



November 10, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter to strongly recommend that Brian King be promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Studies at the USC School of Music.

A bit of background: I am a film composer residing in New York. For the academic year 2007-2008 I was lead composition instructor at Columbia College Chicago's "Music Composition for the Screen", then in its second year as one of the only graduate programs in film scoring in the country. I also served as Director of Composition Studies in Columbia College's undergraduate Department of Music. After returning to New York I created, and direct, a new film scoring workshop: **Composing for the Screen: A Film Scoring Mentorship Program**, sponsored by BMI and taking place in its New York headquarters each fall. In addition, I direct my own private film scoring workshops in the spring, and teach one-on-one as well.

There is a great need for good film scoring programs in this country. More and more students approach me to ask, "How do I get into film scoring -- how do I learn it?" And every time, I answer, if you're really serious, the best program in the country is USC's Scoring For Motion Pictures and Television. I tell them about other programs: of course here in New York there's NYU, and obviously Columbia College Chicago -- as well as Berklee, which is undergrad, and North Carolina School of the Arts, also undergrad. These are all good programs, in their own way. But SMPTV is the most extensive and gives the most hands-on experience -- which is crucial for learning this very difficult field, and has the most advanced faculty. The maintenance of SMPTV's high standard of instruction, and the program's continued development, can be largely attributed to Mr. King's leadership, vision, administrative acumen and musicality.

SMPTV, more than any program, provides extensive professional experience. The Television Internship Program is unique. Nowhere else does a student get to prepare a cue for a network television program such as **Lost**, and come to the recording session, and conduct the cue for broadcast, under the watchful mentorship of such composers as **Lost's** Michael Giacchino. From the Hollywood Orchestration Readings to the instruction in and use of the latest technology to the expansion of the program and its faculty, Mr. King has shown true leadership, creating a program that is the best of its kind. He absolutely should be acknowledged with the position that befits his status as Director of this country's flagship film scoring program.

Therefore I unequivocally support Mr. King's application to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Studies. USC, SMPTV, the film scoring community and Mr. King will all benefit from it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Baitz". The signature is stylized with a cursive-like flow.

Rick Baitz, Doctor of Musical Arts
Director, BMI's "Composing for the Screen: A Film Scoring Mentorship Program"
Owner, Rick Baitz Music