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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is a privilege to write a letter of reference for Ms. Avril Kinsey, Chairperson and Project Managing Director of the Friends of the Cape Town Academy of Music (FCTAM).

Currently I am the supervisor for Ms. Kinsey's PhD for which she registered at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth. The topic of her research is *Unmasking Collaborative Processes in Ballet Composition: A practice-led research, composition portfolio and Royal Ballet collaborative case study*. For the composition portfolio she is writing the libretto and music of a 2 Act ballet in 4 scenes, *Vulcanus and Leucothea*.

But I should also mention that for many years now (since the 80s and 90s) I have been aware of Ms. Kinsey's achievements as performer, composer, music teacher and entrepreneur. Her CV attests to this fact. She holds a MMus *cum laude* from the University of Cape Town; she has given international master classes in guitar at the Royal Academy of Music, London and at the Julliard School of Music in New York for instance; she presented academic papers at the *Volterra Project* in Italy and Surrey University in the UK, to single out two; she has published her own compositions for guitar and has contributed articles to a number of international specialist journals. In fact, her CV is quite impressive as much as it is wide-ranging.

Suffice it to say that, in my opinion, all of this contributed towards her acceptance as a doctoral candidate at NMMU.

Through my supervision of her compositions, the abovementioned ballet as well as other pieces, I have discovered that Ms. Kinsey works diligently and with a carefully thought out plan in mind. Hence she is making good progress with her research/creative work. Her work *Vulcanus Awakes* was one of six works chosen from a list of 13 national entries, and was performed in September by the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra at the *Kompos* Composition Symposium, Stellenbosch. This was a great honour for Ms. Kinsey. In my opinion this is also a clear indication that she has the flair and the skill to write music for orchestra at a high level.

Taking into consideration the success the FCTAM outreach project had over the past 5 years, and bearing my appreciation of Ms. Kinsey's work ethic and the focus on her work in mind, I would like to believe that she will be equally successful when the project is expanding to include township students, empowering them into a career in music.

So, with this letter I would like to wish Ms. Kinsey every success with her funding application.

Yours sincerely

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