

# Great Plains Orff Chapter



## Keeping the Beat



### From the President...

Welcome back to school!!! I hope this school year greets you with as much excitement as it does your students! When they enter your classroom, they'll be ready to sing, speak, dance and play...so, we've filled this newsletter with great back-to-school lesson ideas and activities from GPOC members (and recent Level 1 participants) to jump start your year. Hopefully you'll find something new (or are reminded of an old favorite).

I absolutely love my job and teaching my students the joy of active music making! One of things I enjoy about it is also having the summer off to spend time with my growing kids...we read, swim, relax, explore and more! I also enjoy taking advantage of opportunities that help me grow, too. I was fortunate to be able to shadow at the UNL Orff Level 1 Course in July with the idea that I will, one day soon, teach teachers about the wonders of Orff Schulwerk. It was great to revisit some old favorites in Music For Children, Vol. 1, as well as learn some new ideas to actively involve children in their learning. The students in this year's class were amazing and it was wonderful to listen to them talk about what they learned and, most importantly, what they're going to take back to their classroom. Teaching music with the Orff Schulwerk approach is so rewarding and taking the Orff Teacher Training courses really do change the way you teach. If you've not taken Level 1 yet, you definitely want to consider it for next year; if Level 11 is next on your list, you're in luck! Julie Scott is coming to UNL and, from personal experience having her as my Level 11 instructor, you are in for a treat!!! Start planning for next summer...and look for a scholarship opportunity in the spring GPOC for teacher training. We're also offering a scholarship to attend this year's National Conference this November in Pittsburgh...look for more info in this newsletter.

Speaking of great deals...once again, we'll be offering a "package deal" and, since this year is sure to be one to remember, you'll want to take advantage of it! Being a member of AOSA, in addition to all of the amazing benefits you'll receive, will make your package deal even better! What will you get by taking advantage of the "package deal"? In addition to your local membership dues, your registration to all 3 workshops are paid for. So, mark your calendars now to come see Beth Nelson in Lincoln on Saturday, September 24. She is an amazing presenter and even more amazing person with so much to share. Our Chapter Sharing is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2012 - if you're interested in sharing an idea or activity please let me know. Lastly, and certainly not least, is our spring workshop: Danaï Gagne will be joining us at UNO on April 21. Not only is Danaï a past AOSA Distinguished Service Award Recipient, but she helped found the Orff Institute AND she studied with both Orff and Keetman. What an amazing opportunity for the members of our chapter to have the chance to meet with and work with Danaï!!!

If you have any questions at any time throughout the coming school year, please feel free to contact any of the Board Members - we're here to serve you!

# For Your Information...

This page is for your use. We don't want you to miss anything that is happening with GPOC this school year!



**The Great Plains Orff Chapter is offering a "Package Deal" for our workshops for the 2011-2012 school year!**

The package deal is either \$75 or \$100 and includes admission to two all day clinician workshops and one chapter sharing session. In today's economy, where are prices decreasing? The workshop prices this year have decreased, BUT the amount of workshop contact hours has increased. What a deal!!! If you purchase this package deal, local dues will be waived (a savings of up to \$30). Also, in keeping with our "Going Green" campaign, whenever possible, the workshop notes will be e-mailed to you prior to each workshop, instead of having printed notes at the workshop. At times, we will bring a printer to print the clinician notes if needed; those notes will be available for purchase at a nominal fee. Below is a breakdown of the cost of each workshop by organizations of membership. A great idea would be to take the savings and join the National Organization, AOSA, so that you can receive their amazing member benefits as well. Checks can be made out to GPOC and sent to Rachel Hendrickson, Membership Chair (fill out and send the membership form to the address listed on the sheet).

| Organizations of Membership | Sept. 24th<br>Beth Nelson<br>9am-3pm | Feb. 11th<br>Sharing Session<br>9am-12pm | April 21st<br>Danai Gagne<br>9am-3pm | GPOC membership dues | Total Cost   | Package Deal | Membership Savings |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| GPOC and AOSA               | \$40                                 | \$10                                     | \$40                                 | \$15                 | <b>\$105</b> | <b>\$75</b>  | <b>\$30</b>        |
| GPOC only                   | \$50                                 | \$10                                     | \$50                                 | \$20                 | <b>\$130</b> | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$30</b>        |
| Not a member                | \$60                                 | \$20                                     | \$60                                 |                      | <b>\$140</b> | <b>N/A</b>   | <b>N/A</b>         |

## 2011-2012 Presenters

We are very excited about our 2011-2012 presenters for this year. Please join us!

Saturday, September 24th: Beth Nelson. 9am-3pm at UNL (Westbrook Music Building)

Saturday, January 29th: Chapter Sharing Session. 9am-1pm at UNL (Westbrook Music Building)

Saturday, April 21st: Danai Gagne. 9am-3pm at UNO

## Check us out on Facebook!

We have created a group on Facebook! Request to join the "Great Plains Orff Chapter" group. The group will have all the information about upcoming events and access to the website.

