

Schreiner University

June 1, 2021

Dear Members of TODA,

It is an honor to write a recommendation for Sundas Mohi-Truong to be considered for the Member-At-Large position in the Texas Orchestra Directors Association. I've known Ms. Truong for many years, dating back to her outstanding undergraduate career at UTSA, where she was a scholarship student, principal violist, and assistant director/lead teacher of the UTSA String Project. Since graduation, her professional career has shown strong student accomplishments and outstanding program growth. Sundas is a formidable individual with a rare combination of artistic leadership, meticulous organizational skills, and complete compassion and care for communities she serves.

Sundas is foremost, a talented and compelling musician and teacher. She has a gift in motivating others to achieve beyond their own expectations. She is a model for hard work and for rising above cultural and societal injustices to bring more beauty and team-inspired accomplishment to the world around. Ms. Truong's students work hard for her and appreciate the time and focused energy it takes to build and sustain orchestral programs. I was very impressed how Sundas was able to keep her program strong during the pandemic—she constantly was reaching out to other professionals to identify and share the best practices among orchestra directors for the necessary hybrid instructional techniques required of this past year. Moreover, as her students were able to gather in the spring semester of 2021 again, she was able to plan, organize, and pull together a beautiful full orchestra program.

Sundas is one of the most professionally active individuals I know with multiple conference memberships and presentations to her credit. In addition to active membership and presentations at TODA and TMEA, she is also a member and has presented at the American String Teachers Association national conference. Sundas researches and organizes presentations based on her unique experiences with students and communities in her profession. For example, she researched and presented a session called "The GPA Game" which brought together admissions officers from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, to illuminate the myth that GPA is the most important aspect of collegiate entrance and success. Furthermore, her research and presentation helped identify and bring understanding to some of the cultural divides that exist in our school populations. Recently, Sundas has earned graduate training in counseling to provide further awareness and potential to her vocational path.

Finally, Sundas is one of the most friendly and team-spirited individuals I have ever worked with. She maintains professional relationships with excellent communication skills, and always seeks input on how to improve her work. She would be an outstanding choice for Member-At-Large for TODA. I give you my highest recommendation for her service.

Sincerely,

Gene Dowdy

Eugene Dowdy, DMA

Past President, TODA & TexASTA

Department of Music: Coordinator - Strings Division

2100 Memorial Blvd, Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 792-7417

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