



July 10, 2018

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To whom it may concern:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Elliott Cherry and his outstanding work with *A Finished Heart*, his solo performance of his conversations with his dying husband. Through dialogue, music, and poetry, Elliott conveys not only his conversations with Chris, but the deep love and compassion they shared, as well as the gamut of conflicting emotions that a couple experiences at the end stage of life's journey.

Elliott traveled to Vermont to perform *A Finished Heart* at three venues as part of Patient Choices Vermont's celebration of the fifth anniversary of Vermont's Act 39. He was thorough in anticipating and communicating all of his audio/visual needs and specifications in preparation for the performances, enabling our organization to focus on promotion and the audience. Elliott was candid and forthcoming with the audience in discussions after the performances, which led to very rich and powerful sessions. Throughout Vermont, audience members commented that the performances were not only thought-provoking, but gave them some tools and inspiration to broach the difficult subject of end of life care and choices with loved ones. Professionals in the field were similarly moved and appreciated how the performance helped open discussions.

It was a moving and enlightening experience to witness Elliott's performance and a privilege to process and reflect on the meaning of *A Finished Heart* with the audiences. Elliott's professionalism throughout the event planning and performances, his affinity for his audience, and his candor made the experience of sponsoring *A Finished Heart* a very special event commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of Vermont's Act 39.

Sincerely,

Betsy J. Walkerman  
President