

# Big Apple Newsletter

## Spring 2015

### **New York City Orff Chapter**

[nyccaosa@gmail.com](mailto:nyccaosa@gmail.com)

[www.nyccaosa.com](http://www.nyccaosa.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/nyccaosa](http://www.facebook.com/groups/nyccaosa)

[www.facebook.com/NYCCAOSA](http://www.facebook.com/NYCCAOSA)

## Upcoming Workshop Information

### Alice Pratt

#### “Awakening the Soul”

Saturday, April 18, 2015 10 am- 2:30 pm

#### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

It is essential, for the authentic success of our students, that we create lessons that not only address their needs as learners, but which enhance their own innate interests and talents. By doing this, we create connections that impact their learning and enhance the environment for taking them into new heights as learners. This workshop is applicable for all students, but especially true for those who are considered more challenging to teach for a variety of reasons. I share with you lessons that I created for my urban school students that were highly successful. The lessons are tried, tested and true, not only by my students but also by the many teachers who have reported their success with their own students. Be prepared for involvement and participation as we “play” the day away!



**Alice Pratt** is the winner of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra’s Music Educators Award, and multiple year inductee in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. Alice has taught music for the Rochester City Schools for 33 years. Currently teaching at the Hochstein School of Music in Rochester, NY, and on the faculty of Nazareth College of Rochester, Alice has served in the leadership of the American Orff Schulwerk Association as chapter president, Regional Rep and National Conference Chair for the 2011 and the recent 2014 conference in Nashville, and was column coordinator for OPUS: Orff Programs in Urban Schools in Reverberations. Alice is a published composer and frequent presenter for AOSA, Canada Orff, and the New York State School Music Association.

## Chapter Share

Saturday, May 9, 2015

10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Are you interested in sharing a favorite activity or something new that you've cooked up in your classroom? Email us and sign up to share a little something at our last workshop of the season! We can't wait to hear from you!!

## Guest Passes

All members of NYCCAOSA are entitled to one free guest pass per year to be used to introduce someone new to the Orff approach. Bring a friend to share in the fun! *(Guest pass may not be used for the tri-chapter workshop.)*



## Workshop Details and Location

### What to Wear:

Our workshops are fun, **active**, and experimental—exploring concepts of Orff process, pedagogy, and practical ideas for your classroom. Dress is casual. Wear comfy clothes and shoes that allow you to move about freely! *Please refrain from wearing strong fragrances as some clinicians and members are allergic.*



### What Time:

Workshops are 4 hours long and run

**10 am – 2:30 pm.**

We will break for lunch from 12-12:30.

Registration will begin at 9:30 am.

### Where to Go:

PS 51 Elias Howe

525 West 44<sup>th</sup> St.

New York, NY 10036

(between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Aves)

Take any train to Times Square 42<sup>nd</sup> St. station. Walk or take Crosstown 42 bus to 10<sup>th</sup> ave. Parking on street is very limited. A reasonably priced parking garage is located on 43<sup>rd</sup> b/t 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Need Workshop Credit for PD Hours?

For teachers who need to collect professional development hours for their state certification or for tenure, our workshops will help you to meet that goal! Be sure to sign in at registration and to take your workshop participation certificate from Judy or Aaron, our co-treasurers, at the end of the workshop. You must attend the entire workshop to receive credit.



# Online Resources for NYCCAOSA Members

**Find us on Facebook!**



We have created a **NYCCAOSA group** to provide you with information on workshops, videos, teaching ideas, best practices, job opportunities, and more. This is a quick and easy way for us to connect with and support each other between our workshops! Ask questions, offer advice, and utilize the amazing talent our members have to offer!

**Our NEW AMAZING Chapter Website:**

**[www.nyccaosa.com](http://www.nyccaosa.com)**

*(Thanks to Sara Kramer our new web designer! Everyone should go online and check it out! SO MUCH info!)*

**Our Chapter Facebook Group:**

**[www.facebook.com/nyccaosa](http://www.facebook.com/nyccaosa)**

**Our Chapter's YouTube Video Channel:**

**Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search NYCCAOSA**

**If you are having trouble finding us online or want help exploring these resources, please don't hesitate to email us at [nyccaosa@gmail.com](mailto:nyccaosa@gmail.com) for assistance!**



