

24 Edward Phipps Way,
Haslington,
Cheshire,
U.K.

20th December 2023

To whom it may concern.

My name is Gwilym Simcock, and I would like to provide this recommendation letter for Marcus Heier, as a part of his application to the Music Composition PhD programme at Princeton University.

I taught Marcus every semester during his two years at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Marcus wanted initially to improve his piano skills (as a second study pianist), and his diligent approach to his studies did indeed result in him making great strides in this department, in a relatively short space of time.

The progress Marcus showed from lesson to lesson was a clear indication of his dedication towards his studies. He always worked hard between our lessons, and came well prepared for them, which really made the lessons extremely productive. He was always forthcoming with insightful suggestions as to how things should progress, but at the same time Marcus took on board all suggestions and critique, in a positive and mature way.

During his second year we focused mainly on composition for large jazz orchestra, and I was very impressed with his work. It showed clearly that he was able to implement various techniques he had learned, whilst bringing originality and his own voice to his compositions...

With the ambition, drive, and curiosity I've seen in Marcus, I have no doubt that he will be a great addition to your student body. The environment provided by Princeton will I'm sure be the perfect place for Marcus' continuous growth as a composer.

Yours Sincerely,

Gwilym Simcock, BMus (Hons), FRAM, FRWCMD, ARAM, LRAM, ATCL

(Jazz Professor, Royal Academy of Music)

gwilymsimcock@hotmail.com