

Dr. Curtis Prince
Music Instructor
Kennedy-King College

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for music educator/guitar/composer Donovan Mixon.

Naturally I was pleased to learn of Mr. Mixon's credentials and accomplishments at our first meeting at Kennedy-King College. However his personal history: dedication to music, jazz, education, and world travels made an even greater impression upon me. After only a cursory perusal of his background and references I was chagrined at the cold reality of budget restrictions that precluded my ability to bring him on board in our music department immediately.

Since that initial meeting I have been pleased to hear his name as a fine guitarist and composer, circulating with increasing frequency on the Chicago music scene. Recently, when Donovan 'sat in' with the Corky McClerkin trio at Pete Miller's in Evanston (of which I am a member), I had the pleasure of playing an entire set with him. His sound was warm and he played with the depth and swing of a master.

I highly recommend Donovan Mixon to your music department. He would be a valuable asset to your faculty. Please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have to further support his application.

Regards,

Dr. Curtis Prince

ORBERT DAVIS'

CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC

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December 11, 2012

City Colleges of Chicago
Human Resources Department
dajobs@ccc.edu

To whom it may concern:

I had the honor to work with Donovan Mixon this past year. He led several classes for students attending the CJP / UIC Jazz Academy.

As Director of Communications and Outreach for Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, I manage all of our teaching artists as well as the CJP / UIC summer camp faculty. Having 60+ musicians from the CJP Orchestra to choose from to teach, I don't often need to reach out to others. However, I was so intrigued by Donovan's resume that I wanted to meet him, after which, I knew I wanted him as part of our teaching team.

Donovan was an exciting addition to our camp curriculum. I was amazed at how easily he was able to adapt to not only different age ranges but levels of ability. From first day beginners to advanced players, Donovan took command of his students' attention in a very subtle way. They respected and liked him. I felt lucky to observe him in the classroom and found his vast knowledge of music curriculum astounding.

Donovan created an inviting space for our students to not simply learn, but to be a part of the class. He promoted classroom engagement and encouraged participation. He also challenged our students and offered them the tools to succeed.

Donovan was dependable and prompt. He completed necessary administrative paperwork in a timely and accurate manner, which is not always the case for teaching artists. I whole-heartedly recommend Donovan Mixon as music faculty for the City Colleges of Chicago. Any higher education institution would be lucky to have him.

Please feel to contact me for any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,



Lesley Picchietti Byers
Director of Communications and Outreach

26 December 2012


To whom it may concern:

I have the pleasure of writing this letter of recommendation for Donovan Mixon. I have known Mr. Mixon since he joined the faculty of the Music Department at Istanbul Bilgi University in 2000. The department at that time had a special focus on jazz. I worked especially closely with him between 2001 and 2004 when I was dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Mixon was vice chair of the department in 2001-02. During his tenure as vice chair and until he left this university in 2006 he was known to be an extraordinarily conscientious and devoted member of the faculty. Among other things, he redesigned the departmental guitar curriculum, wrote the departmental entrance examination, created a very successful ear training program, was engaged in curriculum and course development activities, and advised students in a new Masters program.

Mr. Mixon is a highly accomplished performer, composer and arranger, and a devoted teacher/clinician and administrator with broad experience on an international level. I believe that his talents and experience in these diverse areas combined with the international perspective on music studies and performance he gained during his residencies in Italy and Turkey would be a major contribution to your music program. Mr. Mixon is extremely personable and very accommodating as a colleague. I have no doubt that he will easily and very successfully integrate himself into your institution should you decide to offer him the position for which he is applying.

I therefore recommend that most serious consideration be given to his application.

Sincerely yours,



Alan Duben
Professor
Department of Sociology
aduben@bilgi.edu.tr



Rebecca Sager, Ph.D.
Independent Scholar
1017 Cherokee Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Associate Director
Center for Music of the Americas
College of Music
Florida State University

March 1, 2010

Dear Search Committee,

It is a pleasure to offer my highest recommendation for Donovan Mixon who is applying for a tenure track music faculty position at your university.

