LISA HEWITT

VITA: CANDIDATE FOR FMEA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

NAME Lisa Hewitt **HOME PHONE** (407) 656-0382

ADDRESS 1408 N. Fullers Cross Rd/Winter Garden, FL 34787 **CELL PHONE** (407) 761-1895

E-MAIL ADDRESS femeaOrff@gmail.com **or** lisa.hewitt@ocps.net

CURRENT TEACHING POSITION/TITLE

- **Position:** Music Specialist/K-5 including Chorus and Orff Ensembles
- **School**: Westbrooke Elementary School/ 500 Tomyn Blvd./ Ocoee, FL 34761
- **District**: Orange County Public Schools/ 445 W. Amelia Ave/ Orlando, FL 32805
- **FMEA**: FMEA All-State Orff Ensemble Coordinator

EDUCATION

- Stetson University/DeLand, FL Bachelor of Music Education, 1981
  Orff Schulwerk Certification:
- Level I-Western Carolina University, 1984
- Level II-University of South Florida, 1985
- Level I-Central Florida Orff/University of Central Florida, 1998
- Level III-Trinity University, 2004

AOSA CHAPTER AND NATIONAL BOARD EXPERIENCE:

- AOSA National Board of Trustees, Regional Representative-Region IV, Financial Assistance Chair, 2012-2015
- AOSA Summer Teacher Training Courses, Levels I, II, and III sponsored by Central Florida Orff at Stetson/University of Central Florida, Course Director, 2005-present
- Central FL Orff Chapter President, 2004-2006
- Central FL Orff Chapter, established the Mary T. Gibson Scholarship Fund for Teacher Training, 2004
- Central FL Orff Chapter President Elect, 2002-2004
- AOSA Summer Teacher Training Courses sponsored by Central FL Orff and University of Central FL, Course Co-Coordinator, 1998-2002
- AOSA National Conference Registration Co-Chair, 1998 (Tampa, FL)
- Central FL Orff Chapter Secretary, 1992
- Central FL Orff Chapter Treasurer, 1985-1988
- Central FL Orff Co-Organizer of the first annual and subsequent Sunshine State Orff Workshops, 1985
- Central FL Orff Chapter Inaugural Member, 1982

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Orange County Public Schools, Elementary Music Specialist, 1991-present
- Orange County Public Schools Elementary Music District Chair, 2006-2015
- Orange County Public Schools Orff Chair, 2004-2013
- Presenter for local Orff Chapters in FL, SC and for Orange County Public Schools
- Presenter at FMEA Professional Development Conference (FEMEA) in Tampa, FL, 2015
- Presenter at the AOSA National Conference in Denver, CO, 2013
- Orff Ensemble Clinician for Orange County Public Schools, FL, All County Concert, 2010 and 2015
- Orff Ensemble Clinician for Seminole Public Schools, FL, All County Festival, 2008 and 2009
- Stetson Community School of the Arts, Orff Instructor, 2005-2007
- National Board Certification in Early/Middle Childhood Music, 2002
- Walt Disney World Orchestra, String Bass, 1996-2012
- The First Academy, Lower School Music Teacher/Strings Instructor, 1987-1989
- Seminole County Public Schools, Elementary Music Specialist, 1981-1987

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- NAfME
- FMEA
- FEMEA
- American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA)
- Central Florida Orff Chapter (CFOC)

HONORS/PUBLICATIONS

- Orange County Public Schools District Finalist-Teacher of the Year, 2010
- Teacher of the Year, 2010 (Westbrooke Elementary)
- Teacher of the Year, 2006 (Dillard St. Elementary)
- Grand Bohemian Fine Arts Teacher of the Year-Elementary Music, 2004
- Teacher of the Year, 1998 (Lake Gem Elementary)
- Teacher of the Year, 1994 (Waterbridge Elementary)

AOSA
American Orff-Schulwerk Association

147 Bell Street Ste. 300
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
(440) 600-7329
info@aosa.org • www.aosa.org

National Board of Trustees

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Eric Young
LuAnn Hayes
Lisa Sullivan

Executive Director
Carrie Barnette
carrie@aosa.org

July 23, 2015

Florida Music Educator Association
402 Office Plaza
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Awards Selection Committee:

I write this letter to strongly support the choice of Lisa Hewitt as 2016 FMEA Music Educator of the Year.

As Executive Director of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Lisa in several capacities. Lisa served as a National Board of Trustees Regional Representative for three years, July 2012 to June 2015. Lisa assisted local chapters with administration and growth. She had a significant impact with two new chapters chartering with AOSA during Lisa's tenure. Additionally, she was a strong participant on the National Board, serving as chair of the Financial Assistance Committee and as a member of the Professional Development and Leadership Development and Nominations Committees.

