

40 Years of the International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg

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In ancient times, **FORUM** (lat. market, marketplace) was the centre of the city, a meeting place for people to gather information, trade, listen and be heard. Today, forum also means a platform for the expert discussion of issues, the exchange of experiences and opinions.

In the 40 years of its existence, the International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg (IOSFS) "the Forum" has undergone a development that could not have been foreseen when it was founded. What began as a small circle of friends, colleagues and graduates of the Orff Institute has led to a worldwide organisation. The aims of the organisation have essentially remained the same, but its tasks have expanded due to its international reach, and new areas of interest and work have been added. This article attempts to summarise the development of the Forum, its tasks and objectives.¹

History of the International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg (IOSFS)

The prehistory²

The origins of the Orff-Schulwerk date back to 1924, when Dorothee Günther founded the *Günther-Schule* for Gymnastics and Dance in Munich, whose musical director was Carl Orff. A new artistic and educational concept for combining dance and music was developed there over a period of 20 years. It was realised in lessons with the students; in the artistic performances of the Günther Dance Group's Europe-wide tours; in the first advanced training courses and in the *Orff-Schulwerk-Elementare Musikübung* booklets published by Carl Orff, Gunild Keetman, Hans Bergese and Wilhelm Twittenhoff (Schott 1932-1934). However, when the school was closed by the National Socialists in 1944 and destroyed by bombs in 1945, an era seemed to have come to an end.

A new beginning was made in 1948, when Bavarian Radio asked Orff for a series of school radio programmes, which were initially directed by Gunild Keetman in the following years (Gruner, 2011; Hartmann, 2011). Inspired by the material that was now developed for these programmes for primary school children, Orff and Keetman finally developed the five-volume edition *Orff-Schulwerk- Musik für Kinder* (Schott 1950-1954). In 1949, Gunild Keetman was invited by Dr. Eberhard Preussner to teach children's classes at the Mozarteum Academy, of which he was president. At an international conference on music education at the Mozarteum in 1953 the

¹ References and original articles on individual topics can be found on the IOSFS website <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/publicationsaboutus>

² Haselbach et al. (2011) Wege zum Orff-Institut / Leading up to the Orff-Institute. *Orff-Schulwerk Information*, 85, 22-63

Orff-Schulwerk was introduced and soon the first course for music students was organised, which was also attended by interested teachers from abroad.

Thanks to the publications, broadcasts on Bavarian school radio programmes and the first information courses, the Schulwerk quickly became known in German-speaking countries and in some cases even abroad. Nevertheless, Orff was not satisfied with the implementation and looked for ways to realise a well-founded training. After several years of intensive support from Dr. Preussner, the Austrian Ministry of Education was persuaded to set up an institute based on Orff's plans at the Mozarteum Academy (Lettowsky, 1997), which opened in 1961.

First phase: Foundation

Director: Prof. Wilhelm Keller, 1966 -1982

On July 15th, 1961, the Orff Institute was opened as a "Seminar and Information Centre for the Orff-Schulwerk". Orff's vision included

A training centre in which music, movement and speech should be taught with equal emphasis, and a centre that should catch and satisfy the interest and desire for information that was now world-wide (Orff, 1978).

The term 'Orff Institute' encompassed both areas, which worked in close co-operation and complemented each other.

The first few years were filled with networking with the institute's own university, but also with other music schools and universities, and with advising institutions and people who had expressed an interest in working with the Schulwerk. Starting in 1964 the German/English magazine *Orff-Schulwerk Informationen*³ was published twice a year by the Orff Institute offering content relating to both the training and the Information Centre. It provided information about events, new Schulwerk editions in other languages and cultures, seminars abroad, publications, and news from the Orff Institute.

A series of films about *Orff-Schulwerk around the world* was produced by *Film für Information und Bildung, Dr. Werner Lütje (Munich)*, based on scripts by Hermann Regner, and a film about training at the Orff Institute was produced by the Bavarian Broadcast. Since 1975, symposia have been held every five years, attended by colleagues from all over the world as speakers or participants.⁴

Second phase: Expansion

Director: Prof. Dr. Hermann Regner, 1983 -1994

³ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/magazine-osh>

⁴ The documentation of the symposia can be found at:

<https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/other-publications> and a list of the topics at:
<https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/iosfs-conventions>



Hermann Regner and Liselotte Orff (1977)

In 1983, the centre was given the new name 'Orff-Schulwerk Zentrum Salzburg', and in 1984 it was registered as an association in Austria. After the founding of the Orff Centre Munich in 1988, the name was changed to 'Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg' to avoid confusion. Finally, in 2014, the organisation was renamed the 'International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg'. Under his chairmanship of the Carl Orff Foundation Diessen (founded in 1984), Dr. Regner intensified the financial support through scholarships, travel expenses for lecturers as well as production costs for films, publications and events.

