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To whom it may concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Michael Linert for over ten years. In those ten years we have had numerous opportunities to play together, both inside and outside the academic community. We have performed as a cello and piano duo at the collegiate level as well as less formally for religious services. We have also worked side by side as counselors for a well-respected music camp, ARIA International, serving the multiple and varying needs of the director, visiting musicians, and students.

In every situation that I can recall, Michael has been a courteous and friendly person, making others feel at ease and comfortable in their surroundings. He has also been timely and considerate of his fellow musicians, providing music and other materials well in advance of performances and other deadlines. His artistry is also consistently of the highest level. Michael is always well prepared, critically receptive of ideas, and ready to create the most positive atmosphere he can.

Michael also goes out of his way to make sure that those that hear him perform feel that they are a valued part of the performance. I have seen him give a very effective lecture recital and witnessed firsthand his care for listeners. When we played for a small church in Bedford, Indiana, during graduate school, I distinctly remember him talking to a young girl after the service about playing the cello. A student herself, she was curious about his technique and Michael both demonstrated and allowed her to try.

It is Michael's sincere caring for others that allows him to shine. He is never performing solely for himself, but for the enjoyment of everyone. This certainly carries through to his interactions offstage, as his concern and thoughtfulness for his colleagues is always present.

If every musician were like Michael, our audiences would feel consistently valued and important. Colleagues would work well together and create art and music of the highest worth. Michael is certainly an asset to any organization and I do hope that you will allow him to be an asset to yours.

Sincerely,

Laura Dallman