# Great Plains Orff Chapter Membership Form for 2011-2012

Are you a (check one):  New member?  Returning member?  Student member?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Zip (\_\_\_\_\_) Home Phone Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
School and District Name (\_\_\_\_\_) School Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Address City State Zip

What grade levels/areas do you teach? \_\_\_\_\_

To which address would you like us to send workshop information and newsletters?

Home  School

Would you like to help with the hospitality committee?  Yes  No

Do you belong to any other organizations?

American Orff Schulwerk Association  Org. of American Kodaly Educators

Music Educators National Conference  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do not publish my info in the annual GPOC membership directory.

Please make checks payable to: GPOC or Great Plains Orff Chapter

**DUES:** \$20 if you are not a member of AOSA  
\$15 if you are a member of AOSA (provide AOSA # \_\_\_\_\_)  
**Free** if you are a student (send copy of ID and/or registration)

**Or**

\$75 (for AOSA members) or \$100 (for GPOC members) for 2011-12 Package Deal  
(3 workshops & membership dues!!!)

**Please return this form to:** Rachel Hendrickson, Membership Coordinator  
707 Golden Gate Cir. #1 Papillion, NE 68046

Join us for our Fall Workshop  
**“A Celebration of Orff Schulwerk”**  
with presenter Beth Melin Nelson  
Saturday, September 24, 2011  
UNL School of Music



Beth Melin Nelson teaches elementary music classes at St. Paul Academy and Summit School in St. Paul, Minnesota where she also serves as the Assistant Principal. She received a bachelor of arts in music education from the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis and a master of arts in music education with an Orff Schulwerk concentration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. In addition to her work with children, Beth is an adjunct faculty member and Director of the Orff Schulwerk Teacher Education Program at the University of St. Thomas and is a faculty member of the Orff Schulwerk Teacher Education Course at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. With over 20 years of experience, she has taught music and movement to students in early childhood classes, elementary schools, and high schools. Beth has presented and performed at national AOSA conferences, state MENC conferences and is a frequent clinician at chapter workshops around the country.

# Come to the 2011 AOSA National Conference



## What past attendees have to say. . .

Going to conference is the best thing you can do for yourself professionally during the school year (and taking levels is the best thing you can do in the summer)! Being surrounded by the greatest and most creative minds in music education is thrilling. The entire weekend is jam packed with sessions and events. It is truly an amazing experience and I cannot wait for Pittsburgh. -Lindsey Cayer

I feel so blessed to be able to attend the AOSA National Conference every year. It is a time to rejuvenate and collaborate with amazing music teachers and friends. It is great to go to a conference where every session I can take something from. Some things are Monday morning ready and others I can expand on for years. It is three days and absolute fun, learning, and laughs! -Kelly Whisinnand

Going to the AOSA National Conference is a wonderful experience! Three very full days & evenings of workshops designed especially for general music specialists is incomparable and the networking with like-minded educators is amazing!!! -Kristine Wolfe



**GPOC National Conference Assistance Application**  
**Pittsburgh, PA -- Nov. 9-12, 2011**  
**Due: September 1, 2011**

**Basic Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AOSA#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

Undergraduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_

Please List any Orff Training completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended National Conference in any previous years? (if yes, please list)

Please explain why you would like to attend National Conference. Be complete, yet concise.

If you are chosen to receive this award, please plan to share an idea from conference at our chapter sharing. Please remember to ask the presenter permission to share their ideas!

Please email your completed application to Anne Keith ([anniepo02@gmail.com](mailto:anniepo02@gmail.com)). Please put **Conference Application** in the subject line. If you run into tech issues, please mail it with a post date no later than September 1. 2004 S 182<sup>nd</sup> Cir, Omaha 68130.

## The Level I Orff Schulwerk Teacher Training Class at UNL was a success! Congratulations to all participants!

Here is what some students had to say. . .

I learned how to energize the children through the incorporation of movement with singing and the instruments...teaching students with their whole body! --David Woods

It has changed my teaching entirely...using movement and instruments and singing...allowing students to thoroughly explore is going to be a foundation for my teaching. Sound before sight is going to be an integral part. I'm very excited to teach the students in the fall with a whole new outlook. --Jessica Rajewich

I really enjoyed the relationships that I formed during this class and I will enjoy keeping in touch with these fellow educators. --Anne Tipton

I learned how to utilize Music For Children, Vol. I. I write my own programs and I was creating melodies on my own, but now I have a source I can use. And it does not have to be exactly how it's written! --Julia Jenkins

I learned how to take a text and turn it into a musical arrangement for young children. --Skyler Reising