## A Call to Action...

### ***A Message from the President, Katie Traxler***

At our upcoming April workshop, we will be having a short membership meeting in order to elect a new Treasurer and Secretary for our chapter. While many of you may realize the work that goes on behind the scenes, I am sure some of you may be unaware of how much our board members do for our chapter in order to make our events run as smooth as possible. The elected positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as the At-Large Member positions, are roles filled by teachers like yourself. Each of us has our own school programs and lives that we are juggling in addition to the work we do for our chapter. While we are happy to serve our chapter and work tirelessly to ensure its growth and prosperity throughout our terms, it is incredibly important for new leaders to step up to the plate every few years. An organization is made strong by those who care for it and contribute to its success. It takes a group of passionate individuals to sustain the life of a chapter. In the last few years, we as a chapter have seen several new initiatives unfold including our new online social media presence, the development of a new website with online payment capabilities, establishing partnerships with West Music for a book table, beginning new scholarships, relocating our workshops to a new space, creating an email and google account with a youtube channel for our chapter members, and much more. The amazing leaders on our board are making these incredible things happen so that we can all enjoy the benefits of a healthy and active chapter, BUT now we need your help. It is important to spread out the work load so that we can continue what we have started. We need members to take charge and volunteer to run for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer, and to serve as At-Large Members. If you are interested, please contact us. We are here to answer any questions you may have. It is a rewarding job, and we are excited to invite new members to help us forge ahead to great things!

KT

# 2014-2015 NYCCAOSA Board Members

**President:** Katie Traxler      katietraxler@gmail.com  
**Vice President:** Jacob Kramer      jacobmkramer@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** OPEN POSITION  
**Co-Treasurer:** Aaron Ford      aaronf486@gmail.com  
**Co-Treasurer:** Judy Lasko      judylasko@mindspring.com

**Members at Large:**  
**Jess Goldberg** *College Liaison*  
**Sheri Gottlieb** *Hospitality*  
**Bob Goldberg** *Scholarship Recipient*  
**Sara Kramer** *Website Designer*



Please add [nyccaosa@gmail.com](mailto:nyccaosa@gmail.com) to your email address book. In an effort to go green, we will only be communicating electronically.

## ELECTION INFORMATION:

### What are the responsibilities of Secretary and Treasurer?

#### Secretary:

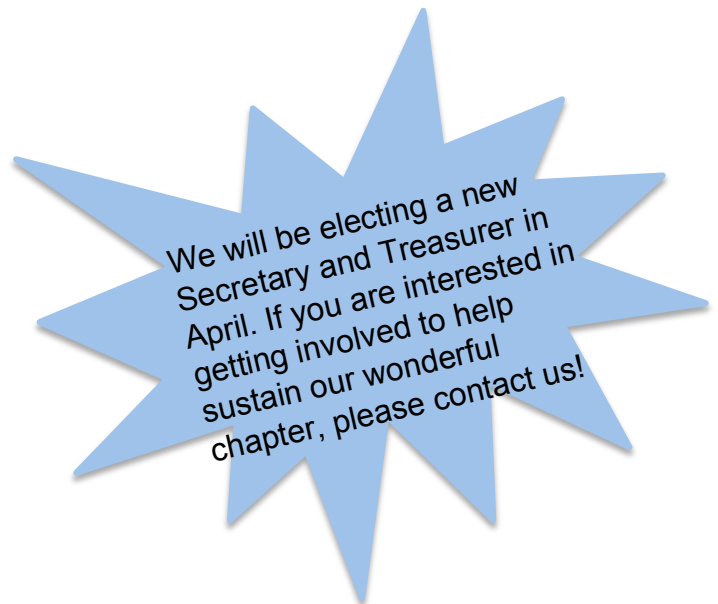
- Take minutes at meetings
- Create PD certificates
- Edit the newsletter
- Create workshop flyers
- Help with registration at workshops

#### Treasurer:

- Maintain accounting records
- Prepare the annual financial report
- Manage PayPal account
- File tax forms for our chapter

*Each position is a 2-year term.*

*We also need a few more members to serve on the board as **At-Large Members**. These members help with the book table, hospitality, workshop set-up and clean-up, updating the website, keeping track of membership, etc.*



Big thank you to **Paul Beattie** for his many years of service to our chapter and to our national organization. We appreciate your time and talent and how you so graciously served our mission. Your time as secretary will always be appreciated.



## A Note of Thanks from our National Conference Scholarship Winner

I was thrilled to be chosen as this year's recipient of the AOSA Professional Development Conference scholarship for first time attendees. I'm grateful and proud that our NYCCAOSA chapter so generously supports ongoing teacher development. The conference was held in downtown Nashville, a city steeped in musical talent and history. We had a very respectable contingent of folks from our own chapter and I had the opportunity to deepen my connection with several of them. I also so enjoyed reconnecting with several friends and teachers from different Levels courses.

