



November 05, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with much enthusiasm that I write this letter in strong recommendation of Ms. Roya Bahrami, a singer and master musician on several instruments from the Persian classical musical tradition, including the *santur* (hammered dulcimer), the *setar* (lute), and the *bandir* (frame drum).

I first came to know Ms. Bahrami in September 2007, while I was teaching at The George Washington University in Washington D.C. After hearing her perform a recital in which she beautifully sang some of the most evocative poems in the Persian repertory, I immediately decided to have her perform a lecture-demonstration for a course I was teaching at the University on the music and culture of the Middle East. My students and I found her historically informed discussion to be enlightening and her musicianship to be of the highest caliber.

Roya is both an exceptional virtuoso soloist and the consummate collaborative musician; yet her virtuosity is not focused on mere technical skill. Rather, her true talent is in bringing artistry and spirituality to even the most routine of musical passages. The end result is a musical mysticism that not only places her in the good company of Iran's greatest classical masters, but allows her to transcend the divides of culture and politics. Indeed, the ease in which she makes her art understandable to uninitiated audiences and her ability to work with musicians of other cultures without sacrificing any of the essentials of the Persian tradition, make her truly indispensable in our troubled times. Above all, though, her musicality and sensitivity speak for themselves. I cannot, therefore, give an artist a stronger recommendation that I do here for Ms. Roya Bahrami.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor A. Vicente". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

Victor A. Vicente, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of Music
The George Washington University