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I am deeply honored to write these words of recommendation on behalf of Dr. Rolf Groesbeck for the faculty excellence award. I have known Rolf for the past 23 years. He is a passionate ethnomusicologist par excellence, and a great person for whom I have immense respect and admiration. Rolf is an intellectually honest scholar who intensely involves in his work. His 856-page doctoral dissertation (*Pedagogy and Performance in "Tayampaka," A Genre of Temple Instrumental Music in Kerala, India*), which includes 150 pages of transcriptions of percussive performances, is truly a *magnum opus*. In order to create that work, Rolf embedded himself in the field of study in Kerala (my native place), India, and became an insider in every sense. He not only mastered the art of playing the tayampaka, a challenging task indeed, but also diligently searched for a deep understanding of the *sitz im leben* that served as the setting for the music. Rolf also developed a unique narrative style to describe the music he studied. Through his research, Rolf challenged the long-held myth about Indian "classical" music as Hindustani and Karnatic, and proved that Kerala temple music is a third stream that has a separate identity. The elephant has been in the room all this while, but nobody wanted to talk about it! Ethnomusicologist and Indologists should be grateful to Rolf for removing the centuries-thick cataract in their eyes.

The person that Rolf Groesbeck has become is more important than the consummate scholar that he is. I am not sure if there is such a phrase as "altruistic scholar" in the academia. That is who Rolf is. He is always willing to help upcoming scholars and share his knowledge and time with them. This I learned while we coauthored the entry on "Kerala" in the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*, Vol. 5 (Garland Publishing, Inc., New York and London, 2000). Blessed with a prodigious memory, Rolf is like a walking encyclopedia; he keeps abreast of the scholarship in the field of his specialty as well as the field of Ethnomusicology in general. Even in dissent, Rolf is respectful. The faculty will be honoring itself by granting the faculty excellence award to Rolf Groesbeck.

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