

# NMAOSA

## *Spring Newsletter*

April 30, 2021

# *The Kokopelli*

<https://www.facebook.com/NMAOSA>

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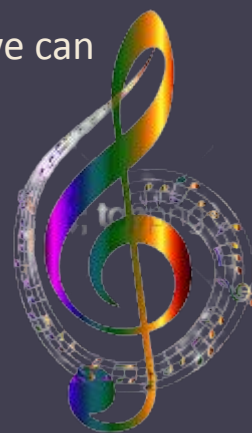
Kristen Hutchinson - Editor

# President's Message

Our chapter had a very productive virtual year! We took advantage of the need to be online to offer extra workshops this year, hosting six valuable professional development events instead of our usual four, pulling in presenters from all over the country. Our season started with Rob Amchin, presenting “Folk Dancing from Afar.” At that point, many of us had no idea how we would do folk dances with students on google meet, and everything Rob presented was a revelation. In October, we hosted Beth Nelson who demonstrated many adaptations of classic Orff activities for virtual and hybrid teaching. In December, Matthew Stensrud presented a workshop that was just the emotional self-care we all needed, giving us so many ideas for social-emotionally informed Orff teaching. 2021 started with a bang as Cat Woo and Ashleigh Lore brought us a high-energy, fun-filled, action-packed day. Our February chapter share featured six teachers from three different school districts sharing tried-and-true, classroom ready activities. We finished strong with an outstanding presentation from Jennifer Sheridan on teaching Orff-Schulwerk to students with autism. I know that I benefited from each workshop during a year when I was searching out new activities and looking for ways to adapt my teaching to the needs of my students.

Looking forward to next year, we have some fantastic presenters lined up. Your chapter leadership has decided to have the chapter share in October and our presenters in December, March, and April in hopes that our presenters will be able to travel freely and we will be able to host live, in-person events. Whatever we face next year, we have shown that we can provide rich, creative experiences for teachers in a variety of teaching models. We are looking forward to seeing you next school year!

Diane Marino, NMAOSA President



# AOSA Virtual Symposium

It was not the experience we remember or the one we would have chosen, but the AOSA did a fantastic job of putting together a virtual conference during the pandemic. I attended many excellent sessions, but one that I put into practice immediately was Chris Judah-Lauder's session on Percussion/Found Sounds. Although I sent small instruments home to my students for remote learning, every class has students whose instruments have been lost, or the student is at Grandma's house or day care and the instrument is at home... I loved Chris's ideas for exploring timbre and creating found sound compositions. I also summoned the courage to try breakout rooms after the symposium, and I now know which classes I can trust to use them appropriately for creation activities. One of the highlights of the symposium for me was finding myself in a breakout room with teachers from all over the country and having a minute or two to chat with them.

Diane Marino

The APSA Virtual Symposium was just as non-stop as the past in-person conferences. It was exciting to "see" everyone on zoom and our chapter got a few shout-outs in the chat from previous presenters. I enjoyed having such a diverse selection of workshops from presenters from all around the world. These are just a few of the fabulous presenters we had: I Love Dancing and Dr. Kofi Gbolonyo's workshop did not disappoint! We learned a song and dance from Ghana that had us up and moving around our tiny zoom boxes. Estevao Marques, from Brazil, had an engaging presentation on making spoons and using them to play the rhythms of the world. I also really enjoyed the color dance that was led by Abdul Hakin and Rebecca Lau, from Singapore. They asked us to find various colored objects to use. First, we used them to act on zoom with the story, Mixed: A Colorful Story by Arree Chung. Then we did an energetic dance using our colors with the song, "Colors" by Stella Jang. Much like a regular conference, I tried to do everything and sang, danced, and used body percussion and found sound instruments until I dropped!

Mary Alice Balderrama

**SAY**

**PLAY**

**sing**

**dance**



# Virtual Success Stories/Happy Thoughts

My school is having a monthly Open Mic where students can sing, dance, show artwork, read a poem, read a story, or whatever they would like to share. It has been fun, but some students expressed that they are a little shy and reluctant to sign up. I opened my google meet for a half hour after school once a week for students to come and practice their open mic performances, get positive feedback from the other students, and encouragement and suggestions from me. It has been an excellent experience for students and very enjoyable for me to see and hear them outside of class!

Diane Marino

I felt like some of the world drumming activities and recorder karate have worked well both online and in the classroom!!  
Laurie Sloan

On the second day of school ....

I thought I smelled Hamburgers. I love them but at 9 am? I then looked down to see a student looking down....Yes, he threw up in his mask!!!! As I took the student outside I told him "Honey, don't breathe in!!!

NOTE: As a ESL student he didn't know what to call what was in his mask.

