

Italy // Italien

Development and evolution of OSI Orff-Schulwerk Italiano

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In spite of a difficult socio-economic situation (in Italy as well as in other countries) the growth of OSI has not stopped: both when it comes to the number of people attending our courses and workshops, and when it comes to the associations and schools asking to join our National Forum, and eventually when it comes to the publications of the OSI Didactic Collection (Collana Didattica OSI).

What I would like to point out, beyond the numbers which might end up turning into a plain list, are the reasons behind this constant evolution. Certainly what attracts so many people – deciding to invest time and money on demanding training courses such as those organized by all of the most important Orff institutions – are the quality, the aptness and the didactic actuality of the supply.

However, before these undeniable attractions, there is one special skill which we consider to be fundamental: the ability to “listen”. To listen to people, to the territory, to the desires, to the needs and to the suggestions (it is not a way to do “marketing”, it is instead a way to spread a pedagogical-musical line



Foundation meeting of Rete OSI Nord

“Schulwerk did not develop from any pre-considered plan – I could never have imagined such a far-reaching one – but it came from a need that I was able to recognize as such.”

Carl Orff³

which works towards the assimilation of differences and inclusion); to listen to ourselves on a never-ending process of analysis, self-critique and innovation.

Every year we must resolve some delicate relational matters, update courses, find a balance between the answers coming from the ‘terzo settore’¹ to our solicitations and our goal to raise a solid, competent and reliable ‘offspring’; always working towards a wider diffusion of our didactic message. So much that an unexpected new fact has emerged from the ‘terzo settore’ lately: the launch within the Orff-Schulwerk Italiano (OSI) Forum² of the Northern OSI Network

1 In a socio-cultural context In Italy the expression “terzo settore = third section” means in a socio-cultural context the entirety of non-profit organisations (the first section are the official institutions, the second the for-profit organisations)
2 A network (involving over 50 among Associations and Music Schools in which teachers coming from our training courses operate) with no organizational structure of its own, yet strictly connected with the organizational potential of the Scuola Popolare di Musica Donna Olimpia, member of the IOSFS (see pp. 72–76).

(Rete OSI Nord), a division gathering the 17 Associations working in Northern Italy.

It was not a pre-rehearsed project planned by the board, but rather a necessity delineated by our Association in Bergamo (Milleunanota), which had sensed the need to further improve contact and collaboration between associations that are geographically close, in order to strengthen the diffusion of our pedagogical-musical line.

This outcome certainly is a consequence of the kind of relationship Orff-Schulwerk Italiano (OSI) has with the associations and music schools belonging to its Italian National Forum: a relationship which is a mixture of commitments and autonomy.

The main commitments are: to shape one's music training proposals according to the Schulwerk principles and to plan one or more workshops (of a yearly set of proposals settled in advance by OSI) which are valid to fulfill our 3 Levels of training organized in Rome.

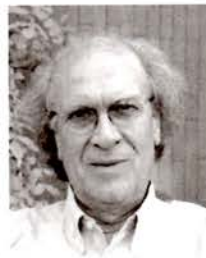
The autonomy consists in the opportunity for the schools to extend their activities towards all the other education areas they might be interested in (voice, instrument, ensemble, theatre, orchestra, dance). This model grants the reciprocal relationships a good balance.

The Northern OSI Network has already organized an event based on an extremely interesting organizational concept: the OSI DAY. On the same day (April 21st 2018) 11 of the 17 Associations of the Network organized a Schulwerk activity on the 'terzo settore' exchanging the teachers (be it a workshop, a seminar, an exposition, a demonstrative lesson, etc... a couple of times involving conservatories or universities). This way the relationship-collaboration between the participating associations has been one of concreteness, mutual knowledge and actual exchange of experiences. The OSI DAY involved on the whole over 200 attendees, collected 60 new members for OSI and diffused over 60 volumes of our Didactic Collection.



Foundation meeting of Rete OSI Sud

Last but not least: on August 28th – 29th 2018 the Southern OSI Network (Rete OSI Sud) was founded during a meeting hosted in Reggio Calabria by the MuWay Association: a further look towards the future.



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