

Marilyn Copeland Davidson was a giant in the field of Music Education. Born in 1934 in New Castle, Indiana, she passed away June 1, 2023. Her love of music was a lifelong pursuit. She earned a Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree from Ball State University in 1955. She then studied the piano at The Juilliard School in 1956. Marilyn taught in public schools all over the United States, sharing her wealth of knowledge and love of music with thousands of students. Some say this experience led her to be a driving force in the creation and marketing of music education textbooks for Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Along with several co-authors, her textbooks *Music and You*, *Share the Music*, *Spotlight on Music*, and *Music Studio* were immensely successful. These materials have been indispensable to music teachers across the United States and even the world. The focus on lessons incorporating Orff Schulwerk was instrumental in spreading the approach to classrooms across the nation. Marilyn also published several ancillary publications such as *Tops in Pops*, *Music is Fun!*, and *An Acoustic Jam*.

Along with Sue Snyder, Marilyn worked hard to found the Northern New Jersey Orff Schulwerk Association. First known as the Bergen County Orff Schulwerk Association, the earliest record of a meeting is dated September, 1975. The chapter is #49 of the umbrella national organization, The American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Marilyn continued her work with the Schulwerk as an AOSA Teacher Educator. She created the Teacher's College Orff Levels Courses where she taught for many years. She also taught at The Hartt School of Music, William Patterson College, and at many other AOSA teacher education courses across the United States.

Marilyn's leadership went past teaching, writing, and inspiring. She also served the national American Orff-Schulwerk Association as President from 1991 – 1993. She guided the organization very well and made it a point to bring the membership together. Along with other AOSA members, Marilyn made groundbreaking progress in secondary education by participating in the first ever Alliance for Active Music Making session at an AOSA conference in 2002. This presentation, involving well-known leaders from four different organizations, provided a culminating moment, with positive response to the ideas regarding the importance of active music making as the basis of music teaching and learning.

Marilyn was an inspiration to all who knew her and to many who never had the pleasure of meeting her. She is survived by her loving daughters Jenny and Diana, and grandchildren Chris, Sergio, Peter, and Stephanie. The Orff-Schulwerk world will long remember Marilyn's kindness, inspiration, and dedication to her craft. She was an amazing woman in every way.

Condolences may be sent to:
Diana Valencia and Jenny Juntwait
31 Martin St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to:
Bergenfield Friends of Music -- Mail to:
Friends of Music, c/o Bergenfield High School,
80 South Prospect Ave,
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

International House Student Housing -- <https://www.ihouse-nyc.org/support-the-house/> (Class of 1956, Marilyn Copeland)

American Orff-Schulwerk Association Endowment Fund --
<https://aosa.org/get-involved/make-a-gift-to-aosa/>

Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital --
https://give.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/site/Donation2?df_id=1620&1620.donation=form1&_ga=2.248159744.627199977.1686073932-364468038.1686073932