



Waterbury Arts Magnet School

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To Whom It May concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Jo Sallins as an outstanding musician and educator. Mr. Sallins came to our school, the Waterbury Arts Magnet School in Waterbury, CT this past November and worked with our high school chorus. He also worked with guitar and bass players, dancers, percussionists, and general music students.

This interaction between Jo and our students was a tremendous success. He brought vitality to the classroom that inspired students. In chorus, he got the students moving and dancing and introduced an original composition that he wrote just for them, challenging them by pushing them to their limits. The students want to work with Jo again.

The workshops culminated in a performance with students performing with Jo and his band *World Rhythms*. Many people commented on the quality of the performance after only two days working with Jo and the other artists. Jo taught the students that music is a sharing experience and he helped to foster an environment of creativity and excellence. Everyone had fun too!

These kinds of programs that allow artists of Jo's caliber to come into schools and work with students are rewarding for all involved. At WAMS, the whole school came together like the community of learning it is meant to be. Academic teachers as well as arts teachers worked together toward a common cause: the exploration of ideas and knowledge through music. The feeling of excitement and camaraderie this created and the positive effect toward learning is immeasurable.

I recommend Jo Sallins without reservation. Any school will benefit by bringing him into its classrooms.

Sincerely,

Rami Haxhi
Music Department
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