Mr. Mixon's resume demonstrates that he is impeccably qualified, having performed guitar extensively in multiple ensembles throughout Europe and the United States as well as having distinguished himself as a leader in ear training pedagogy and as an administrator in music studies.

My enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Mixon is based upon our experiences working together as fellow faculty members at Bilgi Univeristy in Istanbul, Turkey during the 2000-2001 academic year.

Sharing an office space with Donovan afforded me the opportunity to observe his teaching methods first hand. Donovan met the specific pedagogy challenges at Bilgi with more success than the rest of the faculty. I have never before nor since seen any teacher bring along both woefully under-prepared and well-prepared music students to the highest possible level of aural skills according to each students' ability. Where other professors on our music faculty were met by students' obstinate resistance to high standards, the same students responded to the rigors and demands of Donovan's ear training and ensemble classes with enthusiasm, even thrill; sluggish, reluctant students quickly recognized they were becoming better musicians and began to work harder as Professor Mixon guided them to ever greater success.

I believe Mr. Mixon succeeds in maintaining the highest standards for student achievement because of his considerable training and experience in pedagogy. His methods were systematically developed and proven through practical application at Berkeley College of Music, then again at Bilgi. In addition to his academic qualifications and solid intellect, Donovan succeeds in motivating students where others fail because he takes what he has learned through his extensive career as a performing musician and applies it to focus his teaching on practical components of musicianship. His genius as a music educator is precisely this uniquely creative integration of academic preparation with performance and teaching experience.

Donovan was the ideal colleague and soon became a trusted friend. Without hesitation, Donovan readily mentored the less experienced faculty through various challenges. A gifted collaborator, he is a great problem solver and was exceptionally

savvy in finding effective approaches to strengthening our music department. As I was the only musicologist on the faculty, I especially appreciated Donovan's genuine interest in the many different musics from around the world that I taught. Together, we shared an appreciation for the musical heritage of our Turkish students. Gifted at putting ideas into action, Donovan invited Turkish music scholars to join him in a new performing ensemble, which he led, that explored combining Turkish music with American jazz.

Mr. Mixon will bring a unique and highly desired set of experiences and skills to your music program. I would not be surprised to see any institution of higher learning make great strides to hire and retain such a talented teacher and musician.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Sager". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Rebecca Sager, Ph.D.
Independent Scholar
Ethnomusicology

Associate Director
Center for Music of the Americas
College of Music
Florida State University

MOHAWK

COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

February 7, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Donovan Mixon. I have known Donovan both professionally and personally since our time together as colleagues at Berklee College of Music in Boston. I have had the opportunity to know him as an accomplished and inspired guitarist, teacher and performer and have witnessed throughout the course of our acquaintance that he is a highly committed musician, a compassionate and passionate person with a gift for communicating.

At Berklee Donovan was regarded as a hard working successful academic and teacher among his peers and the student population. His service to the college in both the department of ear-training and ensembles were seen as very important contributions to curriculum design and systems of evaluation and are still in use today.

We in the music program at Mohawk College have had the good fortune to host Donovan for two consecutive years as a guest clinician. His lectures, always met with anticipation and enthusiasm by both students and faculty, have provided new insights into ear training and performance pedagogy. Our faculty have since integrated many of his ideas into their course curriculums.

Donovan has had significant success in every role and position he has so far assumed. I have seen him perform, and have had many lengthy and substantive discussions with him about music, teaching, his personal experiences as an educator, and many other musical topics. I have no doubt that he would be an invaluable asset to the music faculty at Malcolm X College, and wholeheartedly recommend him without reservation. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information in support of his application.

Sincerely,



Darcy Hepner
Program Coordinator
Professor of Music
Mohawk College
(905)575-2043

April 9, 1990
Stephen F. Plummer
Chairman, Ear Training
Berklee College of Music

To whom it may concern,

Since his arrival in 1986 Don has been associated with the ear training department. As chairman of this department I know best of his activities in this area.

