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To whom it may concern:

When some years ago the Hamburg State Opera wished to make its own version of my Flemish Opera production of *Tosca*, it became clear very quickly that Antwerp would not be able to provide Hamburg with my original assistant.

Louwrens Langevoort, then Director of the Hamburg State Opera (now director of the Cologne Philharmonie), presented Gregor Lütje to me as someone who would be able to learn the production from a video and adapt it to the Hamburg stage and cast.

I was worried that such a task would be extremely difficult: since Gregor and I had never met or worked together there would have been no way for him to know anything about my way of working or directing.

Because of my schedule, we were only able to meet in London once before rehearsals began; moreover I was only able to attend the final rehearsals in Hamburg for the same reason. However I was delighted to see that Gregor in fact had been able to feel himself into my way of working and managed to bring the revival to life in a way which truly reflected my original intentions.

From this one rather intense experience of his work, I am sure that Gregor Lütje is someone who has both the intuition to understand artists' personalities and the ability to get the best out of them. I am also convinced he has the strength of character and ability to convey to them the importance of investing themselves entirely in their work in order to bring a piece of musical theatre to life in a satisfactory way.

Wherever his artistic path may lead him, I am sure he will be an enrichment to whatever institution he may become involved with in the creative part of the operatic world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Carsen". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

Robert Carsen