In addition to her national board work, Lisa has played a significant role in her home state. She has held several chapter leadership positions and coordinates the summer Teacher Educator Course in her area. Assuring that quality professional development opportunities in Orff Schulwerk are available to music educators in Florida, Lisa continues to be instrumental in the promotion of quality music education training that makes a significant impact in the state.

I add my own personal endorsement of Lisa. She is a successful, compassionate educator ever focusing on the importance of a child's music education. Lisa provides a positive, consensus-building attitude that creates an environment of inclusion and growth. I will miss working with her on the National Board and look forward to her involvement in other aspects of national leadership with AOSA. She is a jewel that is deserving of recognition.

I look forward to seeing Lisa's name added to your list of "Music Educators of the Year." She is very worthy of this accolade.

Cordially,

Carrie Barnette
Executive Director

FLORIDA ELEMENTARY MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

uniting music educators

because ALL Florida children deserve a high-quality Music Education

Marie Radloff
6050 Scotchwood Glen #107
Orlando, FL 32822
407-616-5097
femeapresident@icloud.com

Dear Awards Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Lisa Hewitt for the FMEA Teacher of the Year Award. She truly exemplifies the best music education has to offer.

I have known Lisa as a friend and colleague in Orange County Public Schools for 25 years. During much of this time, Lisa's leadership has been truly remarkable. She has served as the chair of our elementary music teachers for the past 10 years, mentored numerous interns and teachers new to Orange County, written lesson plans for our annual student field trip to hear the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, shared best practices at district in-service workshops, and inspired all of us to be life-long learners. She was selected as school-level Teacher of the Year four times, at four different schools, and in 2010 was one of five district finalists for Orange County Teacher of the Year.

When we were planning our new All-State Orff Ensemble and realized we would need to recruit a coordinator for this group, Lisa was the number one person on everyone's list. Lisa's experiences as Central Florida Orff Chapter President, CFOC Course Director, AOSA Regional Chair, and four-time All-County Orff Ensemble Conductor for both Orange and Seminole Counties made her uniquely qualified to step in and help set up this exciting new All-State group. Since Florida is the first state in the nation to offer such a group to students, to say that Lisa had to "invent the wheel" is an understatement! In the past year, she has been instrumental in working with our FEMEA All-State Task Force in establishing all aspects involved in this process, including setting a budget, recruiting conductors, recruiting a commissioned composer, establishing audition procedures and a scoring rubric, recruiting vendors to supply instruments for the rehearsal/concert, recruiting volunteers to help at the January conference, and on, and on, and on. At every step of the way, Lisa tackled every task with her usual grace and humor.

There is no person who better represents the goals and ideals of FMEA than Lisa Hewitt, and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition and honor.

Sincerely,

Marie Radloff

Marie Radloff
FEMEA President

Orange County Public Schools

August 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Lisa Hewitt has been an outstanding music educator in Orange County Public Schools for many years. In addition to influencing the lives of thousands of young musicians, she also has served as a teacher leader for countless young and experienced educators alike.

As an educator, Lisa has demonstrated her prowess in the classroom and on the stage. Lisa's students excel as young musicians, demonstrate their ability to perform with great passion and apply the skills they are developing towards being musically literate. Her classroom is an exuberant place of learning that allows students the opportunity to be creative while developing critical skills towards being independent musicians. Lisa knows how to provide the perfect balance of play and rigor so that all students can be successful in her classroom. She has brought music into the lives of thousands of children and nurtured a passionate arts support system for the families of her community.

As a leader, Lisa has proven to possess those critical leadership traits that allow her to impact the teaching habits of her colleagues and young new teachers just starting out in their careers. She leads by example and approaches issues and challenges with a positive spin, always looking for a solution instead of dwelling on the challenges. Lisa is a recognized leader in our district and often the resource for many with questions regarding curriculum and instruction. She volunteers her personal time towards helping other be effective music educators and works to maintain a collegial atmosphere of continuous growth amongst her peers. In addition, she demonstrated her leadership at the national level by being elected as a Regional Representative on the American Orff-Schulwerk Association Board of Trustees back in 2012 and more recently at the state level as the FEMEA All-State Orff Ensemble Chairperson.