Musically,  
Darcie

## Book Review

*I Just Want to Say Goodnight* by Rachel Isadora



Shout out to Carla Haynes for introducing me to this beautiful book! For Black History month, I was looking for picture books with Black protagonists, and this charming story set in Africa is perfect. I was just starting to work on sol-mi-la patterns with kindergarten and first grade, which is the audience for this book. Each time Lala stalls her bedtime by saying goodnight to another animal or object, we sang Carla's song. After reading and singing the book, I asked students what or who they would sing to when trying to delay their own bedtime, and students unmuted one by one to sing to their pets, stuffed animals, etc. As always, Rachel Isadora's illustrations are gorgeous.

<https://www.amazon.com/Just-Want-Say-Good-Night/dp/0399173846>



# 2020-2021 NMAOSA Board Members

**Diane Marino**

**President**



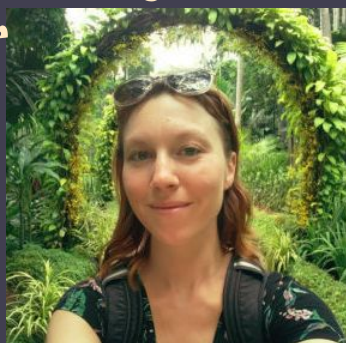
**Mary Alice Balderamma**

**Vice President**



**Vicky Wood**

**Treasurer**



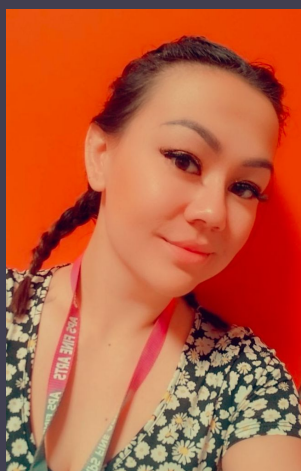
**Kristen Hutchinson**

**Secretary**



**Alexa Nguyen**

**Historian**



**Cat Woo**

**Past President**



**Kristin Higginbotham**

**Historian**

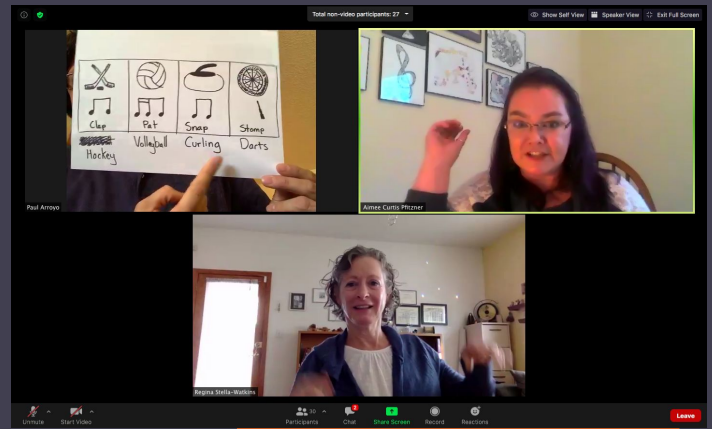


**Anna Smock**

**Historian**



**Rob Amchin**



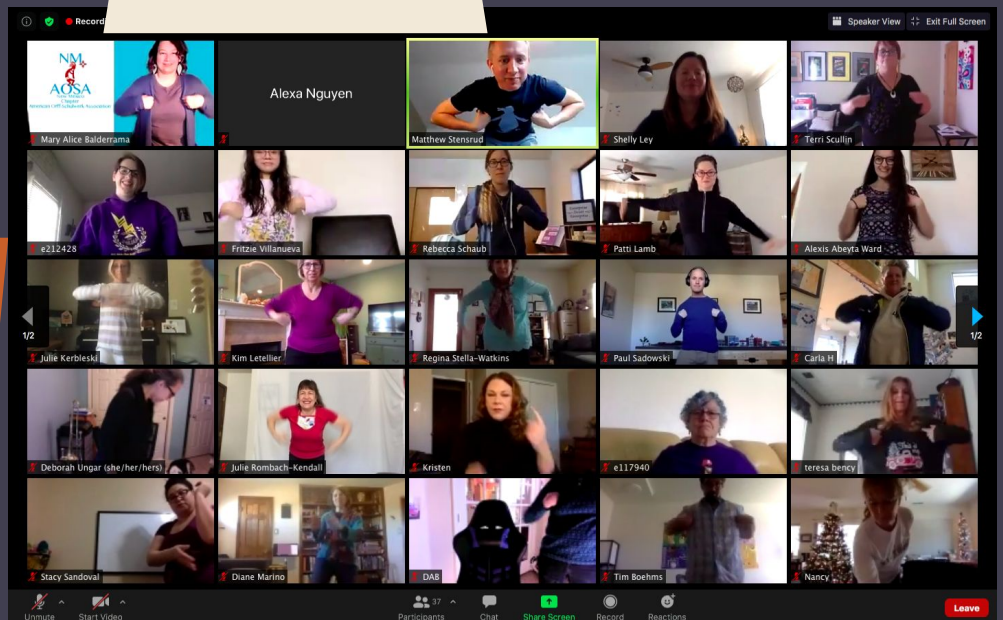
**Jennifer Sheridan**



**Cat Woo and  
Ashleigh Lore**

“Pictures”  
from our  
workshops  
this year.

