



WAGNER COLLEGE

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

April 10, 2006

RE: Thomas Simon

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In the summer of 2005, as a member of the Pre-screening Selection Committee for the Margaret Mead Film Festival at the American Museum of Natural History, I was delighted to preview Thomas Simon's film *Thomas Simon Walkabout*. Among the dozens I viewed I was eager to recommend it to the director of the Festival as a finalist entry, not only because of the technical competence of the film but especially because of the spirit and artistry of the film maker as he appeared in his autobiographical documentary. In the fall, I invited Mr. Simon to visit Wagner College, where I am Director of the Honors Program, to present his film and talk about his life and work as a musician and documentarian at our Program's major cultural event of the semester. The response was entirely favorable, and students who missed his appearance were very much disappointed after hearing from those who had attended the event what a delight it was to see Mr. Simon and listen to him talk about his life-journey so far as an artist. Graciously and much to everyone's delight, he also agreed to play songs from his CD for the group!

Mr. Simon speaks to the current generation of young listeners as both a musician and film maker, but also as a representative of values that draw together people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. His life and art are truly global in scope, as is his vision.

It has been my pleasure to get to know Mr. Simon during the past year and I have followed the progress of his career with interest. I now therefore strongly recommend every support for his work that can be made available to him.

Miles Groth, PhD, Professor, Director – The Honors Program