He has done especially good work for us. He has come in at a time when it was necessary to accept training related to the Kodaly method of teaching and has even participated in much of the revision activities in our core ear training courses by offering his own methods and skills.

In the class room he has come to be known as one who challenges his students but is still a caring teacher and one who has offered special assistance to students who have pitch-matching problems.

He is enthusiastic and creative. I might mention as an example of this his work in instituting a student game show related to Ear Training and theory. This has become a yearly event.

He has shown himself to be a responsible person and an effective teacher. I would recommend him as a candidate for any position related to your music department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven F. Plummer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Steven F. Plummer

Herrn Gert Mueller
Hochschule der Musik "Hanns Eisler"
Jazz Department
Charlottenstr. 53
D-10117 BERLIN
GERMANY

April 20, 2000

Dear Professor Mueller,

I write to enthusiastically support the application of Donovan B. Mixon for the position of Ear Training/Theory Professor.

I have known Don since he joined the Ear Training department at Berklee in 1986. Don had an immediate impact upon joining our faculty. He eagerly took departmental committee and college service assignments. In undertaking these activities, he greatly expanded the scope of our department's participation in important student musical activities, positively contributing to the college's student retention effort. Within just a few semesters, Don also became one of the most highly sought professors in ear training. He became known among students as a professor who maintained a rigorous application of the curriculum, but who was also entirely dedicated to meeting individual student needs.

Don also was invaluable in our department as a scholar of jazz and popular music styles. As we struggled to revise and update our core ear training curricula, Don's stylistic knowledge and performance expertise played an integral part in our discussions. When Don left Berklee for Italy to pursue his performance career, our department felt a great loss both professionally and personally.

Aside from his outstanding service record and his teaching and scholarly achievements, Don Mixon is also a marvelous performer. He is one of the finest jazz guitarists on the scene today. I have had the pleasure of hearing him in a number of performances both in the U.S. and Europe. He is just beginning to emerge (as his resume will attest) as a highly regarded session player.

Don, as a scholar, teacher, and musician, would be a valuable addition to any music department. I highly recommend him. If I can provide any other information about Don Mixon, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Prosser, Ph.D., J.D.
Chair, Ear Training Departmet

Berklee

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

August 30, 1989

Donovan Mixon
Faculty Box 312

Dear Donovan:

I am pleased to enclose for your interest a letter from an enthusiast who attended the Berklee in Santa Fe program. He mentioned you particularly as an excellent representative of the college.

Needless to say, it is always heart warming to receive this type of communication. Thank you for your many positive contributions to the success of this program.

Sincerely,



Lee Eliot Berk, President
BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

enc.

cc: Gary Burton
Larry Monroe

LEB/ram

Berklee

COLLEGE OF MUSIC



February 17, 1998

Mr. Donovan Mixon
c/o Landi
Via Graziani 27
Modena, Italy

Dear Don,

I'm pleased to endorse this book. Here is a method that approaches improvisation from an ear training perspective. It integrates the classical movable "Do" system into a clearly defined concept for jazz improvisational study.

The dictation exercises are clearly explained and demonstrated with the goal of developing an intuitive sense of pitch relationships within the context of tonality. I recommend this book to the serious instrumental student who wants to move from point "A" to point "B" in a logical progression of activities for the development of "hearing" on the instrument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Badolato".

Greg Badolato
Chair, Ear Training Department
Berklee College of Music

Berklee

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

April 29, 1988

Donovan Nixon

Dear Don,

Just a note to congratulate you and your classes on the recent Big Ears Olympics. Although individual performances were not always perfect, the event as a whole was infused with a very positive charge of mutual support and "good earmanship". Ear Training is our spine, and very much needs events such as this to help foster a positive profile among students and administration.

Keep up the good work!

Bob Myers

cc Steve Plummer

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 20, 1989

Mr. Donovan B. Mixon
25 Custer Street, 6
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

Dear Mr. Mixon:

I was pleased to learn of the grant recently awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts to support the composition of a work for jazz sextet.

