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To Whom it may concern,

As a professional musician of many years, I can clearly state that the most positive influence on my art, as well as all other facets of my life, has been coming to know the work of the enlightened master Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

I first came in contact with Bhagwan's work shortly after moving to New York City in 1975. I moved to the city after completing my academic studies of music at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. where I received a Bachelor of Music degree in music theory.

Prior to that I had also attended the New School in Manhattan, Berklee College of music in Boston, Mass as well as private studies; Piano, harmony and arranging with Sanford Gold and Tony Aless, guitar with Barry Galbraith, Jazz improvisation and jazz ensemble with Jimmy Giuffre and others, all in New York City.

I moved to Manhattan to launch a career as a professional guitarist (I had already been working as a guitarist + electric bassist in New England since the age of thirteen). Since the move to Manhattan my credits have included various Broadway shows, such as West Side Story, Sugar Babi and Grease, dance companies such as the Joffrey Ballet, the I Love N.Y. company (N.Y. state department of commerce), night clubs in NYC and elsewhere, national tours with record artists, and many commercial recording sessions.

In pursuing the discipline of music in my life I discovered that I was most comfortable playing when I was in a relaxed, playful state. This state afforded me the most clarity and freedom of creative flow. The longing to become more integrated so that I could live my life like this was an essential part of what brought me to Bhagwan.

From the moment that I heard Bhagwan's voice for the first time, which was on a discourse tape, I knew that this was possible. It had happened to someone; "it" and something beyond my immediate goal. I became a disciple in 1981.

Bhagwan's statements on music have been a source of great inspiration to me;

"Music is a different dimension. You can be completely drowned in it, you can become drunk with it. It is a great therapy, and it can make you whole and healthy and holy. It is meditation, and a very natural meditation."

"Music is born out of meditation, and so is dance. In fact, all that is beautiful has to come out of meditation because there is no other way for it to come. Meditation is the door."

His understanding of creativity is unsurpassable. He knows how to unlock the doors through which creativity can be allowed to flow and how to teach us to allow such to happen. Being with Bhagwan has greatly changed my life, and my ability to tap the source which flows unimpeded through him.

During the recent July festival I played in Bhagwan's presence at the large gatherings in Buddha Hall. Playing in such an ocean of love was an experience I never expected to know in this lifetime.

To have Bhagwan with us in this country is, in my opinion, a very valuable aid to the realization of creative potential in all of us in and outside of the arts. We would be greatly benefited by his staying here with us.

Sincerely yours,  
Sw. Vinit