

School of Arts & Sciences
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November 11, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a letter of recommendation for Ms. Zelia Maria CHUEKE, who is seeking a fine teaching position in the field of music. I have known Ms. Chueke since the Spring of 1995, when she took my graduate course on the music of Johannes Brahms at The Mannes College of Music.

What stands out in my mind about Ms. Chueke is her unbridled enthusiasm for her studies. I cannot recall any student who responded more vigorously to the music as it was played in class, or to my comments on it. Ms. Chueke's smiles, even laughter, in response to enjoying the music, to comprehending a point being made, or even, at times, to asking a question about it were infectious. She has the personality to fill a room with delight and a sense of discovery. Needless to say, I found her to be the type of student that a teacher craves to instruct and inspire.

I have every reason to believe that Ms. Chueke is also a wonderful teacher and that her students are very happy with her. She has shared some of her ideas on teaching with me since moving to Florida, and, as in her student years, she radiates excitement and enthusiasm about her pedagogy. She is also entrepreneurial in putting together an annual concert series in Miami.

Although I have never heard Ms. Chueke perform live, I have listened to her on tape and recall especially her rendition of the Brahms Opus 116 piano pieces, which I found to be technically brilliant and stylistically exquisite. She has performed internationally and is a pianist of real accomplishment. In terms, then, of her fine pianism and academic achievements, I recommend her to you most strongly. Her serious attitude, good character, lovely sense of humor, and interest in other people will enrich your faculty very much. Thank you.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Griffel
Associate Dean, School of Arts and
Sciences, Hunter College
Professor of Music, Hunter College
and the Graduate School, CUNY
Graduate Faculty, The Juilliard School