



5 November 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Steve Kramer, with whom we have worked to deliver quality music programming to underserved schools in the Philadelphia School District.

As a forty-year-old non-profit arts organization dedicated to bringing music performance and education to tens of thousands of underserved students throughout the Delaware Valley, Musicopia has the opportunity to work with well over two hundred musicians and teachers each year. All of these artists and educators experience the stress that goes along with trying to change the lives of so many children in the face of the district's ongoing budget cuts. Dr. Kramer is one who refuses to give up the fight: his dedication, talent and concern are evident in everything he has done with Musicopia.

Dr. Kramer, who has been the recipient of many international awards throughout his career, is first and foremost an outstanding cellist with an impressive musical education and performance history. However, it is his ability to connect with, and bring out the very best in, his students with which we are most impressed. Dr. Kramer's quiet, unassuming style encourages even the most reticent student to draw bow across strings.

In addition, Dr. Kramer's willingness to jump in where ever and whenever he sees a need, whether to provide backup music for a group of sixteen-year-old rappers, or to help compile instrument "wish lists" that are needed to fulfill the musical goals of his fellow music teachers, is a breath of fresh air in the current climate of doing less, rather than more, in the face of limited funding.

Finally, Dr. Kramer is a warm and approachable person, always willing to go the extra mile (quite literally: he is a marathon runner in his spare time!) and always willing to share his musical expertise and positive outlook. It is with enthusiasm that I recommend Dr. Kramer for any music education-related position for which he might be considered.

Sincerely,

Patricia Stewart

Program Director, Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly