

April 14, 2023

Dear Arts Orange County committee,

I am writing to you as a member of the KidSingers Board of Directors, highly recommending Mr. Dennis Frayne as a recipient of an artist fellowship. Dennis has been instrumental in helping develop our KidSingers students as well rounded human beings, using choral music as a way to build confidence and team work capabilities in the under resourced population we serve. Dennis' interdisciplinary background in music education, coupled with his patience and understanding of the stages of youth development has made him a multi-dimensional contributor to the KidSingers programs.

KidSingers is a very small 501c3, with a modest budget and only 2 full time employees- yet we reach from 60-100 kids per year in the 26 years we have been in existence. The rest of the professional musical staff (including Dennis) are modestly compensated on an hourly basis. One of the things that makes Dennis special to all of us is his understanding that KidSingers is really a social program that uses music to reach our local under resourced Santa Ana youth. Being a KidSingers Director isn't just about mastering choral performance, it is about mastering life skills. When we see Dennis in action every week, he is an exemplary guide to our kids, grades 3-12. He hears not only their choral voices, but their inner voices.

If you have any questions or need more elaboration, feel free to reach out to me at [cskirtland@yahoo.com](mailto:cskirtland@yahoo.com).

We wish Dennis Frayne the best of luck in this process!

Sincerely,



Colleen Kirtland

**KidSingers Board Member** (and occasional volunteer, **unpaid** choral Director—which is how I know the ways Dennis interacts with our kids)