

Sept. 2, 2007

To whom it may concern:

I am happy to offer the following letter of recommendation for Lukas Groen.

Lukas Groen is one of the most versatile and talented young conductors I have had the pleasure to observe in recent years

I first met him in July, 2003 at Neeme Jarvi's Summer Academy in Pärnu, Estonia, where he stood out immediately for his openness and enthusiasm. I renewed acquaintance with him the following year and most recently in June, 2007, when maestro Järvi held his first Summer Academy in The Hague.

My impressions of Lukas have been not only reinforced, but heightened during this time. His talents fall into several categories, all of them important for a person seeking a leadership position in the conducting profession.

First of all, he a splendid musician with a wide ranging knowledge of the repertoire, from early music to the present (he gave me a valuable briefing on Dutch music in June).

He is a composer as well, with the important insight such experience brings.

As a conductor, he is energetic and intense. Since I first met him in Pärnu, he has gone from being a student absorbing instruction from a master to his own person. He conducted the second movement of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra on the student concert in The Hague in June with singular expressiveness. (He drew the comment "passionate" from maestro Järvi himself during a video analysis of Sibelius' "Andante Festivo" at one of the workshop sessions.)

Lukas is a refreshingly collegial individual as well, with a warm, welcoming smile. He is genuinely liked by his conducting peers -- which is not always the case! -- and he is a person of the highest integrity.

He possesses administrative as well as musical skills. Not many young conductors have directed their own music festival, as he did in Schoonhoven (The Netherlands) in September, 2005. He has been a teacher, heads his own music management company (La Nota Giousta) and clearly embraces the expanding role of educator and proselytizer for the arts in today's changing world.

Lukas Groen will put every effort into making and sharing music on the highest level, not only within the profession but with the wider public.

In short, I believe he is eminently prepared to assume a position of leadership with an orchestra in the United States.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellyn Hutton
Music Writer
The Cincinnati Post
6913 Fox Hill Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
USA
www.MusicinCincinnati.com