The number of students from all continents continued to grow. The invitations to give guest courses in European and non-European countries increased from year to year and were initially given by Orff Institute lecturers, but soon also in co-operation with graduates of the Institute and lecturers from other countries. This also created the need to supervise new Orff-Schulwerk editions with culturally specific material in different languages, a task that Carl Orff soon passed on to Dr. Regner. At this time, many new Orff-Schulwerk Associations were founded around the world.⁵

Third phase: New impetus

President: Prof. Barbara Haselbach, 1994-2018

More and more Orff-Schulwerk Associations (OSA) endeavoured to offer different training opportunities, including Levels Courses. In order to achieve corresponding levels internationally, the IOSFS drew up recommendations which can be found on the website.

⁵ The December 1982 issue of Orff-Schulwerk Information No. 30 may serve as an example of reporting on their work: <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/magazine-osh>

The Associated Schools and Institutions network (ASI) was initiated and is based on the former model schools for the Orff-Schulwerk in Bavaria. It brings together kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, music schools, training institutes and teachers' associations whose representatives are members of the IOSFS. Regular Zoom meetings for exchange and discussion, a Padlet for collecting ideas, reciprocal visits by teachers and presentations on a common theme at the annual IOSFS conventions support and enrich the work.⁶

Since 2000, representatives of the international Orff-Schulwerk Associations have met every year for a one-day encounter in Salzburg to share information about their work. The growing number of participants and the extended themes made the expansion to three-day conventions from 2012 onwards necessary, each of which was also dedicated to a special topic from educational, social and also political fields.⁷ Lectures, reports, workshops, discussions as well as presentations by several ASIs give opportunities to approach the topic in many ways and share contemporary developments of Orff-Schulwerk.

The series *Texts on Theory and Practice of Orff-Schulwerk/Studientexte zu Theorie und Praxis des Orff-Schulwerks* was conceived by Barbara Haselbach in 2010. The first volume was published in 2011 in English and German under the title *Basic Texts 1932 – 2010/Basisstexte aus den Jahren 1932 - 2010*, and translations are currently available in Spanish, Greek, Chinese, Farsi and Russian, with French in preparation.⁸ In 2014, the IOSFS magazine was renamed *Orff-Schulwerk Heute*, given a new graphic design and an expanded editorial team. More space was given to articles on the respective focus, but without neglecting current reports from the Orff Institute, the IOSFS and international news. The 100 issues of *Orff-Schulwerk Informationen/Orff-Schulwerk Heute* thus represent a comprehensive source on the history of the development of Orff-Schulwerk internationally from 1963-2019.

⁶ For more information on membership and a list of participants, see:

<https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/asis>

⁷ See: www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/iosfs-conventions

⁸ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/basic-texts>



Barbara Haselbach and Shirley Salmon

4th Phase: New developments

Director: Shirley Salmon, MPhil., PGCE, BA, 2018 -

In 2018 Barbara Haselbach stepped down as president of the IOSFS after serving the association and its members for 24 years and stayed on the board as Past President. Shirley Salmon was elected as President and Andrea Sangiorgio as Vice-President. In 2019 the 100th and final issue of *Orff-Schulwerk Heute* was published. As funding from the Carl Orff Foundation for the magazine had been stopped and as a result also funding from the Mozarteum University, the magazine could not continue, but since 2022 a new online journal *Orff-Schulwerk International* is published biannually by the IOSFS.

The Carl Orff Foundation cancelled its cooperation and stopped all financial support of the IOSFS and the magazine from the beginning of 2020. This, as well as the restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, forced the board to look at new possibilities for financing the association as well as fulfilling its tasks and responsibilities online. The IOSFS convention 2020 'Legacy and Vision' was held for members online and focused on the history and future of the IOSFS as a community, an independent network of Orff-Schulwerk practitioners serving its members. In addition, a new free online format *Resonances* started in autumn 2020.⁹

Revised statutes were proposed and approved at the General Meeting 2020 which set out clearer rules and procedures for the election of the President and Board members. The new comprehensive website, developed by Carmen Domínguez in collaboration with Mirjam Leitner, was launched. It includes a members' area and a new page for 'Ideas for distance/online teaching and learning' as well as pages on publications, events and more. Due to the pandemic it was not possible to hold the conventions in person so these as well as the IOSFS General Meetings were held

⁹ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/forum-resonances>

online. In 2020 the convention was, as in the past, only for representatives of OSAs and ASIs as well as individual members but from 2021 on the convention has been open to all IOSFS members as well as non-members.

