

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Orff Schulwerk first gained national attention in the United States in 1956 at the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) in St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>1</sup> Over a decade later the United States witnessed the birth of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) and the formation of seven initial affiliated chapters, including one by a group of devoted and enthusiastic educators in Cleveland, Ohio. The Greater Cleveland Chapter was the first chapter chartered in the United States, on April 25, 1970 at the second annual AOSA national conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, along with six others.<sup>2</sup>

The emergence of Orff Schulwerk in North America and the national grassroots formation and growth of AOSA has been well documented.<sup>3</sup> It is assumed that the reader of this study has some knowledge of these historical proceedings as well as the terminology associated with the Schulwerk approach itself. No current study exists that has examined a local grassroots development of a Schulwerk organization with its functions of strengthening the national body and regionally promoting the philosophies

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<sup>1</sup> While evidence of the spread of Orff Schulwerk dates back prior to 1956, the April, 1956 MENC Conference in St. Louis, Missouri was the first to include a session introducing Orff Schulwerk to North American music educators.

<sup>2</sup> The American Orff-Schulwerk Association was founded on May 11, 1968 as the Orff-Schulwerk Association (OSA). In addition to the Greater Cleveland Chapter OSA (Chapter #1), six other chapters were chartered at the second annual national conference, including; the Greater Detroit Chapter OSA (Chapter #2); the Greater Rochester Area OSA (Chapter #3); the Greater Chicago Chapter OSA (Chapter #4); the Delaware Valley Orff Association (Chapter #5); the Greater St. Louis Chapter OSA (Chapter #6); and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter OSA (Chapter #7).

<sup>3</sup> While many sources exist that document the growth of Orff Schulwerk in North America, the two primary bodies of work are Patricia Osterby's study, "Orff Schulwerk in North America, 1955-1969," and De Lois Wimmer's continuation, "The Organization of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association from 1968-1980 and Its Influence upon Music Education in America."

and educational principles of the Schulwerk. The intent of this study was to examine the local development of Orff Schulwerk in northeast Ohio, mainly attributable to the formation and growth of the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA, commonly referred to by its membership as “Chapter One.”

All seven original local chapters chartered at the second annual national conference have a rich and important history, with no single chapter’s significance outweighing the others. While the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA will be the focus of this body of work, historical events significant to both the Cleveland area and other nearby regions interconnect throughout the research to follow. The intent of this study, however, does not include thorough examination of the Schulwerk in neighboring regions or the AOSA chapters affiliated with them. Additionally, it is not the intention of any part of this study to provide a complete biography of any person in or outside of Chapter One. This study addressed the following questions:

1. What events and factors led to the introduction, spread, and growth of Orff Schulwerk in the northeast Ohio region?
2. What individuals helped introduce and spread Orff Schulwerk in the northeast Ohio region?
3. What events and factors led to the formation, growth, and development of the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA?
4. What individuals helped with the formation, growth, and development of the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA?

5. How did select individuals affiliated with the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA spread and promote Orff Schulwerk in northeast Ohio?
6. What impact has the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA had on music education in northeast Ohio?

Chapter II of this thesis contains an examination of Orff-Schulwerk in northeast Ohio prior to the formation of the Greater Cleveland Chapter. As well, the leadership significance and influence of Mary Tolbert and Ruth Pollock Hamm during this time period is chronicled. The formation, growth, and expansion of the chapter, along with the resulting shared ideology of its leadership, are presented in this study in Chapters III-IV. Lastly, the continuing development of the Greater Cleveland Chapter and its impact on the Orff-Schulwerk movement nationally, internationally and throughout northeast Ohio, is surveyed and summarized in Chapters V-VI.

Historical research and data were collected and analyzed from a substantial number of primary and secondary documents. Published primary sources included articles, books, conference programs, interviews, photographs, reports, workshop notes, and brochures. Unpublished primary sources included surveys and interviews conducted by the researcher, letters from both archival and private collections, speeches, manuscripts, and typescripts. Published secondary sources included articles, books, dissertations, and theses.

Surveys and interviews conducted by the researcher were carried out with twenty-seven of the fifty-four past and present chapter members who have served or serve now

as chapter officers including president, vice-president, treasurer and/or secretary.<sup>4</sup> Of the twenty-seven interviewees and survey respondents, fifteen had served as chapter president. Chapter members, both past and present, who solely served or serve as committee chairpersons were not surveyed or interviewed for this study. Of the fifty-four past and present chapter officers from 1969-2004; nine took part in in-person interviews; eighteen were sent and returned surveys; ten were sent but did not return surveys; eight were unavailable for contact and/or their whereabouts could not be established; and nine were confirmed deceased. In-person interviews were conducted and recorded based on each individual's willingness, time and proximity to the researcher. These participants included Betty Gold, Ruth Pollock Hamm, BethAnn Hepburn, Betty Jane (B.J.) Lahman, Marjorie MacNeal, Alan Purdum, Roger Sams, Pong Theimmedh and Cindi Wobig. Survey questionnaires were mailed to and returned by Loretta Bower, Anna Costanzo, Chris Folsom, Carol Huffman, Beth Iafigliola, Patricia Koerner-Bailey, Barbara Lang, Lona Meister, Kathleen Meyer, Brenda Mikota, Catherine Preville, Pam Rezach, Laura Nary, Rosalyn Payne, Elaine Shakley, Lucile Soulé, Marty Springer, and Audrey Stansfield. Interview and survey questions and statistics can be found in Appendix I of this study.

Information gathered from both interviews and surveys proved invaluable in chronicling and confirming the content of this study. My own sentimental fondness for the Greater Cleveland Chapter AOSA and the Orff Schulwerk approach is not reflected intentionally in the statements of fact found within this study, but may be embodied

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<sup>4</sup> Chapter members carrying out the role of secretary include individuals serving past positions of corresponding secretary and recording secretary.

inadvertently within my analysis and interpretations. Nevertheless, every effort towards fair, balanced, and impartial reporting was attempted. It is my hope that this study will extend and strengthen work done previously, and suggest further studies on the historical significance of the Orff Schulwerk movement, the leaders and organizations behind it, and the impact it has had on music education at regional, national, and global levels.