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April 18, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Calvin Standing Bear since 1992, and have followed his artistic career as a Native Flute specialist closely, inviting him to my classes as often as possible. Students have heard him talk about the spiritual nature of music and existence in Lakota thought, and they have experienced first hand the great power of his music. In particular, when Calvin shares with us his relationship to music and to his spirit teachers in the contexts of prayer in the *inipi* sweat lodge ceremonies, no one fails to be deeply moved. In one hour Mr. Standing Bear relates in his simple yet profound stories and personal narratives, the lessons I have tried to impart to my students about the essential spirituality of Native existence, and how that spirituality continues to function to heal the human spirit in today's troubled world. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfathers, the renowned leaders Silas and Luther Standing Bear, using music as the medium for disseminating Native philosophy.

I am particularly pleased to know that Mr. Standing Bear is being recognized by larger and larger audiences, and that the Colorado Symphony Orchestra has featured him in various youth concerts since 1997. His calm and gentle nature imbues his music; his music soothes the spirit.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to support Mr. Standing Bear in his endeavors. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

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