Lisa has been a friend and colleague for many years. I value her as a confidant and admire her as a music educator. Her leadership is essential to the success of our teachers and her passion for her students is unparalleled. Lisa is an exemplar music educator both in our district and in our state and the best choice for the Florida Music Educators' Association's Music Educator of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Evans
Coordinator, Visual & Performing Arts | Health & Physical Education
Orange County Public Schools

Westbrooke Elementary

500 Tomyn Blvd.
Ocoee Fl. 34761
407.656.6228 (Main Office)
407.656.6741 (Fax)

Michelle Couret
Principal

La Donna Johnson
Assistant Principal

August 21, 2015

Dear Awards Selection Committee Selection Members,

I am writing this letter in complete support of Ms. Lisa Hewitt as the Florida Music Educator of the Year. As her principal, I am extremely proud of the level of proficiency our students achieve under her direction. Our students participate in an excellent music program, beginning in Kindergarten. Ms. Hewitt is masterful at understanding benchmark standards students need to learn, and at identifying each student's strengths and needs. She has developed a program which scaffolds instruction, is sequential in nature and is comprehensive for all students, with a variety of musical experiences. By the time students are in fourth and fifth grades, they have additional opportunities to develop vocal talents in our school's chorus and instrumental talents through our impressive Orff Ensemble. Ms. Hewitt is always thinking about ways to make her program relevant and engaging to students. Because fourth and fifth grade students have had years of comprehensive and sequential instruction with Ms. Hewitt, they are extremely proficient within these ensembles. In January 2013, Ms. Hewitt took the Westbrooke Orff Ensemble to perform for other music educators at the FMEA All State Conference. I truly believe Ms. Hewitt has inspired other teachers to do the same with their own students.

Lisa Hewitt is also a prominent leader in our district, Orange County Public Schools. She has written the district's music Measurement Topic Plans, which are used by all OCPS teachers when planning for music lessons throughout the school year. She is also a leader when creating structures to support beginning teachers, including support groups and Professional Learning Communities. She is continuously sought out to provide professional development for other music educators throughout OCPS as well as the state of Florida. She is a favorite among various Florida university college of education programs, and is often asked to mentor interning students. She is an active member of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Although one, short letter cannot be a full representation of Lisa Hewitt and her abilities, I do hope that this has provided you with insight regarding why I believe she would be an excellent choice as Florida's Music Educator of the Year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Couret

To: FMEA Awards Committee
From: Jennifer Sullivan
Date: 12 August 2015
RE: Lisa Hewitt, Music Educator of the Year

Dear Committee Members,

It is an honor and pleasure to recommend that you select Lisa Hewitt for the 2016 Music Educator of the Year Award. I have had the privilege of working with Lisa for the past thirteen years as a colleague and I consider her a mentor. She is an exemplary teacher and teacher leader in the Orange County Public School system. She is a role model for young teachers and experienced teachers alike, and she serves music education at local, district, state and national levels. She serves her local community through service to her church orchestra and as a music education advisor for their school. If you ask her what she feels is the most important aspect of her service, she will always tell you it is the students in her music classroom at Westbrooke Elementary School.

As a member of the executive board of the Central Florida Orff Chapter, I have seen exemplary music educators from around the country, and I assure you, Lisa Hewitt stands tall among them. She served on the National Board of Trustees for AOSA as a Region IV Representative for local Orff chapters in the Southeastern United States. She has presented workshops at AOSA National Conference, as well as in South Carolina, six chapters in the state of Florida, and this year she will also present in Georgia. She has served as the CFOC Teacher Education Course Director for twelve years bringing AOSA Levels training to Central Florida teachers and ultimately to their students. In addition to local music teachers, the course has served music educators from states as far away as Indiana, Tennessee, and even South Korea, and South America.

At the state level, Lisa Hewitt has directed an Orff Ensemble that performed at FMEA Conference. She has presented workshops at FMEA. She is currently the chairperson for the newly established All State Orff Ensemble, which means that she will be setting the bar for states in the nation who will want to bring this opportunity to their children. She has also twice been the clinician for both the Orange County All County Honors Orff Ensemble and the Seminole County All County Orff Ensemble.

At the district level, Lisa Hewitt has been a teacher leader for OCPS and served various roles for many years. She is the point person for directing professional development for elementary music educators, mentoring new teachers, writing curriculum and more. If it's about elementary music, Lisa Hewitt is the person our teachers, supervisors and college music professors go to—period. Lisa Hewitt has been a life force for Orff Schulwerk in Central Florida. She has served on the executive board of CFOC in numerous offices and over the span of her teaching career. Her leadership and service continue to make an impact on music educators of Central Florida, and on her students and their families every day.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Sullivan, President Central Florida Orff Chapter

orlando philharmonic ORCHESTRA
ERIC JACOBSEN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

To the Florida Music Teacher of the Year committee:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of support for nominee Lisa Hewitt on behalf of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. For the past two seasons, Lisa Hewitt has been a part of the development team for the Philharmonic's teacher guidebook, a comprehensive document that is utilized by hundred of teachers for 56,000+ students annually in our community.

