



International
Centre for
Radio
Astronomy
Research

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To whom it may concern,

I have known Mr Reuben Christman approximately 6 years, in both a professional and personal capacity. I first encountered Reuben when he was my (then) 8 year old daughter's music teacher at Edgewater Primary School and he taught her piano after school. Two things struck me about him at this early stage; first, the thoughtfulness and inventiveness of his teaching method; and second, the great depth of his knowledge of his art. I was sufficiently impressed by Reuben that, when the head-teacher at Edgewater decided to put an end to after-school music lessons, I decided to drive my daughter into the Perth Hills each weekend to continue to learn piano with him. Reuben recognized my daughter's talent for music and he encouraged it, and I credit with him for engendering in her her enduring love of music making and composition; she plays clarinet, guitar, and piano, composes, and is a talented member of the Shenton College Wind 1 band.

As I got to know Reuben better, learned of our shared passion for both jazz and classical music, and enjoyed his own compositions, I asked him to collaborate on a planetarium show I was putting together for Scitech in 2014. Reuben tailored a series of atmospheric compositions to match images and animations showing how galaxies form over cosmic time. The show, "Spinning the Cosmic Web in a Supercomputer", has been one of the most successful bespoke planetarium shows put on by Scitech, and Reuben's compositions added significantly. Indeed, Reuben has been asked by the ICRAR public outreach team to create special compositions for animations to accompany press releases, some of which have been viewed several hundred thousand times, and he continues to be approached from time to time for special commissions.

Most recently, Reuben has been teaching my 8 year old son piano every Sunday morning at his home in South Perth. From no experience playing a musical instrument, my son has developed into a very capable piano player in a little over a year. As with my daughter, Reuben has tailored an approach to teaching my son which has brought out the very best in him. It is no surprise to me that Reuben was highly regarded by parents at Edgewater PS, and has been most recently by parents at Bayswater PS.

On a personal level, I find Reuben to be highly articulate and intelligent, a musical scholar and artist, with a thoughtful and discerning approach to life.

Sincerely,

A/Prof Chris Power

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