

November 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is a recommendation for Brian King.

I've known Brian for 13 years. We became acquainted in the 1997-98 SMPTV class at USC under Dr. Buddy Baker. I was immediately aware of Brian's drive and intelligence, his experience as a musician, player and producer and his generosity.

Throughout that year Brian was the "go-to" guy for help, not only for those of us with great classical training but less than complete technical skill, but also for Buddy himself. We were all inspired by Brian's leadership, even in a student capacity. It didn't surprise me at the end of that year, when Buddy asked for Brian's help in an official way.

During this time I was working in the industry while beginning my teaching career as the head of the commercial and media writing program for the Music Department at California State University, Northridge. This program was completely new, and I used many of class ideas and concepts from the SMPTV program at USC to build my program. I also stayed in touch with Brian. We conferred often, since we were living in parallel universes.

I was delighted to learn that Brian was named Director of the program. It seemed such a perfect fit to me. Brian was eager to do the right thing for the students. He also brought a tremendous wealth of experience, not only as a writer, but as a producer and as someone who willingly embraced all the opportunities of new technologies.

It didn't surprise me when Brian made major changes in the faculty at SMPTV. While many of the deans of film scoring were able to regale students with wonderful stories of their experiences, they were not always able to discuss and interface with the changing industry, particularly the new technologies. Brian made wise decisions about keeping the old and adding the new at the same time, giving the program a renewed national and international stature.

I realized that Brian was working tremendously hard and I was pleased when Brian became USC faculty. This allowed him the flexibility to build curriculum and create collaborations with other areas of USC that would not have been as receptive to Brian as staff. This also conferred the respect he so deserved.

I understand Brian is now applying for promotion from assistant to associate professor. I've recently been promoted to full professor in my position and I am not a stranger to the immense work it takes to rise through the academic ranks and survive peer review.

I whole-heartedly endorse Brian for this promotion, not only for the reasons I've mentioned, but because of the depth of his caring for his students, his passion for his work and his creation of a benchmark to which we all aspire.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Sellers

Music Department Chair, Commercial and Media Writing Option Coordinator