As someone in the periphery of the school district, I had heard of Ms. Hewitt before meeting her because several teachers referred to her as the "mom" of the general music teachers. This often-repeated phrase shows that, in addition to being an outstanding teacher and professional, she is also a mentor and a well-loved team member.

It is clear from the moment you meet Ms. Hewitt that she is a consummate professional. Every conversation is articulate and insightful, demonstrating not only her focus but also her inherent abilities as a teacher. Ms. Hewitt has clearly answered her calling as a teacher, and the Orange County Public School system is lucky to have her.

It is my pleasure to assist Ms. Hewitt in being considered for this prestigious and well-deserved award. On behalf of the Philharmonic I offer the highest recommendation to Ms. Hewitt and hope she is seriously considered by the committee.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Leia Barrett, PhD
Director of Education
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra | 812 E Rollins Street | Suite 300 | Orlando, FL 32802
407.770.0071 Box Office | 407.896.6700 General Office | 407.896.5512 Fax | info@orlandophil.org | orlandophil.org

Jennifer Jacobson, MA
2245 BlackJack Oak Street
Ocoee, FL 34761
407-877-7710

July 24, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Mrs. Hewitt as a music teacher for 6 years and I can personally attest that there is no better candidate for Florida Music Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Hewitt opened the music program at Westbrooke Elementary in 2008 with a very clear vision: ORFF is the key to unlocking the music talent in even the most difficult student. A music program can be one color, but Mrs. Hewitt found a way to create a very rich rainbow. She started with her room and enlisted the PTO in helping her to provide a multitude of drums and instruments that would otherwise be excluded in a public school budget.

From a very personal view, I'm a piano teacher with 15 years experience. Mrs. Hewitt is dynamic, creative and amplifys the music education at Westbrooke. The quality of education she is providing in a public setting is beyond compare- maximizing every budget dollar given and the potential of every student. The day I knew she was different was when I watched an ORFF concert and watched a very troubled student perform in precision with confidence and pride. The look on his face was unlike anything I had ever seen of him in the classroom. Yes, that's the ability of a great music education but it must begin with a dedicated, patient, caring teacher. That teacher is Lisa Hewitt.

Jennifer Jacobson
Jennifer Jacobson, MA

JENNIFER JACOBSON PIANO INSTRUCTION
Helping students build confidence with music
stay motivated to learn
and feel comfortable performing in their music peer group

July 27, 2015

I have known Mrs. Lisa Hewitt for the past 7 years. In this time, I have seen firsthand how she has nurtured the love of music in both my sons, as well as hundreds of others at Westbrooke Elementary School. Mrs. Hewitt's passion and enthusiasm for her craft exemplifies what it means to be a music teacher.

She has a true passion for teaching music and it shows in the way her students respond. Music has been my boys' favorite class every year and Mrs. Hewitt, their favorite teacher. She encourages her students and fills them with confidence. My oldest son made All-County for Orff and my youngest is trying out for the first All-State Orff Ensemble thanks to her encouragement.

Mrs. Hewitt goes above and beyond, giving her personal time selflessly to help students with their own musical extracurricular activities such as a voice or an instrument audition.

She makes music fun and interesting for all her students. She instills a love of music and gives them the knowledge to truly enjoy this art form. Mrs. Hewitt is also a talented musician. Our school is blessed to have her sharing her gifts with our children.

Sincerely,

Ann McGarry

July 28, 2015

Mrs. Hewitt should be Music Teacher of the Year because she pushes us to do our best, shows patience when teaching, makes learning fun, has a sense of humor, and takes extra time to help us with activities done outside of school. For example, when I needed help practicing a song for a play, Mrs. Hewitt gladly took the time to help me. Mrs. Hewitt also makes learning fun with her sense of humor. When learning gets tough in the music room, Mrs. Hewitt helps us in fun ways to the point where we can understand it.

Furthermore, everyone can tell that Mrs. Hewitt loves to teach. She is kind to her students and rewards us for doing a good job in class. Mrs. Hewitt is an excellent teacher and all her students love her.