**Matthew Strensrud**







# Chapter Share

Beth

Nelson



Screen Shot

Screen Shot

Screen Shot

Screen Shot

Screen Shot

Unmute  
Start Video

Participants

Chat

Share Screen

Record

Reactions

Leave



# 2021-2022 Workshops

**October - Chapter Share TBA  
(possibly the 16th or 23rd)**

**December 4, 2021 - Angela Leonhardt**

**March 12, 2022 - Kate Bright**


**April 9, 2022 - Deb Navin**

I am thrilled that Kate Bright will be one of our presenters next year! She is a recorder wizard, and she can play a mean Mario Theme Song! Kate uses whimsy and novelty to engage students in her lessons. Her unique use of props (rubber chickens and feathers) demonstrates to students everything from how to play a recorder to the importance of articulation. She also emphasized how important it is to practice those fine motor skills way before you get out the recorder (like in kindergarten!) Unfortunately, many of our students don't get to spend enough time on those skills. The last thing Kate pointed out was that as music teachers we need to spend more time creating music for ourselves and, in fact, our students would be delighted to hear our songs.

-Mary Alice



# A Perspective by Anna Smock




The 2020-2021 school year, while challenging and difficult, has definitely encouraged creativity. The NM American Orff Schulwerk Association, led by Board President and APS Music Teacher Diane Marino, has risen to the challenge of continuing to support elementary music teachers across the state. The NMAOSA Board has collaborated with teachers across the district, state and nation in order to bring high-quality professional development opportunities to a digital platform. Music teachers across the state came together to play, dance, sing and create in whole new ways, and in ways that can be applied when we return to the classroom.

In August, teachers worked with Rob Amchin from Louisville, Kentucky to discover virtual ways to engage students in singing, creating and dancing with his workshop *Folk Dance From Afar*. In October, Beth Melin Nelson from St. Paul, Minnesota, shared her workshop *Projects and Possibilities*. Teachers chanted, danced, created and used found-sound instruments for Orff activities that can be done virtually and in-person. In December, Matthew Stensrud, from Washington D.C., presented *Effortless Play: Creativity and Community in Distance Learning*. Teachers focused on songs, games and activities that combined high quality musical content with community building and social-emotional learning. In January, APS Music Teacher Cat Woo co-presented with author Ashleigh Lore from Michigan, *Sing, Say, Dance, Play, CLICK! Fostering Creation for the Digital World*. Attendees learned about technology incorporation and gathered ideas about how to implement it into their teaching. They also shared many fun activities and games that can be used now and in the future, and discussed ways to utilize American Sign Language in the music classroom.

In February, Alexa Nguyen, Sarah Farrell, Jan Delgado, Kristin Higginbotham and Diane Marino presented at the NMAOSA Chapter Workshop which was a great way to discover kid-tested, teacher-approved activities that came from local classrooms. And in March, Jennifer Sheridan from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania presented *Teaching Orff to Students with Autism*, which was an excellent way to finish the workshops this year. Teachers learned many tried-and-true ways to differentiate their instruction in order to create successful musical experiences for all students. Vice-President Mary Alice Balderrama has already lined up exciting presenters for next year's workshops which promise to be fun, creative events! Stop by [nmaosa.org](http://nmaosa.org) throughout the year to register for upcoming workshops.

Each presentation taught attendees new and exciting ways to engage their students in the digital and in-person platforms we are all navigating. The NMAOSA board and presenters went above and beyond this year to present excellent workshops that provided applicable content now and for future teaching. New Mexico music teachers time and again attended Saturday workshops to further their teaching and find ways to improve student experiences and outcomes. Congratulations to all who participated in these endeavors this year!

Anna Smock



A decorative border at the top of the image featuring a dark blue background with a dense layer of colorful confetti (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) and several long, flowing streamers in red, yellow, and blue.

# Yearly Raffle WINNER!

Congratulations to Meghan Briley for  
winning the Remo tunable tubano.



Enjoy your summer.  
Take time to recharge.



Since the beginning of time, children  
have not liked to study. They would  
much rather play, and if you have  
their interests at heart, you will let  
them learn while they play.

— Carl Orff —

AZ QUOTES

