



The Greenroom

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Dept. of Admissions
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend my friend and mentee Sean Nealon as an excellent candidate for enrollment to the Hartt School.

I received my B.A. in Music Composition from Berklee College Of Music in 1990. I have been a self-employed professional musician, recording engineer, songwriter, record producer and music educator for more than 15 years. I have worked with more than a thousand young adults in that time, and count Sean Nealon as one of a handful of those whom I actually encouraged to seek out a career in the field.

Sean has a natural talent for improvisation, an immediacy of expression and a unique musical voice. His trumpet playing displays excellent classical tone as well as a healthy jazz approach to musical risk taking. His solos in concerts always get the crowd going, and the humor and confidence he displays as a performer make him an inspiration to people who work with him. He doesn't let self-consciousness inhibit his expression and musicians playing with him are fueled by that.

I have worked 1-on-1 over the past 2 years as a mentor for Sean, specifically in regards to production and engineering. We are currently working together on PureData software applications and music synthesis. Sean has fantastic ideas, novel approaches, a quick mind and takes my advice and criticisms very well. This work has been good for him in learning to reconcile the worlds of theory and creativity with the hard edge of reality and functionality. Sean has displayed a strong work ethic, and a sustained passion for what he is doing that makes me think that a career somewhere in the vast heading "music" is highly probable: whether as a trumpeter, an engineer, producer, composer, software designer or some wacky combination of all these and more.

I feel Sean would thrive in the Hartt environment. He needs a diverse musical environment where he can explore a wide range of options and influences. Please consider him.

I am available at the above numbers to talk and answer questions should any arise.

Sincerely,

Colin J. McCaffrey

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