



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Marcus Roberts

Professor of Jazz Studies

To whom it may concern:

This is Marcus Roberts. I am a jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer.

I've recorded and released over twenty albums for major labels including RCA/Novus, Columbia Records, and my own J-Master Music label. I founded the Marcus Roberts Trio in 1995, with Jason Marsalis (drums), and Roland Guerin (bass). have performed with the Lincoln Center Orchestra with Winton Marsalis as well as many other orchestras throughout the world accompanied by my trio.

I released "Portraits in Blue", an album featuring a ground-breaking arrangement of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue", which brought the worlds of jazz and classical music together. I was very proud to be the recipient of a commendation from Mayor Tommy Hazouri in 1988.

I currently teach jazz performance at Florida State University and I also am a Distinguished Professor at Bard College when I'm not touring. I grew up in Jacksonville's Eastside, and I still have family connections there. In fact, I visit Jacksonville fairly regularly. The talent pool from this city is immense and varied, and I'm proud to be part of it.

I understand that Dr. Fitzgerald is spearheading a documentary film about famous musicians from our hometown. This invaluable cultural information needs to be preserved on film for the edification of--and inspiration to--current and future generations of students, educators, philanthropists, and the Jacksonville media. I hope you will support his very worthy project as I do.

Sincerely,

Marcus Roberts