

Letter of recommendation from Dolores Carlos, Associate Professor of English, East LA College

I took one of my English 101 class and a few students from English 102 (critical thinking). Whether 101 or 102 students, they all loved your presentations. Usually students begin to trickle out before presentations near their end, even when they are engaged, because they have to go to their next class. I found it remarkable that they stayed for you! Not only that, as they were leaving, many stopped to thank me for making your presentation available to them, and they were excited! Some of what they said our the class meeting:

1. They had never experienced such a presentation.
2. They had never made the connections that you make between music, science, the cosmos, and mental and spiritual well being. One student said that what you talked about could be "life changing for those who really listened".
3. They of course loved your music and appreciated it as a break from the "intensity" of the material you presented, and as a literal connection to what you said.
4. They all said that they were listening to music differently.
5. Several students said that they were incredibly moved, but had a difficult time articulating how. One student tried really hard and began to cry.
6. All liked that you are so "down to earth" and were very

surprised that you talked with anyone who approached you in the foyer.

7. One student said it was too much to take in and that there should be a follow-up, or maybe a handout with your ideas that they could take time reading and understanding.

8. A few students said that it was too much--they were overwhelmed and needed more time to process. They suggested more music :)

9. One student talked about the sounds that the universe makes and how hearing you play them on the piano was "mind blowing", maybe mind blowing with a capital M and B!

10. All talked about how important music is in their lives, but that they had never realized music is so much larger and meaningful. The fact that music creates community became more real.

11. All said they had never attended a presentation such as yours and expressed much thankfulness.

I agree with all of this. I spoke with you in the foyer about my own personal epiphany that you inspired (the folks that were recording responses got my story as well), and I am sure that important realizations happen all of the time through your presentation and the power of your being--of who you are.

Thank you so much for inspiring in us important connections, thinking, listening, and a new way of seeing.

At the end of this semester I will be using Patti Smith's book *Just Kids* and I will do my best to incorporate some of what I

learned from you. Thank you.

Dolores Carlos  
Associate Professor of English  
East Los Angeles College

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creates community became more real. - Dolores Carlos,  
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