

11 September 2009

To whom it may concern

Re: Neil Valentine

I write to provide a reference for Neil Valentine, in relation to his work as a music workshop leader and outreach project co-ordinator.

Neil has been working with Southbank Sinfonia in this capacity on a freelance basis for the last 7 months. In this time, Neil has devised, planned and delivered three projects for us. We have been delighted with the results, and are currently in discussions with Neil over other future collaborations.

Neil has a good manner when working with groups of school children. He is a natural leader and teacher, and is extremely skilled at maintaining order and getting all of the children to engage in the workshops, regardless of their level of ability or previous experience. The workshops and projects he devises are creative and interactive, with a strong focus on maintaining musical integrity throughout the process – the children work with him to produce music, not just noise. He commands admiration and respect from both those attending his workshops and our orchestral musicians who assist him in delivering the projects. His plans are ambitious, but always achievable, and the results are always hugely impressive.

From an administrative point of view, Neil is organised, amiable and flexible and a delight to work with. I recommend him to you without reservation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely



Jan Smith
Projects & Administration Manager