



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

**COLLINS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

P.O. Box 490, Middle Rd.

Collins, NY 14034-0490

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Brian Fischer  
COMMISSIONER

James Berbary  
SUPERINTENDENT

January 15, 2010

Mr. Richard Hartshorne  
Bach With Verse  
476 Apple Hill Rd.  
Nelson, NH 03457

Dear Dobbs,

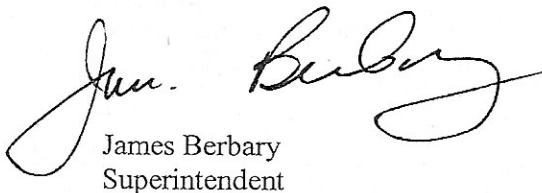
On behalf of the inmates and staff at Collins Correctional Facility, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you not only for your outstanding performance last week, but also for traveling to Western New York in the middle of winter! I hope that you found this experience to be as rewarding as we all did.

As you performed, I observed the audience of inmates and was pleased to see them so engaged by a genre of music many of them have never experienced. This music, accompanied by your creative and lighthearted style of storytelling, allowed all of us to momentarily forget our surroundings (and the harsh weather). One inmate even jokingly remarked that he should be "brought up on charges" because he "escaped for a few moments." Staff also commented that your performance was appropriate for a Friday afternoon because it created such a relaxing end to the work week.

I was also very intrigued by the inmates' interaction with you when they inquired about careers and trends in the performing arts. Some of them are fathers who will now encourage their children who display similar talents and interests to pursue their creative abilities. Others had noticeably gained a new appreciation for classical music by the time you finished playing. Your performance, overall, appeared to have an almost therapeutic effect for them as they cope with the circumstances of being incarcerated.

You are to be truly commended for your commitment and willingness to bring your gift of music and lyric to such a non-traditional audience. This unique experience that you afforded the inmates at our facility left them inspired to search for the positive things in life, and by traveling such a great distance to volunteer to perform for them, you reminded them that they are not forgotten by the outside world. Your remarkable contribution has enriched the lives of these men. As Superintendent, I am grateful to you for devoting your time and sharing your amazing talents with us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
James Berbary  
Superintendent