



November 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to write in recommendation of Mel Martin as an artist-in-residence/clinician/soloist. I have known Mel for a number of years, being introduced to him personally when he was in Denver doing school clinics. But just as importantly, I have known Mel's music for decades through his associations with various seminal jazz artists such as Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Carter and ~~Bar~~ Area bands.

In October 2009 Mel was the Jazz Artist-In-Residence at the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver. During his week with us Mel worked with our students in a variety of formats: Jazz Improvisation and Composition Class, Advanced Jazz Improvisation and Composition Class, rehearsing with two large jazz bands for a concert, coaching seven small jazz ensembles, working with the saxophone class, and speaking the the Jazz Studies Performance class about historical and stylistic jazz issues. In each of these varied environments Mel was a consummate musician, demonstrating the highest musical integrity and challenging the students to reach it while at the same time presenting ideas with a sense of humor and personal compassion that had a positive impact on each.

Mel also presented two concerts, each including his original compositions and arrangements as well as jazz standards. The two big bands who played with him were lifted to new levels, especially by his improvisations, soulful readings of the beautiful ballad *Souvenir* and the infectious groove and sense of fun energy that he brought to the gig. Mel also performed with Denver musicians at a concert outside Lamont that was very well received by the community.

In conclusion, if you're looking for a great clinician that will bring a lifetime of jazz experience and a devotion to education Mel is the man!

Best,

Malcolm Lynn Baker, Director  
Jazz Studies and Commercial Music Program