

March 23, 2010

To: Folk Art Apprenticeship Grant Panel
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
225 West State Street, 4th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08608

Hi, I'm the mother of Miles Hayes, a four year old and current student of Nelson Baez. We have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Baez twice a week. One in which he is instructing a group of 4,5, and 6 year olds. He makes the class fun and interesting. The children are always engaged which for this age group is a challenge. He does an amazing job of teaching the children about the rich culture and tradition as well as the fundamentals of percussion instruments from Puerto Rico and other islands. I observe the class and I find myself just as interested to learn as the children. I saw great interest with Miles so I decided to start individual sessions as well. It is a privilege to have one to one sessions from an accomplished and charismatic musician like Mr. Baez. Not only is Miles learning about music, but also about folk art and other cultures which is something that I encourage greatly.

His knowledge and skills are invaluable to me. His friendly and welcoming demeanor makes our interactions more than just music class.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hayes