One of the performance highlights was attending the concert of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. If you haven't heard this group or it's history it is well worth checking out. My co- teacher Sheri Gottlieb and I also attended a wonderful Recorder Ensemble concert and came away inspired to try new things with our Grade 4 Recorder Ensemble at LREI.

The workshops were stimulating and full of the best that we love about Orff, from dramatizing a mini-book version of Moby Dick (yes, accomplished beautifully in less than an hour) to creating movement pieces with hand drums. Next year will be in sunny and gorgeous San Diego, so start planning now. The year after, our chapter will have the opportunity to help facilitate the operations of the Atlantic City conference. I look forward to seeing many of you at both!

In gratitude,  
Aaron Ford

**Start making your plans *now* to attend next year's professional development conference, which will be held in San Diego, California! Don't miss the BEST conference of the year! November 11-14, 2015**



### ***Sal's Instrument Repair***

Specializes in Orff Instrument repair, repairs to all elementary classroom instruments and mallets at competitive prices. Estimates provided. Repairs guaranteed for one year. Also supplies all Orff instruments (Studio 49, Sonor, etc.) at very competitive prices—add me to your school or district's Bid List today!

**516-678-0650**

**[orffrepairs@aol.com](mailto:orffrepairs@aol.com)**



### **Books/Cds for sale!**

Don't forget that we will have a variety of books and cds for sale at our workshop. A small portion of the sales benefit our chapter!

# NYC ORFF Certification Program

This year, for the first time, our NYC Orff Program was officially absorbed into the workings of our chapter. The OCP, which has been run through Trevor Day School for many years, is now being run through our chapter. This exciting change has given us new opportunities including the ability to offer more scholarships, change the location to a more central meeting place, and to explore future opportunities of expanding. While these new changes are indeed exciting for our chapter, there is one change that is bittersweet. After teaching the Basic Course for the Levels for many years, Judith Thomas has retired from teaching the NYC OCP Courses. For all of those teachers that have had the pleasure of being under her tutelage, we are forever grateful and forever changed. Judith has contributed an immense wealth of talent and inspiration to the educational community in our city, and her creativity and love for the Orff approach will live on for an eternity. Thank you, Judith, from the NYC Orff Chapter.



## A Note of Thanks from our OCP Scholarship Winner

### Orff Level II at NYCC AOSA

Orff Level I at Trevor (five years ago) was one of the best courses I'd ever taken. I learned many useful songs and techniques, and got to work with three great teachers and a vibrant group of colleagues. It brought a focus to my teaching, and introduced me to an exciting and innovative community of teachers.

Level II (at PS51) has been another great experience. It is a treat to be able to work with Danai, Judith and Laura again. We have had the chance to study Orff-Keetman compositions in depth, to explore modal composition and improvisation, to write lyrics, songs, arrangements and ensemble pieces, to keep our musical selves rooted in our physical selves through dance, to make pictures and tell stories with our voices, bodies, and instruments.

As a composer, I appreciate that all three teachers are working composers, with an understanding of the theoretical and the practical aspects, a deep commitment to collaboration, and the greatest respect for their students.

Teaching Orff is the most fun you can have in a music classroom. This just makes it better!

- Bob Goldberg

### Recorder Class in Level II



## About NYCCAOSA

The New York City Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association is a local chapter of AOSA. Founded in September of 1984, it has grown to include public, private, charter, part-time, full-time, self-employed, and retired music teachers, arts administrators, as well as the future teachers of tomorrow. NYCCAOSA and AOSA strive to bring quality workshops to music and movement educators in and around NYC.

Our presenters represent our belief in excellence. All music and classroom teachers are welcome to attend our workshops and need not become members of NYCCAOSA or AOSA in order to participate.

## AOSA Mission Statement

The American Orff-Schulwerk Association is a professional organization dedicated to the creative teaching approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. We are united by our belief that music and movement—to speak, sing, and play; to listen and understand; to move and create—should be an active and joyful learning experience.

Our mission is:

- To **demonstrate** and promote the value of Orff-Schulwerk and promote its widespread use
- To **support** the professional development of our members
- To **inspire** and **advocate** for the creative potential of all learners

We believe that music education is vital to the growth and development of all children. Music educators must be skillful musicians in order to teach effectively. We offer workshops to the music education community in order to support the continuous development of high quality, professional music teachers.