After the election in 2021, committees were formed to use the competences and experience of Board members and to pursue the tasks of the IOSFS more effectively. The committees are: Associated Schools and Institutions (ASI) Network, Convention, Fundraising, Guidelines and Recommendations for Teacher Education Courses, Journal, Movement and Dance, Nominating Committee, Research, Resonances, Statutes Review, Social media, Study Texts.

Since 2022 revised statutes provide a greater opportunity for a wider representation on the IOSFS Board of Directors due to term limits, bringing the election and nomination process in alignment with current practice, and specifying duties of Board members. Also, online meetings with presidents of Orff-Schulwerk Associations and ASIs, were organized. In 2023 the IOSFS Blog INTERPLAY¹⁰ was launched - a playful and interactive space where the realm of Orff-Schulwerk can be discussed and explored providing an opportunity to share relevant literature, pertinent quotes, experiences and teaching practices and furthering dialogue.

As a registered association the IOSFS is now 40 years old, as a Seminar and Centre for Orff-Schulwerk, the Forum is even older. This anniversary will be celebrated with members in many ways.¹¹

2. Summary of the tasks of the IOSFS¹²

The Association is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is the promotion and further development of the pedagogical-artistic work of Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman on an international level.

Areas of responsibility

As the centre of an international network, it is the task of the International Orff-Schulwerk Forum Salzburg to collect and make available information about working with Orff-Schulwerk and to encourage exchange of information. It works in close contact with the Orff Institute, the Orff Centre in Munich, and all international Orff-Schulwerk Associations. Members of this community include OSAs, ASIs and a few individual members. At the moment there are 49 Orff-Schulwerk Associations in 40 countries and 22 Associated Schools and Institutions in 10 countries.

The IOSFS furthers **contact and exchange** with and among OSAs and ASIs, with graduates from the Orff Institute including the postgraduate course "Advanced

¹⁰ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/blog>

¹¹ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/40thanniversary>

¹² <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/about-the-iosfs>

Studies in Music and Dance Education – Orff-Schulwerk” (the Special Course) as well as with interested teachers, researchers, artists, and institutions.

Information

The IOSFS provides information about Orff-Schulwerk in the past and present, about projects and developments in different countries, about courses and publications and about current themes with regard to contents and organizational questions.

Advice

The IOSFS also advises on a number of topics such as on publications of new adaptations of the Schulwerk, on academic work and other publications, on syllabi, curricula, and for lecturers in various educational and social institutions, on future projects, on the introduction of Orff-Schulwerk to an institution or country and on the founding of a new OSA or ASI.

Recommendations and Guidelines

Recommendations and Guidelines for Teacher Education Courses

Recommendations for the founding of a national Orff-Schulwerk Association

Recommendations for the founding of an Associated School/Institution

Events

Annual conventions on a variety of topics and Forum Resonances are organised. A number of articles related to the topics were published in *Orff-Schulwerk Heute* (<https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/magazine-osh>) and in *Orff-Schulwerk International* (<https://www.iosfsjournal.com/>)

International Orff-Schulwerk Symposia

have been held every five years in cooperation with the Orff Institute.

Documentations of these events can be found in the library of the Orff Institute.¹³

1975 Orff-Schulwerk Today

1980 Proven Traditions and New Areas

1985 Orff-Schulwerk in the World of Tomorrow

1990 A Continuing Heritage

1995 The Inherent – The Foreign – In Common. Music and Dance Education
as a Contribution to Intercultural Pedagogy

In 2000 there were four Symposia:

- 50 Years Music for Children, Traunwalchen, Germany
- Expression in Music and Dance Education, Orivesi, Finland (Mattila & Siukonen. 2001)
- The Role of Orff-Schulwerk in Integrated and Community Education and Therapy, Munich, Germany (in German) (Salmon & Schumacher (Eds.) 2001)

¹³ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/other-publications>

- Orff-Schulwerk in Lifelong Learning, Rochester, NY, USA (American Orff-Schulwerk Association, 2000).

2006 In Dialogue. Elemental Music and Dance Education in Interdisciplinary Contexts (American Orff-Schulwerk Association (2000).

