

The Orff Classroom: Instruments That Last

September 2017

Overview: “The Orff Classroom: Instruments That Last” will fund 17 mallet instruments with stands and 30 drums to support a philosophy of music education based on student empowerment, enjoyment and creativity.

Abstract:

Carl Orff (1895–1982) was a German composer who developed Orff-Schulwerk (translated “Orff School Work”), a revolutionary approach to music education that goes beyond singing and emphasizes student empowerment and creativity through song, dance, speech, and instruments. In 1950, Carl Orff and his colleague Gunild Keetman published Music for Children, a five volume collection of developmentally appropriate songs designed to be played by kids on small percussion instruments called “Orff instruments.” Thirteen years later a small group of music educators from Muncie, Indiana discovered Orff-Schulwerk and brought it to America. They formed the American Orff Schulwerk Association and began a nationwide movement towards well rounded and student centered music education that continues to benefit children to this day. Music education in America has only continued to grow since Carl Orff developed Orff-Schulwerk, and kids all across the country are finding joy in creating music as his movement continues to explode.

Bringing it closer to home, the highest goal of my teaching at Boone Meadow is that students would have fun learning about and making music. This ZEF grant would give my students the resources to do just that, matched with a philosophy of music education that is new to Boone Meadow but has been proven all around the world for over seventy years. Orff-Schulwerk emphasizes student creativity, and by empowering kids to make their own music using serious instruments, the outcomes are endless.

If funded, this project promotes academic excellence by providing Boone Meadow with a classroom set of mallet instruments on stands, hand drums and frame drums to be used in Orff-Schulwerk class lessons and student performances. These Orff instruments will greatly enhance the music experience of all 444 currently enrolled Boone Meadow students (K-4), as well as all incoming students over the lifetime of those instruments. Because I am requesting high quality xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels and hand drums from manufacturers like Studio 49 and Remo, those instruments will last at least 15 years, but could last several decades if they are properly maintained. For that reason, the true impact of this grant would reach as many as 2,000-4,000 students in the next 15-30 years.

Statement of Need and Rationale:

Currently Boone Meadow has a classroom set of Suzuki xylophones, but these instruments have experienced some damage over their lifespan and are all the exact same (they are all soprano xylophones). A typical Orff classroom needs mallet instruments with all different sounds for ensemble playing. Just like an orchestra needs woodwind, brass, string, and percussion instruments, an Orff ensemble needs xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels, not to mention soprano, alto, and bass versions of each. Instrument stands are important for the posture of the student (allowing them to stand up rather than sit on the floor) and the safe transportation of those instruments.

Boone Meadow’s drum inventory increased by 115% after Zionsville West provided us with \$5,000.00 worth of drums that were under-utilized in middle school. With two more tubano drums and an additional ngoma drum we would have enough for proper ensemble playing. We currently have no frame drums. With the funding of this grant Boone Meadow would have a classroom set of mallet instruments on stands, hand drums, and frame drums, perfect for teaching Orff-Schulwerk.

Award Purposes and Objectives:

The instruments purchased with funds from this ZEF grant will perfectly match Zionsville Community School's second academic priority for 2017-2018, Student Empowerment & Agency. The very nature of Orff-Schulwerk is all about creativity and student choice. In fact, the end goal of Orff is not that students play music other people have written, but that students play their own. With these instruments my students will be encouraged to think outside the box, to lead, to discover, to take risks, and to become artists. Music can do this in a way that other subjects can't, and an investment in the right tools will pay off in benefits for years to come.

Lessons based on Orff-Schulwerk meet all nine Indiana State Music Standards. Students will learn to sing a melody before playing it on an instrument (standard 1). They will play instruments alone and with others (standard 2). Students will improvise melodies (standard 3) and play their own compositions (standard 4). They will read, notate and interpret music (standard 5) while also learning to listen well (standard 6). Students will perform on instruments and then evaluate their performance (standard 7). They will learn about the connection between music and other disciplines, especially by converting books and poems into songs played on instruments (standard 8). They will also learn how music relates to history and culture, particularly by playing music written seventy years ago by Carl Orff himself (standard 9).

Responsibility:

If this grant is funded I will immediately purchase the instruments and teach my students how valuable they are and how important it is that we keep them safe. Knowing that an instrument purchase like this won't likely come again, it is crucial that we protect the instruments we are given. Rules and procedures will be established so that every instrument is treated with respect, and appropriate consequences will come as a result of carelessness.

Source of Funding:

My dream is to build a well-stocked 21st century Orff classroom with high quality instruments that will last. Doing this admittedly will come at a substantial cost and will require funding from a variety of sources. In addition to applying for the ZEF grant I plan to pursue donations from Boone Meadow's PTO, Donors Choose grants, outside grants, and instrument manufacturers/retailers.

