

THE GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER, AMERICAN ORFF-SCHULWERK
ASSOCIATION: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER, ITS
LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE IN SPREADING ORFF SCHULWERK
IN NORTHEAST OHIO

by

MARK A. FRANCIS

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Mark A. Francis
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Dr. Bruce Gleason, Thesis Supervisor

The intent of this study was to examine the local grassroots development of Orff Schulwerk in northeast Ohio, mainly attributable to the formation and growth of the Greater Cleveland Chapter American Orff-Schulwerk Association, the first Orff Schulwerk chapter chartered in the United States. The research that follows addresses what events and factors led to the introduction, spread, and growth of Orff Schulwerk in the northeast Ohio region, and what individuals helped with this introduction. The study further addresses what events and factors led to the formation, growth, and development of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, and what individuals helped with this formation. How select individuals affiliated with the Cleveland Chapter spread and promoted Orff Schulwerk was additionally examined along with what impact the Cleveland Chapter has had on music education in northeast Ohio.

Historical research and data were collected and analyzed from a substantial number of primary and secondary documents. Published primary sources included articles, books, conference programs, interviews, photographs, reports, workshop notes, and brochures. Unpublished primary sources included surveys and interviews conducted by the researcher, letters from both archival and private collections, speeches, manuscripts, and typescripts. Published secondary sources included articles, books, dissertations, and theses.

The researcher concludes that the impact the Greater Cleveland Chapter has had on music education in northeast Ohio can in part be attributed to the efforts of Ruth Pollock Hamm and Betty Jane Lahman among others. It is also concluded that proliferation of Orff Schulwerk by way of the Cleveland Chapter was accomplished through presenter and chapter sharing workshops, professional partnerships with music education and music industry organizations, the establishment and promotion of Schulwerk teacher training courses throughout the region, and the efforts and responsible financial planning of countless chapter members, educators, and volunteers. The researcher affirms that the grassroots growth, expansion, development, and impact of the Greater Cleveland Chapter American Orff-Schulwerk Association has provided the organization with a rich history and an important place in the advancement of music education in northeast Ohio.