



June 1, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer a recommendation for Ms. Margo Watson as a vocal performer of outstanding and versatile abilities. I have known Ms. Watson for over 18 years during which time it has been a distinct pleasure to observe someone of exceptional talent grow and develop into a performing artist of unusual versatility who functions equally well in all facets of vocal literature for the stage or concert hall.

For many years Ms. Watson has graced the stages of various musical theatre productions in Salt Lake City and the surrounding community. She has an extraordinary stage presence and acting ability with a voice to match. I have worked with her in numerous concert performances of Broadway-style literature and have always found her to be professional, well prepared and always capable of delivering an exciting performance. For years she has been a fixture in our musical community of musical theatre productions, or specialty programs (numerous such engagements with the Utah Symphony and others) and light opera/opera material, also with the Utah Symphony.

Two years ago it was my pleasure to hire her for the solo portions of the annual *Messiah* Sing-in which I conduct with the Utah Symphony and Chorus. I had noticed that she was branching out into the oratorio literature and I was pleased to hear in her audition that her abilities in that area had grown so dramatically. As I knew she would, Ms. Watson delivered her usual solid well prepared and exceptionally expressive performance. The ability she had developed in "selling a song" on the Broadway stage served, and is now serving, her well in the oratorio literature.

I recommend Ms. Watson to you for your consideration in literature of virtually any type as a performer whom you will find makes an instant "connection" with an audience and is professional in all the positive connotations of the term. Add the fact that she is also a very nice person, utterly devoid of obnoxious artistic affectations or pretensions, and, therefore, an absolute delight to work with.

Should you have any questions on the above please feel free to call me at (801) 581-6765.

Respectfully,

Edgar J. Thompson, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Music
Music Director, Utah Symphony Chorus

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