Competition for these awards is vigorous and your selection is a fitting recognition of your fine reputation and commitment to artistic excellence.

I wish you the best of luck with your program and extend my personal best wishes to you.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

EMK/kks

Berklee

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

April 29, 1988

Donovan Mixon
Faculty mailbox #312

Dear Donovan,

I attended the Vocal/Rhythm Section Ensemble/The Big Ears Olympics session last Tuesday in Room 1W. I was really impressed with both the ensemble and the competition. The students in the ensemble did a terrific job and I could see and feel a real "feel good" attitude coming from them. It was so nice to see what you did with that group of students.

The Big Ears Olympics was fun, inspiring and gave me the feeling that we have "made it" as a college. Learning can be fun!

Thank you and a special thanks to all the students who participated.

Sincerely,



Ronald C. Bentley
Associate Dean of Faculty

RCB/nnk

cc: S. Plummer
L. Monroe

August 22, 1989

Mr. Lee Eliot Berk, President
BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC
1140 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASS. 02215

Dear Mr. Berk:

I attended the "BERKLEE IN SANTA FE" summer program which just ended on August 19, and I came away very much pleased.

I had a very good experience at the summer program, and I look forward to attending one next year, or your fine school.

The reason for this letter is to praise the faculty who were in Santa Fe. They were all such super fine people in the way they conducted themselves in and out of the class atmosphere.

A real class act.

The premier instructors were: Jim Kelly, Greg Badolato, Lennie Peterson, Jeff Stout and Donovan Mixon. These five people were the most friendly and congenial professionals I have ever met.

There is no way that I could express the gratitude I have for these five people in particular and your total staff as a whole.

Please pass my thanks and appreciation along to them.

Thanks for everything!"
Willis Peoples
WILLIS PEOPLES
1833 N.E. 52nd.
Okla. City, Ok.
73111

ROBERT BOWKER

COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR/PRODUCER

847-491-9175

ROBERT@ROBERTBOWKER.COM

February 8, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Donovan Mixon.

I have been a professional musician, contractor and conductor working in Chicago for more than thirty years. Although I have known Mr. Mixon for only a short while, I know him to be an excellent and sensitive musician with a deep knowledge of, and passion for his art. He is a wonderful composer as well as a first rate guitarist.

Although I have not directly observed his teaching, I know from time spent with him that he is a thoughtful and sensitive individual who cares deeply about his students and the process of imparting knowledge to others. His extensive experience in teaching at the university level speaks to his knowledge base and skills. I would certainly recommend him as potential faculty in any academic setting.

Sincerely,



Robert Bowker
1103 Cleveland St.
Evanston, IL 60202
847-491-9175
www.robertbowker.com

November 25, 2012

Attilio Zanchi
Via Degli Astri, 26
20147 Milan. Italy
email: attilio.zanchi@fastwebnet.it
phone 335 6773125

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am very happy to recommend Donovan Mixon to your music school. I've had the pleasure to work with him as a teaching colleague and band member.

It was in 1993, in Milano at Centro Professione Musica (CPM) where we met. My position at the time was Musical director. As could be expected of a former Berklee College of Music professor, Mr. Mixon was of the highest professional quality in his approaches with our students. He had the unique practice of inserting ear training into all of his lessons no matter the subject and arrived with his own library of music charts for student ensembles. This along with his wonderful playing style and desire to speak the Italian language earned the respect of the faculty and students. I believe he worked with CPM for two years. During the years that followed, Mr. Mixon became known for his workshops in ear training and jazz improvisation.

He also quickly gained fame as a jazz guitarist. It wasn't long before he was performing at clubs and festivals all over the country. I had the pleasure to play with him a few times. He always played with a lot of feeling. On reviewer described his style as that of a 'cat's paw', or something like that, meaning of course, with a sense of surprise.

More recently in 2011 we had a musical reunion. We played at 'Mal Inees', an ancient villa outside of Milano with drummer Tommaso Bradascio and pianist Davide Corini. The playing felt as if we'd just seen each other the week before. Same smiles, same swing. It was great.

