



November 4, 2002

Professor Charles F. Zukoski  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
420 Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304  
601 East John Street  
Champaign Illinois 61820

Dear Professor Zukoski:

I am writing in support of Dr. Stephen Downie's proposal to establish a music information retrieval test collection and evaluation testbed at NCSA/UIUC using content generously contributed by HNH Hong Kong International and its Naxos recording label.

Music information retrieval technologies currently under development in the research community will be of great benefit to music students and scholars, as well as to commercial and consumer users of music. Through integration into digital libraries of music content, such as the Variations2 digital music library being developed here at Indiana University, music IR technologies will open up a wide range of new capabilities for locating, navigating, and analyzing music materials. In combination with other test collections that will hopefully follow upon its example, the testbed proposed by Dr. Downie, made available with minimal barriers to researchers worldwide, should prove to be a major asset to music IR research by providing a basis for standardized evaluative comparisons between various algorithms and techniques. Such evaluation is essential for sustained progress in the field.

I strongly encourage the University of Illinois to support this project.

Sincerely,

Jon Dunn  
Assistant Director for Technology, Indiana University Digital Library Program  
Lead Technical Investigator, Variations2 Digital Music Library Project