

June 30, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to recommend to you, without reservation, **Jeffry Steele**.

Jeffry is presently teaching at The Joseph J. Hurley School, one of fourteen Boston-area schools participating in the Metropolitan Opera Guild's *Urban Voices: A Choral Music Initiative* program. The fundamental goal of *Urban Voices* is to provide a choral singing experience in schools with a poverty index averaging 70% or higher and, in most cases, with no vocal music offerings. The most distinctive aspect of *Urban Voices* is its team-teaching ideal between classroom teachers and *Urban Voices* Choral Directors. The purpose of this approach is to practically address a music-across-the-curriculum philosophy through collaboration in the classroom. Though this arrangement can present a myriad of challenges, Jeffry has been, and continues to be, very successful.

Jeffry's musical skills are unquestioned. He is a virtuoso guitarist, an accomplished composer, an experienced song leader, and he is well-versed in various methodologies associated with comprehensive music education.

In addition to his musical acumen, Jeffry possesses personal qualities of the highest order. He is kind, courteous, punctual, and committed to an agenda of respect for all people. If I were teaching in a public school again, I would want Jeffry among my colleagues.

Although I am disappointed he will not be with us longer, I understand his wish to advance himself, and wish him success as he pursues his career. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at sburton@fastmail.fm.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Burton

Program Administrator

Urban Voices: A Choral Music Initiative in Boston