Donovan Mixon would be a fine addition to your music faculty. He is a highly talented musician, professional educator and natural collaborator. Please feel free to contact me and the numbers/addresses above.

Sincerely,

Attilio Zanchi

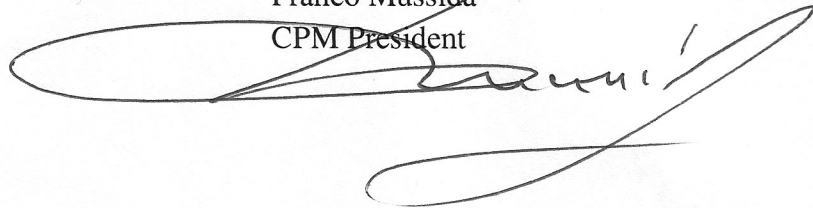


Certificate of Teaching

We hereby certificate that Mr. **Donovan Mixon**, born on the 15th October 1953, in Newark, New Jersey, USA, and with a permanent address in Evanston-Illinois USA, 1135 Cleveland St, has successfully taught at "Guitar Course" and "Music Ensemble Course" in the academic year 1992-1993, in our Music Institute

Milan, 28th November 2012.

Franco Mussida
CPM President





B.30.2.KHÜ.0.22.00.00

28 November 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in support of Donovan Mixon's application for a teaching position in your department. I first met Donovan six years ago in Istanbul, where he was a member of the music faculty at Bilgi University and subsequently the director of Jazz Play Studio, a center for music education and performance. Over the years I have had a chance to observe Donovan's work with students on performance, ear training and theory. Many of the young people who are regulars in the Istanbul jazz scene have been tutored by Donovan, whether at Bilgi, Jazz Play or in private lessons. He has made a difference in our little corner of the world.

Early in 2009 Donovan offered a guitar workshop open to all students at my university. I was very impressed with his gift for meeting students at their own level and lifting them towards new possibilities. Before this random assortment of guitarists he shared his considerable knowledge with good humor and enthusiasm. I also accompanied Donovan as he proposed a new curriculum in Jazz and Modern Music to the Dean of Fine Arts at Kadir Has University. His concept showed a panoramic understanding of both music education and the particular dynamics of private universities in Turkey. His presentation convinces me that he would be valuable teaching any aspect of music in the academy.

In addition to his professional qualifications, Donovan possesses a warm and giving nature that will be appreciated wherever he goes. At a recent return concert in Istanbul his fellow performers extolled him as "this wonderful man." I echo that sentiment and offer him my highest recommendation.

Jeffrey Howlett

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeffrey Howlett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Assistant Professor
Department of American Culture and Literature
Kadir Has University, Istanbul

To Whom it may concern

I was first introduced to Donovan Mixon in my home town Ferrara, Italy when I was a young student trying to learn everything he could about music and improvisation. At that time Donovan was teaching and performing extensively in my country. Hearing him play his compositions really inspired me to pursue my own style both as a composer and a performer.

I later met him in Boston while I was studying at Berklee College of music. Donovan was then a faculty member in the ear-training department and was instrumental in developing Berklee's curriculum in that field of studies.

Two years ago Donovan came back to Italy and gave a wonderful lecture on the basics of ear-training to entry level students at the town's music school "G.Sarti" in Faenza where I teach. The students were all inspired and I was really amazed at Donovan's great ability to pass valuable information on to them.

Ferrara, 12/09/2012

Daniele Santimone,

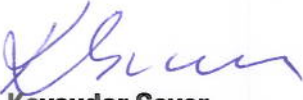


Music teacher and performer.

To whom it may concern,

We have appreciated Donovan Mixon who has had a workshop named “Jazz Music and Instruments” at Uskudar American Academy in 2006. By this workshop, he has contributed a lot to our students both academically and socially.

Sincerely,



Keysudar Sever
Head of Music Department