

Professor Charles F. Zukoski  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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Champaign, Illinois 61820  
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30 October 2002

Dear Professor Zukoski,

I am writing in support of Prof. Stephen Downie's application seeking seed funding to house a test collection of music. This collection is being donated by Naxos, which is the first commercial record label to agree to open its archives that I am aware of. Without any doubt, this opportunity will dramatically increase the pace of research in the area of Music Information Retrieval (MIR), which both Prof. Downie and I are involved in.

The proposal is to provide this collection to the world-wide MIR community in a way that enhances research, yet does not diminish Naxos' rights in the content. As leader on of one of the largest teams in Europe working on ways to convert recorded music to symbolic representations (see Economist 18 October 2002) I will personally find this facility invaluable. I already foresee it enabling a UK team to more easily seek funding for a MusicIR GRID project. Many of the members of my own team at Queen Mary will use this facility for a wide range of music-related research.

I look forward to learning of the success of this application. I am confident that the work outcomes will be successful too.

Yours sincerely

Signature to follow on hard copy

Mark Sandler