

February 24, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Jason Smith has been a colleague of mine for over almost twenty years. As a teenager he began working with me as a composer and musical arranger, and over the years our involvement with each other has been consistent and extremely productive.

Jason has written music for many of my stage productions including Hamlet, Macbeth and Twelfth Night, as well as many songs, jingles and musical interludes for various other projects. He is a talented musician with a well-developed dramatic sensibility. His instincts are unvaryingly accurate and his music always enriches whatever project he is working on.

I find Jason to be reliable and to possess a fine sense of humor, which he brings to bear on his work with great effect. He is easy to work with and always delivers. As well as being able to listen to and translate direction into musical terms, he has the ability to think outside the square and to contribute new and different ideas.

Recently he has worked as the music editor on Disney's "Legend of the Seeker" and on the STARZ television drama "Spartacus – Blood and Sand" and "Spartacus – Gods of the Arena", both of which I have directed. Jason proved to be a creative and effective addition to these shows and is highly regarded as such by both the producers and myself.

I have no hesitation in recommending Jason for any dramatic work in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MHurst', is positioned above the typed name.

Michael Hurst O.N.Z.M
New Zealand Arts Laureate