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Morgantown, WV 26505
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West Virginia University College of Creative Arts Mentored Research Administrative Team:

I am writing this letter in support of Samuel Kell Campbell's mentored research project. Mr. Campbell has been working on an original album of instrumental and beat driven music since the fall of 2022. I have been mentoring him on an artistic level regarding the creative direction and structure of this project. These are things like what type of story he wants to tell with his music, choices of instruments, approach to performance, sonic palette, mood, etc. I have also been mentoring him on a technical level as we discuss how to best capture the acoustic instruments he is recording, managing the electronic instruments for the project in his digital audio workstation, mixing decisions, and considerations for mastering the final mixes so that they translate to a variety of playback systems. We have met weekly to discuss and work on areas of this project, and he has also brought it to my MUSC 437 class for additional feedback. That said, Mr. Campbell has been doing all the hard work and putting in many hours writing, recording, mixing, and mastering his release.

There are two large areas that I believe set Kell Campbell's project apart from other recorded works of electronic music. The first is that although he is sampling and manipulating recordings of acoustic instruments, he is writing the parts and capturing them himself. Mr. Campbell wanted to take ownership of the process and create the bulk of the samples from scratch in collaboration with other musicians in the College of Creative Arts. This is an extra step that some of the most well-known producers and electronic musicians do not bother with. I believe this is important on an artistic and academic level. The second is that he has chosen to present the work as more of a larger concept where each piece represents where he comes from and where he is now. Mr. Campbell has chosen to take inspiration from both art music forms and modern electronic music in this project, and I believe he has done a fantastic job of combining these seemingly disparate musical worlds.

If you would like additional information about Samuel Campbell's project, or my role as mentor, you can telephone me at (304) 476-7551 or e-mail me at mark.benincosa@mail.wvu.edu.

Sincerely,



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