Sincerely,

Jack and Ryan McGarry

5117 Pine Top Place
Orlando, FL 32819

August 11, 2015

To the review committee for Florida Music Teacher of the Year:

Mrs. Lisa Hewitt is a wonderful teacher, mentor, and partner to the families of Westbrooke Elementary. Mrs. Hewitt was on staff and helped open Westbrooke in the fall of 2008, when my daughter started as a Kindergartener. My daughter would come home sharing the exciting things she had done in music class. Mrs. Hewitt partnered with the PTO at Westbrooke to purchase instruments (various drums) for the school's Orff program, which my daughter was determined to join as soon as she became eligible.

Mrs. Hewitt encouraged students to explore music in class, after school hours, and to participate at the county level. Mrs. Hewitt had a choir and Orff program before school for the 4th and 5th grade students. She also worked outside of class with students who were selected for the All County Choir as well as the Orff programs. When my daughter auditioned for percussion in middle school, her music director informed her that everyone wanted to play percussion, so she should have a back-up plan. However, after she auditioned, she was told she had, by far, had the best audition. I attribute Mrs. Hewitt's love of music and skills in passing that passion and ability on to her students.

I remember the first Christmas after we started at Westbrooke. We went to church to prepare for the Christmas program and there was Mrs. Hewitt with her string bass, playing with the orchestra. My daughter ran over and gave her a big hug. My daughter was so excited that her teacher was there. It made an impression on our family that in addition to everything else that Mrs. Hewitt did, she found time to give back to the community, as well as to a church she did not attend, nor was a member.

Mrs. Lisa Hewitt is a role model to students at Westbrooke, to teachers at Westbrooke, a partner to families at Westbrooke, and a friend to the music community of Orange County, and I am so very glad that she has been a part of our family, and our school. I certainly hope that you recognize her passion and gift in sharing the joy of music with her students. She is deserving of the award and will always stand out as an exceptional teacher in my eyes. Thank you for your consideration of Mrs. Hewitt and best wishes on your selection.

Sincerely,

Melanie King

August 5, 2015

RE: MRS. HEWITT'S NOMINATION AS MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

WE, JUDY VALIQUETTE AND BARB SONGER, HAVE BEEN FRIENDS OF THE KING FAMILY SINCE MADISON KING WAS BORN. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ALSO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH HER SCHOOL AND ACTIVITIES AT WESTBROOK ELEMENTARY AND NOW AT CHAIN OF LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE FINE INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC ~~THAT~~ MRS. HEWITT PROVIDED TO MADISON. MADISON LOVES MUSIC, SINGING AND DANCING. MRS. HEWITT RECOGNIZED MADISONS' EARLY TALENTS AND NURTURED HER THROUGHOUT MADISON'S ELEMENTARY YEARS.

SHE HAS INSPIRED MADISON TO SING, PLAY AN INSTRUMEN AND PARTICIPATE IN BAND AND CHORUS AT HER MIDDLE SCHOOL. MADISON ALSO SINGS AT HER CHURCH AND IN PLAYS PRESENTED BY HER CHURCH AND ORLANDO PREP THEATRE. THE TALENTS MADISON WAS GIVEN HAVE BEEN NOTICED AN MRS. HEWITT CONCENTRATED A LOT OF TIME TO HER PERSONAL EDUCATION BY HER TEACHING SKILLS AND BY HER ABILITY TO SEE AND ACT ON EACH INDIVIDUAL SHE TEACHES.

WE ATTENDED ALL THE CONCERTS PRESENTED BY THE STUDENT OF MRS. HEWITTS' CLASSES AND ONE COULD FEEL HOW MUC THE STUDENTS STRIVED TO DO THEIR VERY BEST TO PLEASE THEIR TEACHER AND WE ARE SURE THEY ALL HAVE BENEFITED BY BEING TAUGHT BY THIS EXCEPTIONAL PERSON WHO LOVES THESE CHILDREN AS MUCH AS WE ALL LOVE H

THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING WESTBROOKS' VALUABLE ASSET.

Judy Valiquette and Barb Songer

August 5, 2015

Dear Music Teacher of the Year Selection Committee,

Hello, my name is Madison King and I am a former pupil of Mrs. Hewitt's. She has given me the love for music. I participated in her chorus and orff ensembles for 2 years. I also was apart of Allcounty chorus for 3 years and auditioned for Allstate in 5 grade. I must say I wouldn't have these experiences without her. Mrs. Hewitt is encouraging, patient, and lively. She supports us in everything we do with an unforgetable smile. Mrs. Hewitt is the perfect candidate for the Music Teacher of the Year Award.

Sincereley,
Madison King