

# Juilliard

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**RE: EDMUNDO RAMIREZ**

To Whom it may concern:

It is a great pleasure to write in support of the exceptionally talented young violist, Edmundo Ramirez; he first studied viola with me at the **Aspen Music Festival** in 1992 and 1993 and worked with me at **The Juilliard School** from 1995 to 1998.

Edmundo Ramirez is an outstanding musician with an excellent technique. As a teacher, I am committed to supporting this fine young artist because of his special gift and willingness to work extremely hard for the music he loves so much. He has the ability to appreciate the artists of the past, learn from them, and bring this knowledge effectively to his performances of today's music, as well as to the classics of the traditional repertoire.

Mr. Ramirez is not only among the most gifted violists of his generation, but also extraordinary in his vision. He is committed to supporting the music of the Americas, in particular Latin America music, and allowing musicians of Latin America descent to share this richness with young people who under normal circumstances would not have the possibility of knowing this music. Edmundo Ramirez has the leadership capabilities to be successful in realizing his dreams; he is a dedicated, compassionate and an able administrator. With Mr. Ramirez as its leader, **Ensamble America** quite reasonably can be looking forward to an important future.

I believe strongly Edmundo Ramirez is worthy of support, not only because he is an excellent musician, but also because of his commitment to give back to his community. In my almost thirty years teaching viola at the leading conservatories of this country and in my twenty years working with **Chamber Music America**, the national service organization for chamber music, Edmundo Ramirez stands out as a musician destined to make an important contribution. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance (216 752-6465).

Cordially yours,

*Heidi Castleman*

Heidi Castleman  
Professor of Viola, **The Juilliard School**  
Faculty and Trustee, **Aspen Music Festival**  
Past President, **Chamber Music America**