

December 2002

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cappelluti:

I am writing to again thank you for the scholarship assistance that you have provided me through Wake Forest University. Finishing my fifth semester now, I have been enjoying a semester in Venice with the University's Casa Artom program. Here, in our palace on the Grand Canal, we have had the opportunity to study Venetian Renaissance Art and Italian Literature with Italian professors, while also taking two art history classes with our professor who has accompanied us from Winston-Salem. What is more, we have been able to utilize the next-door neighbor of the Guggenheim Museum as a wonderful resource!

I have also had wonderful travel opportunities this semester. I have been as far east as Budapest and as far west as Paris, seeing many countries and cultures in between. I have also had the privilege of hearing many concerts that I could not in the United States; a few of the highlights have been a concert by the Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic on German Reunification Day, a performance at Paris's Ircam with contemporary electronic music, and a concert in which Pierre Boulez conducted a few of his own works with his Ensemble Intercomtemporain.

I am continuing my studies of music as I look toward graduating with that degree in the spring of 2004. I am studying classical guitar with a professor at the Conservatory of Music Benedetto Marcello, which is proving to be an excellent experience for me, as I learn about proper interpretation of Italian guitar music. I am also continuing my studies of composition; I am currently writing a cycle of songs for guitar and tenor based on the poetry of E. E. Cummings. I expect it to have its premiere some time in the spring in Wake Forest's Brendle Recital Hall.

With thanks again and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Andrew S. Estel