2011 50 Years Orff Institute (Carl Orff-Institut (Ed.) 2014) (This event was accompanied by a special issue of the *Orff-Schulwerk Informationen* Nr. 85¹⁴)

2016 Changes. Elemental Music and Dance Education in the Changing World of Media

Convention Topics

2012 Orff-Schulwerk between the Poles of Pragmatic Music and Dance Education and the Developing of the Whole Personality

2013 Orff-Schulwerk in Schools

2014 The Training of Orff-Schulwerk Teachers. International Convergence and/or Divergence?

2015 Interculturality in Elemental Music and Dance Education (*OS Heute 93 and 94*)

2016 Effective Forms of Evaluation and Assessment in Elemental Music and Dance Education (*OS Heute 95*)

2017 Encounters between Orff-Schulwerk and Modern Arts (*OS Heute 97*)

2018 Orff-Schulwerk and Special Populations in Educational and Social Contexts (*OS Heute 99*)

2019 Formats and Contexts of Orff-Schulwerk Education from Workshops to Courses to Higher Education

2020 Legacy and Vision (virtual)

2021 Play and Planning in Orff-Schulwerk: Ways of Developing Creative Learning Processes (virtual) (*OS International Volume 1, Issue 1*)

2022 Celebrating Nature in Teaching and Learning with Orff-Schulwerk (virtual) (*OS International Volume 1, Issue 2*)

2023 DIVERSE VOICES. Addressing and Exploring Diversity and Inclusion in Orff-Schulwerk (in person and virtual) (*OS International Volume 2, Issue 2*)

2024 Embodiment Through Engaging the Senses (in person and virtual)

Presentations of Associated Schools and Institutions

ASIs choose a theme of the year for their projects. Many of these were presented at the conventions. Topics were:

2016 How to Work Creatively with Sources from the Orff-Schulwerk Volumes

2017 Assessment/Evaluation in Action

2018 Encounters between Orff-Schulwerk and Modern Arts

2019 Orff-Schulwerk and Special Populations

2021 A Choice: “100 Years of Bauhaus” or “Global Goals for Sustainable

¹⁴ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/magazine-osh>

Development (UNESCO)"
2022 Celebrating Nature in Teaching and Learning with Orff-Schulwerk
2023 Addressing and Exploring Diversity and Inclusion in Orff-Schulwerk

Forum Resonances

are a free online event open to anyone, lasting 3 - 4 hours, organized by members of the IOSFS and covering a wide range of topics related to the Schulwerk. The Resonances are intended to bring Orff-Schulwerk practitioners from around the world together in a collaborative and interactive setting and to facilitate the sharing of ideas. The following themes have been offered:

2020 Gunild Keetman
2021 Discovering the Wildflower. How Orff-Schulwerk Uses Culturally-specific Ideas
2021 Music and Movement for Older Adults and Others
2022 Jazz, Improvisation, and the Schulwerk: Integrating Elements of Jazz & Pop Music into the Orff-Schulwerk Curriculum
2022 Embodiment in Orff-Schulwerk
2022 A Taste of Cantonese Opera
2023 Orff-Schulwerk Leadership
2024 The *Günther-Schule*
2024 40 years IOSFS

Publications

Magazines

- *Orff-Schulwerk Informationen (OSI)* Nr.1-89/1964 - 2014
- *Orff-Schulwerk Heute (OSH)* Nr. 90-100/ 2014 – 2019. Published biannually in German and English on a wide range of topics¹⁵
- Online journal of the IOSFS *Orff-Schulwerk International*, published in English since 2022.¹⁶

Documentation of International Orff-Schulwerk Symposia¹⁷

- *In Dialogue. Elemental Music and Dance Education in Interdisciplinary Contexts* edited by Barbara Haselbach, Micaela Grüner and Shirley Salmon (Schott 2007)
- *50 Years Orff Institute* (Carl Orff Institute 2024) includes DVDs with excerpts from lectures, workshops and performances and provides a good overview

¹⁵24 <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/magazine-osh>

¹⁶ <https://www.iosfsjournal.com/>

¹⁷ <https://www.orff-schulwerk-forum-salzburg.org/other-publications>

of the symposia, the topics and the international contributions (edited by Manuela Widmer and Comoman Kallos).

Series of Texts on Theory and Practice of Orff-Schulwerk

Vol. I *Basic Texts from the Years 1932-2011* (edited by Barbara Haselbach) in German and English (Schott 2011). Translations available in Spanish, Chinese, Farsi, Greek and Russian (French in preparation).

Vol. II *Orff Schulwerk in Diverse Cultures. An Idea that Went Round the World* (edited by Barbara Haselbach and Carolee Stewart). Pentatonic Press 2021

Vol. III *Movement and Dance in Orff Schulwerk* (edited by Barbara Haselbach, Verena Maschat and Carolee Stewart). Pentatonic Press 2024

Vol. IV *Theoretical Perspectives for Elemental Music and Movement Education. A Reader* (edited by Andrea Sangiorgio and Sarah Hennessy) is planned.

The IOSFS, its board, committees and international members dedicate themselves with great intensity to the deepening and dissemination of artistic-creative education through music, dance and the associated arts in the spirit of Orff-Schulwerk. We hope that creative pedagogical practices continue to lead to mutual inspiration and the exchange of experiences within the community in the future, and that scientific research will lead to a deepening of the understanding of the significance and impact of this artistic-pedagogical concept.

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