I learned how to create melodies using children's rhymes and how to incorporate movement with them. --Stacy Hahn

The biggest thing I've taken from this class is improvisation..there are easy, non-threatening ways to teach kids to improvise and how to have fun with it. --Becky Jamison

The best part of the class was movement because I wasn't sure how to incorporate that into my classroom. I'm grateful for all of the ideas. --Edie Anderzhon

I really enjoyed the Orff class. I'm going take a lot of the movement activities and use them in my classroom to get my kids motivated to learn music. Thank you! --Amanda Coon

I am most excited about being able to create an accessible arrangement for my students and then develop it through the aspects of the Orff-Schulwerk. I feel like I can now properly develop my curriculum in a way that allows full, comprehensive musicianship and I'm so excited! --Sara Alswager

# I See the Moon

Traditional  
Additional text/arr. Amanda Coon, Stacy Hahn,  
Becky Jamison, Julia Jenkins, Jessica Rajewich

Voice: I see the moon and the moon sees me. God Stars bless the  
 I see the moon and the moon sees me. Stars high a -

Soprano Glockenspiel:

Alto Xylophone: Shi - ny moon Shi - ny moon Shi - ny moon

Bass Xylophone: Stars in the sky. Stars in the sky. Stars

6  
 Voice: moon and God bless me.  
 bove shine down on me.

SG:

AX: Shi - ny moon

BX: in the sky. Stars Shine.

# I See The Moon

arr. Sara E. Alswager, David Woods, Cathi Wagner, Courtney Billesbach, Anne Tipton, and Edie Anderzhon

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Voice, Glockenspiel, Alto Xylophone, and Bass Xylophone. The second system includes Voice, SG, AX, and BX. The music is in 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "I see the moon and the moon sees me. God bless the moon and God bless me." The score uses treble clefs and includes rests for the instruments during the vocal lines.

Voice

I see the moon and the moon sees me.

Glockenspiel

Alto Xylophone

Bass Xylophone

5

God bless the moon and God bless me.

5

SG

AX

BX

# Welcome Back!

**Activity:** Welcome back!

Grade: 3-6

Shared by Anne Keith, Fall 2011

**Objectives:** Steady Beat  
Introduce the Music Room Routines

**Source:** **Rhythmische Ubung, #69**, text by Anne Keith

Welcome back to school!

Welcome back to school!

Lots of singing, lots of playing, lots of laughing, every day! So,

Welcome back to school!

Welcome back to school!

Lots of singing, lots of playing, lots of laughing every day!



**Process:** While the teacher plays the hand drum, students move around the room to the steady beat. Adjust the beat so that students stomp on the half note pulse, clap on 2 and 4. (I use bass sound for feet, tone sound for claps). When the drum stops, they stop. Continue practicing until solid, form a circle.

Using expressive voices, have students echo the text. (1 time through) Once text is solid, add the stomp and clapping from above. Adjust the body percussion, until students can perform the body percussion as written with the text. ("Every day" takes a little extra attention)

New Day: Review text and body percussion. Teacher performs poem as written (with repeat). Ask students what word was added? ("So") Perform body percussion as written, with the goal being to take the text away.

**Materials:** Visual with text

Hand drum

(Recorders or Xylophones if you are going to use them)

**Assessment:**

Can students maintain a steady beat? + yes, √ yes, with help, - no, not yet.

**Extentions:** Perform in a Round

Rondo form: Create word chains of "school" things as the other sections

Improvise melodies with recorders (G pent) or xylophones (C pent)

**Notes:** I use this to break up the "welcome to music rules". We perform the poem (and move to a new place) then I talk about procedures or something (much like a rondo). Most importantly, have fun!

# Make Your Bulletin Boards Sing!

Submitted by Holly Campbell, K-6 Vocal Music Teacher, Minne Lusa Elementary, Omaha Public Schools

I try to change out my bulletin boards at least every 4-6 weeks. I also try to make them as informative and/or interactive as possible. This way, they become a teaching tool for my students and it's not just something pretty to look at when the students come to music each week. For the beginning of this school year, my bulletin board is going to say the following:

## Let's Have a Supercalifragilisticexpealidocious Year!

When creating this, make sure the "do" is emphasized in some way (I made my "do" blue. The rest of the letters were black). In addition, there will be patterns written in solfa (do, re, mi, etc) and in staff notation. The students must find the matching solfa pattern to the correct staff notation of the solfa pattern. For example I would have the words "do re mi" written out, then I'd have "do re mi" written in the staff.