Project Activities:

Students will regularly (even every day) use these Orff instruments both in the classroom and on stage during performances. The musical concepts that will be taught using the mallet instruments (xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels) and drums (tubanos, ngoma, frame drums) include: steady beat, rhythm, melody, harmony, pitch, dynamics, diatonic scale, pentatonic scale, mallet technique, melodic contour, intervals, chords, composition, and improvisation. To expand on the last of these concepts, improvisation happens when performers make up their own music on the spot. Orff mallet instruments are perfectly designed for student improvisation because notes outside the pentatonic scale can be removed. This means that any note a child chooses to play will sound good within the context of a particular song. To put it another way, when students improvise on Orff instruments they don't have to worry about playing wrong notes because there aren't any. This gives the child complete freedom to create.

Personnel:

William C Doublestein- Music Teacher- Boone Meadow Elementary School

Plan for Evaluation and Follow-Up:

The goals of this grant will be achieved every time my students use instruments to learn a concept, improvise a melody, compose a song, or play a performance. Because the playing of instruments can't be assessed using written forms of evaluation, student success will instead be measured through constant informal formative assessment and annual summative performances. Administrators, colleagues, parents, and community members will be able to see the success of this project by regularly being invited to participate in and observe student learning. This will happen through annual "in-formances" (inviting parents in to participate in music classes) and performances (music concerts or programs). I will also share student experiences through online platforms like YouTube and Twitter. Currently my YouTube Channel "BowTieMusic" has over 135,000 views and almost 400 subscribers from all over the country and world, making the reach of this instruction not only valuable to the community of Zionsville but to a community of music educators and Orff teachers alike. In an even bigger sense, the goals of this grant will further be achieved when students leave Boone Meadow, or graduate from Zionsville schools, with a greater love and appreciation for music. I don't expect that all my students will go on to become professional musicians, but I do hope that one day they will all look back fondly on their time in elementary school music class and have a greater love for the beauty found in music as a result.

Budget:

Instruments, and especially high quality instruments, are expensive. I know that building a well-stocked Orff classroom require a substantial investment. I also understand that it may take funding from a variety of sources and over numerous years to accomplish this dream. I have broken down my request into five different options (by order of importance) in case full funding isn't possible. Option 1 lists mallet instruments (my greatest need), option 2 lists instrument stands, option 3 lists hand drums, and option 4 lists frame drums. If option 1 is unable to be purchased in full I would still love to have the stands from option 2 for my current soprano xylophones.

Option	Item	Manufacturer	Item Number	Price	Quantity	Total	Retailer
1	Soprano Glockenspiel	Studio 49: Series 2000	200795	\$ 198.85	3	\$ 596.55	West Music
1	Alto Glockenspiel	Studio 49: Series 2000		\$ 216.75	3	\$ 650.25	Amazon (Music 123)
1	Alto Xylophone	Studio 49: Series 1600		\$ 544.50	2	\$ 1,089.00	Amazon (Music 123)
1	Bass Xylophone	Studio 49: Series 1600		\$ 985.00	3	\$ 2,955.00	Amazon (Music 123)
1	Soprano Metallophone	Studio 49: Series 1600		\$ 343.55	2	\$ 687.10	Amazon (Music 123)
1	Alto Metallophone	Studio 49: Series 1600		\$ 469.70	2	\$ 939.40	Amazon (Music 123)
1	Bass Metallophone	Studio 49: Series 1600	202168	\$1,003.00	2	\$ 2,006.00	West Music
1	West Music Estimated Shipping (option 1 only)					\$ 89.83	
						Option 1 Total:	\$ 9,013.13
2	Adjustable Orff Table Stands	Basic Beat	259587	\$ 109.00	24	\$ 2,616.00	West Music
2	West Music Estimated Shipping (option 2 only)					\$ 130.80	
						Option 2 Total:	\$ 2,746.80
3	27x14" Key Tuned Tubano, Kintekloth	Remo: Series 100	201592	\$ 229.50	2	\$ 459.00	West Music
3	40 x 14" Key-Tuned Standing Ngoma Drum, African Stripe	Remo: AK-4014-AH	202416	\$ 439.95	1	\$ 439.95	West Music
3	West Music Estimated Shipping (option 3 only)					\$ 22.00	
						Option 3 Total:	\$ 920.95
4	Fiberskyn Frame Drum, 8"	Remo HD-8508-00		\$ 18.95	9	\$ 170.55	Amazon
4	Fiberskyn Frame Drum, 10"	Remo HD-8510-00		\$ 18.95	9	\$ 170.55	Amazon
4	Fiberskyn Frame Drum, 12"	Remo HD-8512-00		\$ 26.37	9	\$ 237.33	Amazon
						Option 4 Total:	\$ 578.43
5	West Music Estimated Shipping (all options)					\$ 242.63	
5		3				All Options Total	\$ 13,259.31