

December 16, 2020

RE: Mark Daum

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Mark Daum since the late 1990s. Even then, he was one of the greatest guitarists I've ever been in the same room with. His playing is soulful, expressive, and technically exquisite. But this letter is a reference for Mark's abilities as an instructor – we in this industry know full well that a great player does not automatically make a great teacher.

I hired Mark to teach guitar at our private music school in 2004 until 2011. He left under the best terms, amicably and honestly. In my 25+ years of owning/managing a music school, I've hired over 200 part-time teachers. Mark Daum is unequivocally the greatest guitar teacher I have ever witnessed. This is not something to take lightly, in my opinion. Mark's ability to connect with his advanced students was fascinating. I watched these young people absorb and apply modes, shapes and scales: I watched them create guitar solos that were often worthy of large, demanding audiences. And, over the years, I saw many of Mark's former students go on to tour and record prolifically; many of these people are now full-time, career musicians.

As such, I believe Mark would make an incredible contribution to any music department faculty.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss anything further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Parton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Steve Parton
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