



The Institute of Music for Children, Inc.

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March 25, 2010

Dear Folk Art Apprenticeship Grant Panel,

The intent of this letter is show the Institute of Music's support of Nelson Baez as an educator and practitioner of Bomba and Plena music.

Nelson Baez has been working with the Institute of Music for Children since the Spring of 2009. The Institute of Music for Children, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization located in Elizabeth, NJ that provides affordable arts education to area children, teens and adults. For the past two semesters, Mr. Baez has worked as the drumming instructor for our Afterschool Institute and taught the fundamentals of percussion to ages 4-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We have found Mr. Baez to be an enthusiastic and dedicated professional. He is able to work with a range of ages and creates a fun and welcoming environment while teaching the essential skills in the art form to his students. We are grateful that he brings his extensive knowledge and experience in the folk arts--Bomba and Plena music of Puerto Rico, and we are eager to work more closely with Mr. Baez to add workshops and performances of this specific art form to our organization's offerings and outreach programs for both children and adults.

He is also very effective working in collaboration with his colleagues and seeks opportunities to build connections between the various individuals and groups whose work he admires and respects. We look forward to our continued relationship with Nelson Baez and feel that he has and will continue to make a unique and effective contribution to the Institute of Music for Children's artistic and educational community.

Should you need further information, please don't hesitate to call or email me at the information provided below.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leslie P. Sims

Program Director

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