff Institute, the Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg, the Carl Orff Foundation and also from the Orff Centre in Munich. There are also reports about interesting new publications.

d) The Forum is also the initiator and editor of professional publications¹⁴ which offer an essential contribution to historical contexts as well as presenting are current concept of elemental music and dance pedagogy. Many works have already appeared in German, English and Spanish e.g. Texts on Theory and Practice of Orff-Schulwerk. Translations in Greek, Chinese and in Farsi are in preparation.

Résumé

The Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg sees as its most urgent task, to make the differences of adaptation in different cultures, languages and educational structures and the fundamental differences in the understanding and use of Orff-Schulwerk more and more conscious and to seek a unity in the diversity through contact and discussion with each other.

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8 See ORFF-SCHULWERK INFORMATIONEN Nr. 85, S. 272

9 See Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg: Recommendations for founding an Orff-Schulwerk Association

10 The abundance of magazines was introduced in the next to last edition of ORFF-SCHULWERK HEUTE No. 90, p. 80

11 For example an ensemble of the San Francisco School takes part regularly at the World Music Festival in San Francisco; New Zealand organizes an annual Marimba Festival in which hundreds of children participate; childrens' groups perform at conferences or symposia. Elsewhere children play with professional orchestras. There are many more examples.

12 See the rubric: We present, in: ORFF-SCHULWERK INFORMATIONEN Nos. 86, 87, 88 and 89 and in ORFF-SCHULWERK HEUTE Nos. 90 and 91. See also Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg: Guidelines for founding an associated school/institution.

13 See conference reports in ORFF-SCHULWERK INFORMATIONEN Nos. 88 and 89 and in ORFF-SCHULWERK HEUTE Nos. 90 and 91.

14 For example: GRÜNER/HASELBACH/SALMON (Ed.) (2007): In Dialogue – Elemental Music and Dance Pedagogy in Interdisciplinary Contexts, Mainz, Schott or the bilingual collection of fundamental articles from the years 1932–2010 in Texts on Theory and Practice of Orff-Schulwerk (2011) which is being translated into different languages.