

Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman's Artistic-pedagogical Heritage

Prof. Dr. Michael Kugler

Abstract

For the worldwide Orff community, the Orff Schulwerk represents the artistic-pedagogical heritage of the two personalities C. Orff and G. Keetman. Since Keetman has been involved in the Schulwerk from the very beginning, we cannot only mention Orff's legacy. The starting point is Orff's idea of the Elemental and Elemental Music, inspired by the *Ausdruckstanz* (Expressive dance) (M. Wigman) and Music anthropology (C. Sachs), which dates back to the 1920s. The *Günther-Schule* in Munich provides the workshop where Orff develops a concept whose supporting pillars are movement and dance, improvisation and percussion. Keetman was largely involved in this process. She has also created minimalist compositions for the choreographies of the *Günther-Schule*.

Through the Orff-Schulwerk courses 1931-33, Orff and Keetman presented the material, the instruments and the technique of improvisation to the general public and produced the publication *Elementare Musikübung* (Elemental Music Practice) (1932-34) for the participants who were completely inexperienced in it.

The second part of the legacy is the Orff-Schulwerk "Music for Children", which was created by Orff and Keetman in the years 1948-1950 for educational radio broadcasts of the Bavarian Radio for music lessons in public schools. It replaces dance with scenic language, Orff's primary medium of expression. The resulting publication (1950-54) is received by teachers, usually reproduced literally from the notation, and is increasingly being transformed into a method for teaching music. Gunild Keetman's legacy continues in her pedagogical work. She has taught the craft of the Schulwerk at the *Mozarteum* and worldwide and has developed a methodology.

Orff's theoretical legacy has been formulated in several essays. The main points are the idea of the elemental, the principle of the creative as well as the education of children and amateurs, the principle of physicality and movement, the principle of improvisation and playfulness and the artistic principle in the use of the elemental instruments.