

Mike Walsh
700 W. Freeman
Carbondale, IL 62901
(773) 805-4502

July 11, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I consider it a privilege to be asked to write a letter of recommendation for Zacc Harris. I have had the fortunate experience of being a student of this master teacher over the past two years and it has been a pleasure. I came to meet Zacc through a fellow guitar student when, after three years of learning on my own, I hit a wall in my personal development as a musician. Zacc was the answer to my problems as within a few weeks of beginning our lessons I found myself pushing through the wall. But that appears to be one of Zacc's strengths. He brings you along and knows how and when to coax you to kick it up a notch. Like any good mentor, he encourages his students to explore and take chances at their level of expertise and then exploit the confidence they gain and take it to the next level. I know I could not be as strong a guitar player as I am now if not for Zacc's leadership in my development.

To really see what Zacc brings to the table, you have to appreciate not only his superb technical skills but also understand his depth of understanding of his craft and his patience in sharing it with others. Jazz, bluegrass, bebop, blues, whatever: he pours it all out on us. And he is not simply a teacher of notes, but an approachable and extremely likeable man one can feel comfortable around and speak of things other than chords and bridges. Zacc builds rapport and inspires his students to excel and enjoy their learning process. He also sets a good example at his performances as he makes sure to greet the fans and show his appreciation for their coming out.

It occurs to me that my speaking well of Zacc may very well contribute to his leaving Carbondale. That will sadden me personally and on a larger scale create a void in our local music scene. But our loss is going to be someone else's gain and I wish Zacc only the best. His students are better for having known him as their teacher. And for what it's worth, he comes to you with this student's highest recommendation and enduring gratitude.

Sincerely,



Mike Walsh