

July 4, 1983

To Whom it May Concern:

I possess the degrees of B.A. (Honours, First Class, 1970) and Ph.D. (1976) both from the University of Western Australia, and both in the field of ethnomusicology (the anthropological study of music), specializing in the sacred and ceremonial music of the Australian Aborigines. My findings, which are pioneering studies in the field, are documented in my Ph.D. thesis and in the scholarly journal, "Studies in Music" (The University of Western Australia Press, 1980). My experience also includes teaching in the field of European musical history at the same university.

During my Doctoral studies in 1976, I came across the recently published lectures of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. I feel that his statements about music and particularly about the spiritual nature on music make an outstanding contribution to the literature on the subject. Most ethnomusicological and anthropological approaches to the study of non-Western religious music concentrate almost entirely on the structural aspects of the music to the detriment of its subjective effect upon the participants. Rajneesh eloquently addresses this area. His explanations of how music enables man to transcend his normal consciousness and enter the spiritual realm are among the clearest I have encountered. In particular he explores the central issue of the "totality of the act", whether it be musical or involving any of the other arts, as prerequisite to the transcendental experience. In this and many other points pertaining to the creative act he has, in my opinion, made an outstanding contribution to the world as both a religious teacher and a philosopher of the arts.

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