



Prairie Star Records LLC

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November 16, 2016

The Banff Centre for the Performing Arts
107 Tunnel Mountain Drive
Box 1020, Station 21
Banff, Alberta
T1L 1H5 Canada

Re: Letter of recommendation for Rosemary Gartley – Artist Residency for Songwriters

Dear Admissions Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Rosemary Gartley for admission to the Banff Centre's Artist Residency for Songwriters. She is one of the most ambitious, disciplined, intelligent, and musically versatile students I have encountered in my teaching career. I taught Rosemary while I was on the faculty in the Department of Music at The University of Lethbridge. Rosemary was one of my applied classical voice students, and she also took my Introduction to Vocal Pedagogy Class. What struck me about Rosemary at the outset of her studies was her "teachability", musical and intellectual curiosity, and her preparedness. Her singing improved a great deal in no small part to her self-discipline, keen musical ear, and solid keyboard skills. The repertoire I assigned her was musically sophisticated and challenging, and she handled my demands for in-depth analysis of her assigned literature with seriousness. All this while playing for the U of L hockey team, and maintaining her grades at the highest level.

Rosemary's entrepreneurial spirit was another character asset that I noticed right away. Also evident early on was her open-mindedness, yet laser focus on her goals, both in and out of university. Although I did not know about her passion for songwriting while she studied with me at U of L, I was aware that she had an interest in composition. After hearing her demos, which she recently sent me, I have no doubt that she is going to be a very successful singer-songwriter. I heard harmonically interesting, lyrically compelling, well structured songs with striking melodies. She sent me four demos: "Hush Sweet Mama"; "Glass Castle"; "Demons"; and "So The Story Goes." I found her songs to be honest,

unpretentious, touching, charming, thought-provoking, and devoid of clichés. I heard echoes of Tracy Chapman, India.Arie, Shawn Colvin, and even Stevie Nicks. Rosemary's demos left me with the impression that she is a true storyteller, with tons of soul and plenty of honesty. To this end, I feel she is a terrific candidate for your Songwriting Residency.

Rosemary is dedicated, ambitious, and very pleasant to work with. I give her my highest recommendation. Please don't hesitate to contact me at patrice@praiestarrecords.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrice Jégou

Voting Member – The Recording Academy (The GRAMMY Awards)

Voting Member – CARAS (Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences - The JUNO Awards)

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