



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

January 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of my student, Elijah Hartman. His consistently exceptional performance leaves me without doubt that he will distinguish himself as an outstanding student. He has the intellectual aptitude, analytical ability and leadership skills necessary to flourish brilliantly in the academic field, and the talent, kindness and an unwavering commitment to helping others to greatly succeed personally and professionally. Elijah is devoted to excellence.

As the Director for the Madrid and Mediterranean Semesters, and his professor, I witnessed his social adaptability, personal interaction and kindness as well as his academic growth, motivation and determination to achieve the highest standards. During class, his eagerness to learn, to be an active part of the process, amazed me. His reasoning ability, interpretative competence and originality led him to attain his full potential.

However, his creative, musical talent is what set him completely apart from the rest of the students. I will never forget the day that the group went on a field trip to Lisbon and, Elijah, finding a piano in the lobby of the hotel, sat to improvise a composition that left all of us in awe. After his marvelous interpretation, I remember hugging him and asking him to do something with his talent so that the world would gain a virtuoso. With modesty, he just smiled.

Later on, I heard that he was pursuing a graduate degree and I could not be happier. This May, he will graduate in music composition. However, his desire to advance and to learn is taking him to apply to Law school for entertainment law so that -in his own words- *I might best put to use my talents for music, my quest for new experiences and my thirst for success*. I believe that with that kind of drive, Elijah is the type of student who honors an institution.

Elijah's character heightens his achievements. Conscientious and dependable, he also has a sense of fairness that is derived from his appreciation not only of artistic expressions, but of other cultures and ways of being. Caring and generous, Elijah created a supportive environment for the other students in the program through which he taught trust and a positive and kind interaction among everyone.

Also, his humanitarian nature took him to work these past years with environmental charities: *NYPIRG*, in charged of passing the *Bigger Better Bottle Bill*, which extended recycling programs to include all cans and bottles across the New York State, the *Chesapeake Bay Foundation*, where Elijah helped to raise funds to pass a legislation that will clean up the polluted run offs and help save the dying bay. Additionally, he worked for Mercy Corps helping to raise money to bring infrastructure and food to the needy across the globe.

Elijah is committed to distinction. You can be assured that he will only bring prestige to your institution the same way that he brought it to AU as he involved himself in activities that brought recognition and applause. Elijah, while performing academically, participated in other arts such as theatre (he was Prince Charming in *Into the Woods*) and music (he was Music Director of AU's all male a capella group), presenting to selected audiences.

Finally, please allow me to mention that his talent, passion, eagerness to learn and to act, thoughtfulness and genuine commitment to excellence make him not only an ideal candidate, but also a unique one. Allow me please to wholeheartedly recommend him.

Sincerely yours,

María C. Caballero, Ph.D
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