You can expand this to include the pentatone (do re mi so la) or even the extended pentatone (so it includes low la, low so, and high do). Another extension could include having students create a rondo and use a melodic pattern that's on the bulletin board and then create other melodic patterns to round out their form.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another bulletin board idea I have used (with great success) is in conjunction with "Music in Our Schools Month" in the month of March. I sent out an email in February asking everyone who worked in my building who was involved in music at some point in their life (choir, orchestra, band). This opened up a dialogue I never imagined possible! I heard so many stories from my coworkers about their musical experiences (or their regrets for not participating in music) as they turned their questionnaires in to me. The students were asking their teachers "You were in music?". I put this bulletin board up in March, which happens to be parent-teacher conferences time in our school, so parents could see how many people in our school were involved in music. I also put up some statistics (which you can find on the MENC website) about music in our schools.

\*\*\*\*\*

Want a bulletin board idea? Go to [www.musicbulletinboards.net](http://www.musicbulletinboards.net). They have a lot of great ideas for Back to School and throughout the year!

# Scuba Diver

By Nicole Chapman



## A Section

Scuba diver searching all around \*



What special treasure have you found?\*



Optional extension: Add a bordun

\* Glockenspiel set-up in pentatonic or finger cymbals (they look like gold treasure coins ☺)



## B Section

What treasure have you found?



I found a/some \_\_\_\_\_



B Section Options

Use text above for

- a treasure box you create that students choose various items from to sing about.
- vocal improvisation where students create their own treasure to sing about.

Optional extension – improvise treasure found on instruments.

Brainstorm what treasure might be at the bottom of the ocean. Have students draw pictures of their treasure and create four beat ostinatos in groups.

### Journey Through Nebraska for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

Adapted from "A Journey" in Spotlight on Music Series, Book 4 page 14

Linda Wood



Let's go on a journey! Where shall we go?



Pick some places in Nebraska. There's so much to know.



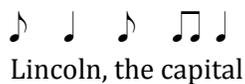
Travel all around the state. There's so much to see.



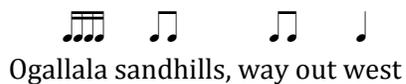
Get your luggage loaded up. Come with me!



1. Introduce chant (I put it on the chalkboard) and practice until students can say it with ease. Say it in a round at 2 beats for more challenge.
2. Ask what places students might go see in Nebraska. (I find they don't know too many places this early in the year, but it's good to see how familiar they are with our state.) List them on the board – it's good to try for at least 10 choices. Local sights like the zoo and the Children's Museum work, too.
3. Use these place rhythms to create a B section to perform with the chant's A section. Choose 4 students to read 2 names each (and of course, they can be repeated,) and while the chant is repeated they can each choose another student to perform.
4. Another day, pass out Nebraska cards with rhythms students should know from last year in 4-beat patterns. Lyrics for each of the rhythms are short phrases including Nebraska places. Some examples are below:



Lincoln, the capital



Ogallala sandhills, way out west



Burwell rodeo, yee-ha!



Henry Doorly Zoo!

## Teaching Personal Space for Movement Activities—K/1

There is a brand of bubbles, Miracle Bubbles, that is magical for teaching personal space to young children. I have found them at WalMart and Toys R Us.

I take my bubbles and blow them in random places in the music room. The bubbles are “magical” because when they land on the carpet, they DO NOT pop! We talk about how the bubble is safe in various spots of the carpet. We even count how long the bubble can stay safe on the carpet before it pops—up to 68! That is our record.

I also blow the bubbles on the instruments, shelves, marker board, doors, walls...and guess what, the bubble pops instantly.

Then we talk about the imaginary bubble that is around them and practice walking, skipping, twirling, etc. in their own bubble. It has been a very effective way for me to teach personal space. Hope it works for you too!

Heather Mead  
K-3 Music Teacher  
Blair Community Schools



## Meet Our 2011-2012 Great Plains Orff Chapter Board Members

### **President**

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### **MENC Liaison/Historian**

**This could be  
 YOU!!!**

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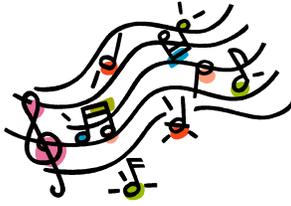
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### **Member-at-Large**

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The GPOC Board is here to serve YOU, its members!  
 Please contact any of us at any time!



Join the Great Plains Orff Chapter!!!

Membership in the Great Plains Orff Chapter offers you:

- \* Advance notification of all upcoming workshops and events
- \* Subscription to "Keeping the Beat," the GPOC newsletter with news, info, lesson plan ideas, arrangements, and ideas for teaching
- \* Advance notification of Orff-related courses
- \* Discounts to selected workshops
- \* GPOC information the whole year through with our website -- members ONLY area
- \* A network of like-minded music educators
- \* Special deals on all sorts of things for your classroom.

To join or renew your membership, simply send an e-mail to our Membership Coordinator, Rachel Hendrickson at [rhendrickson@paplv.org](mailto:rhendrickson@paplv.org)

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