



Royal Academy of Music.

26/11/23

To whom it may concern...

Please accept this letter as a reference for Marcus Heier in his application for to be a Composition PHD student at Princeton University.

Marcus was my composition student for two years on the Masters program here at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He attended all my Composition and Arranging classes as well as coming to me for individual lessons and during this time I was able to watch him develop his sound as a composer writing for a range of ensembles over many genres.

Although, as a Post Graduate, his folio demanded only four pieces for Octet, Marcus diligently attended the Under Graduate classes as well and took on these additional assignments in order to ensure he left the RAM with a solid technical foundation. This led him to submit a large 14 minute piece for Jazz Orchestra as part of his folio which was featured prominently in a concert of new pieces at the end of his final year.

When he arrived at the RAM it was clear Marcus had a secure foundation using Logic Pro X and was, as a composer, most comfortable working in this medium. I was concerned about his transition to notation - clearly a necessary step if he was to write for the ensembles at the college - but my fears were groundless. Marcus found a way to work in Logic and notation simultaneously enabling him to continue writing with his usual fluency whilst producing clear, readable scores for all his octet pieces and for his final large-scale work. He was also able to produce detailed demos of each work at every stage which made our individual lessons very productive.

Marcus was always punctual, diligent and well prepared for every lesson, every ensemble and for every one of the classes. Most impressively, as an instrumentalist, he took as much care in realising the compositions of his fellow students as his own. He is a genuinely pleasant guy who would be an asset to any department.

I have no hesitation in recommending Marcus to you unreservedly. If you should need any more information please do not hesitate to contact me...

Yours sincerely.... Pete Churchill (pjchurchill@aol.com)

Head of Jazz Composition - Royal Academy of Music, London.
Head of Vocal Jazz - Brussels Royal Conservatoire, Brussels.
Director - London Vocal Project.