

# CARNEGIE HALL

---

## Weill Music Institute

November 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of musician, composer and educator Sameer Gupta.

I am fortunate to have worked with Sameer over the course of three years in connection to Carnegie Hall's Global Encounters program. This program was aimed at introducing musical traditions from around the world to high-school student in the New York City Area. As a planning collaborator, visiting artist in area classrooms and then as a featured artist in Zankel Hall, Sameer was both a brilliant performer and a thoughtful educator.

Our collaboration with Sameer began when we invited him to advise our creation of a 7-lesson curriculum on the roles of freedom and structure within the North Indian musical tradition. His deep knowledge of classical Indian music, as well as his experience performing in contemporary musical settings made him an ideal partner in this activity. He was able to bring a very holistic perspective to bear on a difficult task: to make music from North India approachable, but not overly simplified. In this advisory role, Sameer also visited classrooms throughout the New York City area to present interactive demonstrations on his music to high school students. In preparation for and during these workshops, Sameer demonstrated an impeccable professionalism--handling scheduling concerns, crafting thoughtful workshop agendas and interacting with teachers and students in a manner that represented Carnegie Hall in the best possible light.

As our relationship with Sameer grew, we invited him to be the featured artist for our Global Encounters program in the 2009-10 season and then again in the 2010-11 season. In the culminating concerts for these programs, Sameer demonstrated his wide breadth as an artist first performing with his classical Indian trio and then with his electric jazz ensemble that fuses the major elements of Indian traditions with popular music. During both of these years of performances, Sameer was very amenable to collaborating with Carnegie Hall on programming special guests for his concerts and crafting programs that fulfilled his ambitions as a musician and our goals as an educational institution.

Sameer is a superb musician and collaborator. He brings the same focus and energy to his interactions with young people that he does to his remarkable performances as a percussionist. I am eager to find a way to continue collaborating with him and am certain that he will contribute meaningfully to all of the projects he is involved with.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Aaron Siegel  
Manager, Secondary School Programs



Aaron Siegel  
Manager, Secondary School Programs  
881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019  
carnegiehall.org  
212.903.9634