



CINCO RANCH HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Brett Nelsen ~ Oscar Vera Directors ~ www.crhsorchestra.org ~ @crhsorchestra
23440 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Katy, TX 77494 ~ 281.237.5206 ~ 281. 237.2476

May 31, 2021

To the Members of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association Board,

I am honored to recommend Sundas Mohi-Truong for the position of Member at Large for the Texas Orchestra Directors Association Board. Ms. Mohi-Truong would bring several assets to the TODA Board so that the organization grows and fosters inclusion by younger members. Specifically, she would like to see TODA become a more inclusive and welcoming organization for younger teachers. Aside from providing opportunities to improve our teaching pedagogy, TODA should offer opportunities for members to mentor one another and form a greater more inclusive community.

Sundas Mohi-Truong's background demonstrates her qualifications for this position. Currently, Sundas is in her sixth year of teaching orchestra. During this tenure, she has been very successful in her field. Sundas has had the opportunities to be a high school assistant director and more recently as a high school head director at Paetow High School in Katy ISD and now, at Klein Cain High School in Klein ISD. Not only has her career included orchestras earning Superior Ratings at UIL Contests and various festivals, most impressively, she has also already had the opportunity to be a part of a TMEA Honor Orchestra Performance. More importantly, Sundas demonstrates that she is the right person for the job of Member at Large for the TODA Board. In addition to her personal background Ms. Mohi-Truong is focused on making the Klein Cain Orchestra Program into one where students can be the best versions of themselves, musically, and personally. It is her passion to achieve this goal for her program that she believes that she can make TODA a more inclusive organization. She is not alone when she feels that younger teachers may feel somewhat intimidated. These young teachers are looking for professional mentors. People where they can ask for help and advice. TODA has a wealth of experienced teachers and Sundas Mohi-Truong is the right person to bridge the chasm that has grown between the older more experienced membership and younger directors. She firmly believes that an opportunity exists to share ideas and events that appeal to a larger community. These ideas would help increase membership and make TODA an even stronger organization. As she is already accomplishing her goals with her own orchestra program, Ms. Mohi-Truong is focused on achieving this goal upon her election as the Member at Large with the current TODA Board.

Sundas Mohi-Truong is a highly intelligent person. She is keenly aware of the issues that are currently affecting our colleagues in the classroom. For example, the issue of retention and recruiting. Sundas has organized several presentations for the community between Collegiate Admissions counselors and the parents and students of our orchestra programs. It is not enough for us as directors to speak about

retention, but it is more impactful to have those experts address these issues to the public. Sundas has also educated directors on the culture that could pose barriers to Asian Americans remaining in our programs. She has presented at National Organizations' such as the American String Teachers Association's National Conference, and at both the TODA and TMEA conventions. Her lectures have allowed me and my peers the confidence and the knowledge to address these issues of recruiting and more importantly, retention. Most importantly, I now feel confident that I am understanding of the cultural influences for such decisions about courses, and that I am better equipped with the information I need to help families in my own program make the best decision. These are relevant topics. Her expertise on these topics would also demonstrate her qualifications and readiness to serve on the TODA Board as the Member at Large.

Finally, Sundas is an effective communicator who strives to make a connection with her peers and her students. She learns about all the facets to an issue to present a best course of action. She is an articulate and effective communicator who commits to working together in a collaborative environment and listening to all sides before reaching a decision. Furthermore, her background is unique as she had to convince her parents to pursue her passion of teaching in the classroom. It is my opinion that this story helps her connect to her students. This level of respect helps create a connection, and this connection makes her students more loyal to the orchestra program and to each other. Sundas Mohi-Truong can bring this experience to the TODA Board to make the organization more adaptive and intuitive to the membership in the organization. Because of these strengths and her vision for TODA, I highly recommend Sundas Mohi-Truong for the position of Member at Large.

Sincerely,

Brett Nelsen