

Nov. 14, 2004

To whom it may concern:

I am delighted and honored to write to you in support of my distinguished colleague, Dr. Alexei Takenouchi.

Thanks to the efforts of a mutual acquaintance, I recently had the opportunity to hear a recital in the Los Angeles area in which Dr. Takenouchi performed a wide range of repertoire with a most beautiful sound, a comprehensive and flexible technique, and, above all, a deeply cultured and exquisitely sensitive musical understanding. I was so impressed by his playing and musicianship that I asked if I might observe his teaching, which he graciously permitted me to do.

His mastery in performance is no less evident in his teaching, which displays a profound pedagogical understanding that is obviously steeped in great and venerable traditions while remaining very much alive to the needs of a wide variety of students in the modern world.

His writings on teaching and other subjects show a degree of culture, erudition and thoughtfulness (and a wonderfully clear and articulate style) that is becoming increasingly rare in today's world, and, while I cannot claim long acquaintance with him, I believe sincerely that he would make an outstanding and valued colleague in any fine music department or performing situation.

I urge you to give him the most serious consideration, and, again, am honored to have the opportunity to write in support of him.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey Kahane
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