



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Louise Toppin, DMA
Chair

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1 January 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to write this letter of support for Romanieo Golphin. Our association spans more than a decade and I can unequivocally state that he is one of the most brilliant minds I have ever encountered. Romanieo embodies the very definition of a Renaissance man as he functions at the highest level in numerous arenas. As he is a gifted artist I entrusted him to serve as the designer of my current personal website (louisetoppin.com) and to direct the photography for two of my commercially released CDs (*Heart on the Wall* and *La saison des fleurs*). In addition to his artistic abilities his skill set includes: fluency in Russian, well crafted compositions including an opera, and astonishing scientific knowledge encompassing a working knowledge of quantum physics.

In October of 2015 my facilities manager retired from the Department of Music. I asked Romanieo to take the position temporarily although we both knew this would be a misalignment of his skills. True to form in his usual gracious manner, he embraced the opportunity to improve the technical capabilities and execute my vision of bringing the Department of Music into the 21st century. He used his knowledge of technology and recording production to update the equipment in all three of our music buildings (recording, video, projects, and computers), helped to automate some of our processes, and trained our student recording technicians by teaching them some of the intricacy involved in sound engineering.

Perhaps his most challenging assignment was participating on our building committee and the coordination of all of the AV equipment (assessment, purchasing and communication with faculty, staff and construction personnel) for a 17 million dollar building renovation currently underway. It is due for completion in Summer 2016. He was an invaluable member of the department team and communicated clearly and effectively with all constituents involved. He made sure at every step that the faculty, staff and building team stayed informed and understood the thought process behind each decision.

Romanieo understands the importance of building a sense of community in a working environment. He had a wonderful rapport with both his colleagues and students. His students thrived under his leadership and learned valuable life lessons as they gained real world technological skills. He took a genuine interest in their development as musicians, academics and people. That connection has not been broken by his departure and they continue to report to him their challenges and successes even though he is no longer their supervisor.

Romanieo and his wife Dr. Cheri Philip have taken the concept of community further and have developed a vision of providing quality scientific education to children, particularly children of



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color. As a team they have successfully homeschooled their now six-year old genius son, Romanio, Jr. who can articulate concepts of science and music on an advanced college level. Their curriculum taught him that music and science are languages that are not to be feared but can be mastered by any child. As the Robeson Group named for legendary pioneer Paul Robeson, they are developing strategies and a curriculum to develop the next generation of scientific minds through an integrated arts/science approach.

In summary I found Romanio to be a creative, imaginative person who is continuously strategizing to improve the environment in which he finds himself. One of the most wonderful traits about Romanio is his ability to connect people that share commonalities. His reasoning skills are extraordinary and he works through complex issues with ease. He is a wonderful colleague, trustworthy person and a loyal friend. I was sorry to see him leave our temporary position but it was not designed to be a long-term position so I could not retain him. If I had a teaching or research position that aligned with his skill set, I would not hesitate to hire him into an appropriate position that would allow him to thrive.

I enthusiastically support the work of Romanio Golphin and if I can answer any questions, I am more than happy to do so. Please feel free to contact me via email at: Ltoppin@unc.edu or mobile at 252-412-4530.

Sincerely,

Dr. Louise Toppin
Professor and Chair
Department of Music